

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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REFRESHING CHANGE MARKS NEXT YEAR'S DUCK STAMP

In a novel break with tradition, a duck decoy painting was selected for the first time as the design winner for next year's Federal duck stamp by a panel of judges at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on November 4. Past designs have all featured live waterfowl.

The winning design by James L. Fisher of Oxford, Pennsylvania, features a weathered canvasback duck decoy draped with rope and anchor and three flying canvasback ducks vignettted in the right background.

Fisher's design was chosen from 268 entries in the annual contest which carries no official prize other than the artist's work being featured on the annual revenue stamp. In recent years, however, the winning design has gained immediate commercial value in the wildlife art and stamp collecting market places, netting for the artist more than \$100,000 for reprint sales.

The panel of judges composed of Kenneth Crawford of Ducks Unlimited, Edward Felver of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Fred Evenden of the Wildlife Society, Howard Paine of National Geographic magazine, and John Aldrich of the Fish and Wildlife Service voted a tie in the semi-final round.

The decoy tipped the scales Fisher's way when judges agreed that his refreshing design, showing the wood grain and worn paint of a waterfowler's working decoy, linked the stamp with the environment which its annual revenues support--the sport of waterfowling and natural resource management.

Every migratory waterfowl hunter 16 years and older must purchase this stamp with a State hunting license each year. All revenue from duck stamps except the cost of printing and distribution is used for purchasing wetlands for waterfowl. Annual sales average \$11 million. Next year's design will go on sale at Post Offices on July 1, 1975.

James L. Fisher is a well known wildlife artist specializing to some degree in decoy paintings. This was the first time he entered the annual contest which is open to all. He submitted only one painting.

The second place design was of mallards in flight painted by Charles L. Ripper of Huntington, West Virginia.

Third place design was of goldeneyes in flight by Maynard Reese of Des Moines, Iowa.

Information on other designs since the stamps were first issued in 1934 is contained in "Duck Stamp Data," a publication available for 30 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.



Glossy prints of the winning design are available to editors only from the Office of Audio Visual, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240 (202/343-8770).