



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Elk Refuge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ART WORK TO BE ON DISPLAY AT THE JACKSON HOLE & GREATER YELLOWSTONE VISITOR CENTER

The Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center will feature a special exhibit from Monday, June 4 through Sunday, June 17, 2007, displaying the top 30 entries from the 2006 Federal Duck Stamp contest. The display is traveling to various locations throughout the country to promote the Federal Duck Stamp program and its role in conservation. The visitor center, located at 532 N. Cache Street, is open daily from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or Duck Stamp, in 1934, beginning one of the first and most successful conservation programs in this nation's history. The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act mandates that all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older purchase a stamp. Proceeds from sales, less the cost of production, are used to purchase wetlands and associated upland habitats for inclusion in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. The sale of stamps, however, is not restricted to hunters. All citizens can purchase the stamp, which can be used as an annual season pass for national wildlife refuges charging entrance fees.

The first Federal Duck Stamp was designed by Jay "Ding" Darling at President Franklin D. Roosevelt's request. In subsequent years, other noted wildlife artists were asked to submit designs. The first contest in 1949 was open to any U.S. artist who wished to enter. This is the only art competition of its kind sponsored by the U.S. Government.

The National Elk Refuge is sponsoring several special events at the Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center to coincide with the Federal Duck Stamp display:

Photographing Waterfowl — Thursday, June 7 at 2:00 PM

Photographer Mark Gocke from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will present a slide show and offer tips for photographing birds on or near water.

Artist-in-Residence — Thursday, June 7 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Local artist and art instructor Fred Kingwill will visit with guests as he paints on the visitor center lawn. Kingwill served as a judge for the Federal Duck Stamp contest in 1989.

Roving Naturalists — Wednesday, June 6 through Saturday, June 9, 10 AM to 2 PM; Wednesday, June 13 through Saturday, June 16, 10 AM to 2 PM

Two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteers will be available on the visitor center observation deck with spotting scopes and binoculars to view and identify birds in the vicinity, including waterfowl on the ponds.

For more information on these programs or other events at the Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center, please call 307/733-9212.

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www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge
