



BULLETIN

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Michigan Student Wins Top Honors in Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest

Erik Peterson of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, took first prize in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Peterson, 18, won with an acrylic painting of an American black duck. A student at Catholic Central High School in Detroit, he placed second in last year's contest. His design will become the 1998-99 Federal Junior Duck Stamp, which is sold by the Service's Federal Duck Stamp Office to stamp collectors and conservationists.

Second place this year went to Rebecca Latham, 18, of Hastings, Minnesota, for her acrylic painting of redheads. Rebecca is a home-schooled student whose mother, Karen, owns Nature's Palette, an art gallery in Hastings. A watercolor of American black ducks by Sara Hitz, 18, of Jonestown, Pennsylvania, took third place. Sara is a student at Lebanon Career and Technology Center in nearby Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Every state, as well as the District of Columbia, participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Contest during the past year. Modeled after the Service's Federal Duck Stamp art competition, the Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest is part of an innovative educational curriculum that teaches youngsters in grades K-12 about wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

Creating the Junior Duck Stamp design is a major part of the year long Junior Duck Stamp curriculum used by educators in their classrooms. Each state sends Junior Duck Stamp design entries to a designated point where they are judged by a group of people active in the local wildlife art or conservation community.

State "Best of Show" winning designs are sent to Washington, D.C., where three national winners are chosen by a panel of five judges. Judges in this year's contest were Rick Coleman, chief of the Service's Division of Refuges; Larry Mellinger, of the Interior Department's Office of the Solicitor; Scott Sutherland, director of governmental affairs for Ducks Unlimited; Len Buckley, a design foreman with the federal Bureau of Engraving and Printing; and Jim O'Donnell, a museum specialist with the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum.

*Office of Public Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
Room 3447*

*(202)208-5634
FAX (202)219-2428*

The top three Junior Duck Stamp Contest winners receive a free trip to Washington, D.C., along with their art teachers and one of their parents, the following November to be honored at the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. The first-place winner also receives a \$2,500 scholarship award.

For more information on the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program and Design Contest, contact Program Manager Margaret Wendy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Duck Stamp Office, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 2058, Washington, DC 20240; telephone: 202-208-4354.

-FWS-

May 1, 1998

Rachel F. Levin 202-208-5631
rachel_levin@fws.gov