



NEWS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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**JIM HAUTMAN CAPTURES TOP HONORS AT 1998 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ART
CONTEST WITH GREATER SCAUP, MAKES DUCK STAMP HISTORY
WITH THIRD WIN**

Jim Hautman of Plymouth, Minnesota, took first place today in the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest, becoming only the fourth artist in the 65-year history of the program to win the contest three times. His acrylic portrait of two greater scaup flying across a windswept sea, with a hunter and his dog in the background, topped 336 other entries and will become the 1999-2000 Federal Duck Stamp, which goes on sale July 1, 1999.

Hautman also made Duck Stamp history in 1989 when he became the youngest artist ever to win the contest. He took second in 1993 and won again in 1994. That same year, his brother Robert placed second and, in 1996, took top honors. Meanwhile, brother Joe won the contest in 1991.

Jim Hautman, who was taught by his mother but has had no formal wildlife art training, said that the hunter in his painting is modeled after his brother Bob. "I thought about the Duck Stamp and the fact that mostly hunters purchase it," he said. "So I put a hunter in my design."

He said he felt "strange" about his entry. "Some days I would look at it and get excited about it and other days I looked at it and I wasn't sure," he said.

Second place in this year's Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest went to John Nelson Harris of Groveland, Florida, for his acrylic portrait of a pintail in flight. Greg Farrell of Lexington, North Carolina, took third place, also with an acrylic rendering of a pair of pintails.

The top 20 paintings from this year's contest will be displayed at the Easton Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Maryland, November 13-15. They will also appear at the San Bernardino Waterfowl Festival in Redlands, California, November 19-22.

The male greater scaup's head and neck are black with a greenish gloss. The breast and portions of the upper back are black and the rest of the back and wing base are finely striped with black and white. The belly is snow white. Females have brownish heads with white facial patches extending around the base of their bills and across their foreheads. Much of the rest of the female's body is various shades of brown. The male's bill is

pale blue and its eyes are orange-yellow. The female has a grayish-blue bill and dark yellow eyes.

Greater scaup nest on the ground close to the water and feed on a variety of aquatic invertebrates. Their breeding grounds are found on lakes and coastal areas in the Arctic and sub-arctic areas of North America, Europe, and Asia. They winter along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America, the Pacific coast of Asia, the Atlantic coast of central Europe, and around the Black and Caspian seas.

In addition to the greater scaup, eligible species for this year's contest were the pintail, green-winged teal, ruddy duck, and black duck. Eligible species for next year's contest will be the black scoter and the mottled duck; by the year 2002, all North American waterfowl species will have appeared on the Duck Stamp at least once.

Conducted each year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Duck Stamp Contest is the Nation's only Federally sponsored art competition. No cash prize is awarded, but winning can boost the professional reputation of even a previously unknown wildlife artist. Winning artists stand to make hundreds of thousands of dollars from the sale of limited editions of prints of their Duck Stamp designs.

All waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase and carry Duck Stamps. Ninety-eight percent of the proceeds from the \$15 Duck Stamp goes into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which purchases wetlands for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Increasing numbers of stamp collectors, wildlife art lovers, and conservationists are also buying it to add to their collections, enjoy as a miniature work of art, or as a simple way to support conservation. Duck Stamps can also be used to gain admission to those national wildlife refuges that charge entry fees.

The Duck Stamp office also announced that it will auction a set of design proofs for the self-adhesive Federal Duck Stamp, which debuted July 1, 1998. These two design proofs used the 1996-97 Federal Duck stamp engraving plates to check the integrity of the self-adhesive paper under the extreme pressure of the intaglio printing process. The printers produced only two sets of three different design imperforates, hand-cut to simulate the die-cut process and demonstrate the quality of the "peel and stick" feature of the new format.

Only one set will be auctioned. The other set was presented to the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum last July. The Federal Duck Stamp office will be accepting bids by mail or by fax, with the opening bid set at \$25,000. Bids must be

postmarked no later than December 15, 1998, and the winner will be announced December 23. To obtain a bid form and terms and conditions of the sale, contact the Federal Duck Stamp office at 202-208-4354.

Duck Stamps bearing this year's winning design will go on sale at post offices, national wildlife refuges, the Peabody hotels in Memphis and Orlando, some national retail chain stores, and various sporting-goods stores nationwide July 1, 1999. The 1999-2000 Duck Stamp will be available at select locations in both the self-adhesive format and the traditional gummed format. The Duck Stamp may also be purchased directly from the Federal Duck stamp office by calling toll-free 1-888-534-0400.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 500 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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Editors Note: Black-and-white glossy prints and color slides are available on loan from the Fish and Wildlife Service's Duck Stamp Program Office, 202-208-4354.

