

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

For Release October 30, 1978

David Klinger 202/343-5634

DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 9

The public is invited to attend the judging of wildlife art to select the winning design for next year's Duck Stamp at 1 p.m., Thursday, November 9 in the Interior Department's auditorium, 18th and C Streets, N.W. More than 350 entries will go on display at 12 noon.

The colorful \$5 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp has been purchased by philatelists, conservationists, and migratory waterfowl hunters since the first issue in 1934. The stamps are sold through post offices and must be carried by every migratory waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older. Stamp revenues are used to buy additional migratory bird habitat under a program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A panel of five judges, made up of prominent artists, conservationists, and ornithologists, selected by the Secretary of the Interior will be announced the day of the contest by Service Director Lynn A. Greenwalt. Their identities are kept secret to prevent anyone from trying to influence them.

Prior to 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to provide a design for the annual stamp. Since that time, the design has been chosen by a contest open to all artists who are residents of the United States. The prestige of winning the contest has enhanced the reputation of established artists and has elevated otherwise unknown artists to public acclaim. The winner's financial reward is also significant. The Federal Government offers no prize but commercial wildlife art dealers are eager to market limited edition reprints for the winner. The Federal Government does provide a sheet of the stamps to the contest winner.

The annual competition is the only art contest regularly sponsored by the Federal Government. The colorful stamps constitute the longest running, annually issued series of stamps in U.S. revenue or postage stamp history.

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