

# Wingtips

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp



6 July 2021



## 2021-2022 Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp

### Action Alert: Proposed rules rollback for Duck Stamp art contest

## 2021-2022 Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp

The 2021-2022 Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp are now on sale.

The Stamp is effective from July 1 through June 30, 2022.

The Lesser Scaup drake painted by artist Richard Clifton of Milton, Delaware was selected as the winning entry of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. A pair of Hooded Mergansers painted by Margaret McMullen, of Kansas was the winning entry of the Junior Duck Stamp Contest.



"Purchasing Federal Duck Stamps is a great way to support bird habitat conservation and is one of the most successful conservation tools in our toolbox. Of every dollar spent on a duck stamp, 98 cents of the purchase goes directly to acquiring and protecting waterfowl habitat," said Martha Williams, Service Principal Deputy Director. "First Day of Sale is also our opportunity to celebrate and congratulate the youth artists who lend their talents to the Junior Duck Stamp."

The Federal Duck Stamp program began during the era of the Depression and Dust Bowl as a way to curb the widespread destruction of wetland habitats that were vital to the survival of America's waterfowl.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (or "Duck Stamp Act"). The Duck Stamp Act requires anyone 16 or older to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp for waterfowl hunting. However, you don't have to be a waterfowl hunter to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp. Anyone who values wildlife and the habitats they depend on can help conserve habitat by purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp. This includes members of Refuge Friends groups, birders, wildlife photographers, and others.

Artists and stamp collectors have also taken great interest in the Federal Duck Stamp. In 1949, the first Federal Duck Stamp art contest was held. Today, 72 years later, the tradition

of hosting a nationwide contest, open to anyone and sponsored by the U.S. government, continues. A Junior Duck Stamp Program was initiated in 1989 to encourage education and nationwide participation by students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

And in addition to the waterfowl hunting license, conservation benefits, appeal to collectors and artists, the current Federal Duck Stamp also grants you free entrance into any National Wildlife Refuge that charges an entry fee.

The theme of this year's Federal Duck Stamp is "Celebrating our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage." An image of a drake Lesser Scaup with a lanyard and duck calls won the 2020 contest. The 2021 contest regulations with the mandatory inclusion of hunting references remains in effect. U.S. FWS has proposed a new rule scrapping the hunting requirement that would be applicable beginning with the 2022 contest.

Given the mandatory licensing requirement for waterfowl hunters over the age of 16, waterfowl hunters have been the primary group responsible for raising over \$1.1 billion to conserve wildlife and healthy wetland habitats within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

This year's Junior Stamp features a Hooded Merganser pair painted by Margaret McMullen. This \$5 stamp is sold to raise awareness and funds for the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. This program raises awareness of wildlife and conservation across the U.S. and its territories.

[Federal Duck Stamps are available](#) online, at National Wildlife Refuges, some post offices, and in many sporting goods and large-scale retail stores that sell hunting and fishing licenses and equipment.

The Federal Duck Stamp costs \$25, and the Junior Duck Stamp is \$5.

The 2021 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest to select the 2022-2023 stamp will be held September 24 and 25.

## Action Alert: Proposed rules rollback for Duck Stamp art contest

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp plays a vital role in advancing wetland and grassland conservation, preserving valuable habitats for wetland birds and for future generations. The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp's interest is to support the Federal Duck Stamp program, advocating and promoting the effort with its tremendous scope, reach, and value in celebrating our American culture and heritage since 1934.

In 2018, all entries to the Federal Duck Stamp art contest were required to include one or more **waterfowl hunting-specific elements** or a waterfowl hunting scene as part of the artwork.

In 2020, a rule made the theme "Celebrating Our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage" and the mandatory inclusion of an appropriate hunting element permanent, beginning with the 2020 Contest.

In June of 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to revise regulations governing the annual Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) Contest to remove the changes made in 2020.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicates in their press release "This proposed rule would **remove the permanent** "celebrating our waterfowl hunting heritage" theme and the mandatory inclusion of an appropriate hunting element beginning with the 2022 contest; revise the judging requirements to consider that the entries reflect this theme; and revisit the qualifications for selection as a judge. Since the implementation of the 2020 final regulations, many stakeholders have continued to express their dissatisfaction with this element being a requirement for all entries."

This proposed rule to revise the Contest Regulations was posted on the Federal Register on June 23. See the [press release from the Department of the Interior](#).

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp recommend that this proposal be approved.

The proposed rule is open for public comments until July 23, 2021. All comments must be submitted through the process described in the proposed rule - if they are submitted any other way, they cannot be incorporated or considered. [You can access the proposed rule and/or comment, via the Federal Register](#). Or you can use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/duck-stamp-rules-rollback>. Or you can search for the rule at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) using any of these search terms:

- FWS-HQ-MB-2021-0048
- Revision of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) Contest Regulations June 23, 2021
- 2021-13476

You can comment on the rule via the portal described above, or by postal mail. Ahead of entering your final comments, we recommend that you create your letter, ready to cut and paste to the portal.

We urge all of our readers to comment on this proposal. As a starting point for your customized response, the Friends have provided a [sample letter](#) and a list of [talking points](#). Please share this information via your preferred social media.

Thank you for taking the time to comment and thanks for your support of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and the Duck Stamp Office!

Read more: [Rationale for our position](#)

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