



# NEWS RELEASE

*from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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## **ARTS CHIEF JOINS FEDERAL DUCK STAMP CONTEST JUDGES' PANEL**

What happens when the only Federally sponsored art competition hooks up with this country's First Lady of the Arts? You get the 46th annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest with National Endowment for the Arts chairman and noted stage and screen actress Jane Alexander as a judge. The contest, sponsored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be held November 6-8, 1995, at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, DC.

The Federal Duck Stamp Contest is held to select the design for the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (or Duck Stamp), which raises money for the purchase of waterfowl habitat. Federal Duck Stamps, a required annual purchase for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older, are sold for \$15 at many U.S. Post Offices, national wildlife refuges, and sporting goods stores. Duck Stamps also are increasingly popular among stamp collectors, wildlife artists, and others who wish to contribute to wildlife and habitat conservation.

"It's remarkable that the Federal Duck Stamp program is still working as it was originally conceived more than 60 years ago," said Mollie Beattie, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "The plan to buy habitat for ducks and other migratory birds through the sale of a hunting stamp was ingenious. It involved America's waterfowl hunters in protecting places for wildlife. And today, that support is just as strong and important."

Since 1934 when the Duck Stamp program began, sales have reached nearly half a billion dollars, 98 percent of which has been used to acquire more than 4 million acres of wetlands habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. These lands support not only waterfowl but hundreds of other plants and animals.

Five people from the wildlife, art, hunting, philatelic, and/or conservation community are selected each year to serve as judges for the contest. Prior to being named chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Jane Alexander had been active in the arts for more than 35 years as an award-winning actress, producer, and author. She has appeared in 40 films, numerous television programs, and has performed in more than 100 plays.

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Other contest judges for this year include Ben Cerven, an ardent supporter of wildlife conservation who heads White Deer of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, an organization that helps support aspiring wildlife artists; Nick Oglesby, founding president of the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society and an avid waterfowl hunter and collector of duck stamps and wildlife art; Mary Ann Owens, a philatelic judge whose long list of associations includes the American Philatelic Society and the International Federation of Philately and who has been a member of the U.S. Postal Service's Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee since 1979; and Kelly Seibels, one of North America's foremost waterfowl taxidermists and winner of the National Taxidermy Association's Award of Excellence, the Master Division-Waterfowl, and Best in the World-Birds at the 1986 World Competition.

The winner of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest receives no cash award from the Federal Government; however, the contest is highly competitive because winning boosts the reputation of even a previously unknown artist to the top of his or her profession. And winning artists stand to earn hundreds of thousands of dollars from the sale of limited edition prints of their Duck Stamp design.

The Federal Duck Stamp Contest is free and open to the public. This year, the 453 entries will be displayed for viewing and judging at the Interior Department auditorium, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC, at the following times:

Monday, November 6:	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Viewing
Tuesday, November 7:	10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Viewing/Judging
Wednesday, November 8:	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Viewing/Judging*

\* The winner will be announced at approximately 12:30 p.m.

In addition, a wide variety of Duck Stamp licensed products, ranging from limited edition collector knives to posters, T-shirts, mugs, calendars, caps, and other items featuring Duck Stamp designs, will be available for sale in the C Street lobby of the Interior Department. Part of the proceeds from the sale of these products also is used for wetlands acquisition.

This year's winning Duck Stamp design will be featured on the 1996-97 Federal Duck Stamp, which will go on sale nationwide July 1, 1996.



# FACTS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995 Federal Duck Stamp Contest

### Contest Statistics

Contest Entries:	453	
Male Artists	339	74.78%
Female Artists	114	25.22%

### Medium

Water Color	45	9.96%
Oil	97	21.46%
Acrylic	234	51.77%
Scratch Board	2	0.44%
Other	75	16.37%

### Species Portrayed\*

Barrow's Goldeneye	285	63.05%
Black Scoter	28	6.19%
Mottled Duck	37	7.96%
Surf Scoter	103	22.79%

\* Contest guidelines issued annually designate certain species of North American waterfowl (usually five) as eligible for portrayal so that all species will eventually appear on a Federal Duck Stamp.

(over)

### Artists by State

Alabama	7	1.55%	Missouri	8	1.77%
Alaska	5	1.11%	Montana	5	1.11%
Arizona	6	1.33%	Nebraska	8	1.77%
Arkansas	2	0.44%	New Hampshire	1	0.22%
California	35	7.74%	New Jersey	16	3.54%
Colorado	16	3.54%	New Mexico	3	0.66%
Connecticut	3	0.66%	New York	12	2.65%
Delaware	2	0.44%	North Carolina	7	1.55%
Dist of Columbia	2	0.44%	North Dakota	2	0.44%
Florida	19	4.20%	Ohio	18	3.76%
Georgia	11	2.43%	Oklahoma	7	1.55%
Idaho	5	1.11%	Oregon	9	1.99%
Illinois	15	3.32%	Pennsylvania	23	5.09%
Indiana	8	1.77%	Rhode Island	3	0.66%
Iowa	13	2.88%	South Carolina	8	1.77%
Kansas	2	0.44%	South Dakota	5	1.11%
Kentucky	2	0.44%	Tennessee	8	1.77%
Louisiana	6	1.33%	Texas	17	3.76%
Maine	4	0.88%	Utah	5	1.11%
Maryland	15	3.32%	Vermont	5	1.11%
Massachusetts	12	2.65%	Virginia	12	2.65%
Michigan	11	2.43%	Washington	11	2.43%
Minnesota	33	7.30%	Wisconsin	22	4.87%
Mississippi	1	0.22%	Wyoming	3	0.66%



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## **Did You Know . . . ?**

- o Migratory bird conservation is one of the Fish and Wildlife Service's cornerstones, dating back to the late 1800s.
- o Trade in waterfowl and their by-products was a thriving market in turn-of-the-century America. Wild ducks were supplied for gourmet dinners, bird plumes were the rage in women's hats, and there were few, if any, restrictions on when and where birds could be hunted and how many could be bagged.
- o J.N. "Ding" Darling designed the first Federal Duck Stamp, which featured a pair of mallards, in 1934. Darling was a well-known political cartoonist and chief of the U.S. Biological Survey, the predecessor agency of the Fish and Wildlife Service. A national wildlife refuge in Florida is named after him.
- o From 1935 until 1948, the Fish and Wildlife Service commissioned artists to design Federal Duck Stamps. In 1949, the Service began holding the annual contest in which wildlife artists would compete to have their design featured on the stamp.
- o If a person bought every Federal Duck Stamp the year it was issued, he or she would have paid about \$300, an investment now worth more than \$4,000. This is because Duck Stamps are sold for 3 years and excess stamps are then destroyed as a way to ensure their value as collectibles.
- o Most of the national wildlife refuges purchased with Federal Duck Stamp funds are along the four major waterfowl migration routes, or "flyways": the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific.

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