

News Release

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Services

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DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Hosts 2016 Iowa Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show Rae Clinkenbeard, Saturday, June 25 at 11:00 am

Missouri Valley, Iowa – Join 2016 Iowa Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show Rae Clinkenbeard and DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge staff for a special presentation at the DeSoto Visitor Center on Saturday, June 25 at 11:00 am. Learn about how the Junior Duck Stamp program encourages young people to combine scientific observation with artistic interpretation to portray native waterfowl in their natural habitats.

2016 Iowa Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show Rae Clinkenbeard got interested in the Junior Duck Stamp program at age 11 when she came across the entry information on a trip to DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge with her family. Rae has a strong interest in art, particularly wildlife and animals. She is also interested in nature photography. Rae's whole family enjoys the outdoors and Rae has developed an extensive collection of duck photographs that she uses for inspiration for her Junior Duck Stamp artwork. Rae will be studying photography/art and business next year at Morningside College in Sioux City.

On Saturday, June 25, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge will also unveil the 2016 Iowa Junior Duck Stamp display. This colorful display will feature winning artwork from all the age division of the Iowa Junior Duck Stamp.

The Junior Duck Stamp program is an opportunity for students, grades K-12, to connect with nature through artistic creation. Artwork entries will be judged on the basis of original design, artistic composition, and suitability for reproduction on a 1"x1.5" stamp. Contests are held in each state; therefore Iowa and Nebraska students need to make sure to submit to their own state coordinator.

Additional information, including program rules, eligible species, format guidelines, and entry form, are available on line at www.fws.gov/juniorduck. For educators who wish to bring this program into the classroom, a free curriculum guide is also available through the website.

Entries must be postmarked by March 15 each year. Nebraska students should submit entries to Lydia Patrick, Crescent Lake NWR Complex, 115 Railway St, Suite C109, Scottsbluff, NE 69361. She can be reached at 308-635-7851 or e-mail lydia_patrick@fws.gov. Iowa students should submit entries to Doreen Van Ryswyk, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, 9981 Pacific Street, P.O. Box 399, Prairie City, IA 50228. She can be reached 515-994-3400 or e-mail at doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges are located north of Omaha, Nebraska along on U.S. Highway 30 between Missouri Valley, Iowa and along U.S. Highway 75 near Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska.

For more information contact 712-388-4800 or email the refuge at desoto@fws.gov. Check our website, www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/, for updates on public access as well as summer public programs and activities. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the world's premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife and plants. Since President Theodore Roosevelt designated Florida's Pelican Island as the first wildlife refuge in 1903, the System has grown to more than 150 million acres, 555 national wildlife refuges and other units of the Refuge System, plus 38 wetland management districts. Visit www.fws.gov.

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