



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1982-83 "DUCK STAMP" CONTEST OPENS JULY 1

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced a July 1 opening for the Federal Government's annual "Duck Stamp" contest for waterfowl art to adorn the 1982-83 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

Revenues from the sales of this stamp, popularly called the "Duck Stamp," are used to acquire critically needed habitat for ducks, geese, and other species of migratory waterfowl.

This annual competition is the only art contest regularly sponsored by the Federal Government. The colorful stamps, whose designs are selected through the contest, constitute the longest-running, annually issued series of stamps in revenue or postage stamp history. Last year, more than 1,500 artists submitted entries in the prestigious contest.

This year's judging to select the winning entry is open to the public and will begin at 9 a.m., November 5, 1981, at the Department of the Interior auditorium in Washington, D.C.

Most contest rules remain the same as last year, except that the deadline for submissions has been moved up to October 1 to allow time for the handling and preparation of the increasing number of entries. In addition, five species of waterfowl are ineligible to be depicted in this year's contest because they were portrayed in the winning designs of the previous five "Duck Stamps": Ross' geese, hooded mergansers, green-winged teal, mallards, and ruddy ducks.

Artists interested in submitting an entry should write the Audio-Visual Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, for copies of the contest rules, reproduction rights agreement and entry form. Entries, limited to one per person, must be postmarked by midnight, October 1, 1981.

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The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp was authorized by Congress in 1934. It is sold through local Post Offices and some National Wildlife Refuges. The stamp must be carried by every migratory waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older. All of the stamp revenues, beyond printing and handling costs, are used solely for the acquisition of additional habitat for migratory waterfowl. This habitat also benefits other wildlife species. The \$7.50 stamp for 1982-83 will go on sale July 1, 1982.

Since "Duck Stamps" first went on sale, nearly 2.5 million acres of prime waterfowl habitat have been acquired with over \$367 million in revenue (\$225 million from "Duck Stamp" receipts and \$142 million from accelerated wetlands acquisition loan funds). By purchasing the stamps, more than 2.2 million conservationists provide over \$16.5 million in revenue yearly.

Before 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to provide the design for the "Duck Stamp." Since that time, the design has been chosen through a contest open to all artists who are citizens or residents of the United States.

The prestige of winning the contest has enhanced the reputations of established artists and has elevated otherwise unknown artists to public acclaim. The Federal Government offers no prize other than a sheet of stamps to the winner, but commercial wildlife art dealers in the past have been eager to market limited edition reprints for the winner.

A complete announcement of the opening of the "Duck Stamp" contest and a listing of the minor changes appeared in the June 10, 1981, Federal Register.

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