



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For Release: June 23, 1993

Janet Chesky (202) 208-5634

1993-94 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP MAKES DEBUT

The Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host special ceremonies on June 30 and July 1, 1993, to kick off sales of the new 1993-94 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp).

The stamp, one of the nation's most successful conservation efforts since its inception during the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s, goes on sale nationally July 1.

Designed by Minnesota artist Bruce Miller and featuring a pair of canvasback ducks, the new stamp will be unveiled during special First Day of Sale ceremonies to be held in Washington, DC, on June 30, and in Miller's hometown of Mound, Minnesota, on July 1. Miller will attend both ceremonies.

Since 1934, the sale of Federal Duck Stamps has raised \$414 million to acquire more than 4 million acres of vital waterfowl habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Open and free to the public, the Washington, DC, celebration begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Department of the Interior auditorium, 1849 C Street, NW. Dignitaries from the Department of the Interior, the Department of Treasury's Bureau of Engraving

(more)

and Printing, the U.S. Postal Service, and the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum will attend.

For the first time, artist-signed prints of the 1993-94 Duck Stamp design, as well as souvenir cards, pins, posters, and other licensed Duck Stamp products, will be available for purchase at the Washington, DC, ceremony. Revenues from the sale of these products go towards supporting wetlands education efforts.

The ceremony will also include presentation of the Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Conservation Award, an honor granted annually in recognition of exceptional efforts to preserve vital wetland areas.

In addition, "Best of Show" winning designs from Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contests held in eight participating states (Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, South Dakota, and Vermont) will be on display in the Interior Department's C Street lobby. The eight Best of Show winning designs will be judged and three national winners selected prior to the ceremony. Through an art competition modeled after the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, the Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest teaches youngsters about the importance of wetlands conservation.

Following the First Day of Sale events, the 1993-94 Federal Duck Stamp will be available for purchase nationwide at most U.S. post offices, some sporting goods dealers, and National Wildlife Refuges, or through the Federal Duck Stamp Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street, NW., Room 2058, Washington, DC, 20240. The telephone number is 202-208-4354.

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase a Duck Stamp each year. Stamps may be used as annual passes in lieu of entry fees when visiting National Wildlife Refuges. Many stamp collectors, artists, and other conservationists also collect Duck Stamps.