



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

News Release

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
6975 Mower Road
Saginaw, MI 48601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2021

Contact: Lionel D. Grant, lionel_grant@fws.gov, 989-777-5930



**Best of Show
2020**

Michigan
Northern Shoveler

Artwork Title:
Swimming Towards
A Brighter Future

Amanda Chen, 14

**26th Annual Michigan Junior Duck Stamp Contest: K-12
Welcome**

Saginaw, MI – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has started accepting traditional and non-traditional entries for the 2021 Michigan Junior Duck Stamp Contest, which is administered by Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2021.

See a Junior Duck Stamp Program Overview on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIsyOG6v14w>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has held a Jr. Duck Stamp Contest in Michigan since 1995. In 2020, Amanda Chen, age 14 of Ann Arbor won the Michigan contest with a Northern Shoveler (male) drawn using colored pencil. “The art component of this program allows us to see wildlife through the lenses of our youngest conservation leaders” said Lionel D. Grant, Jr. Duck Stamp State Coordinator. 2021 Michigan JDS artwork will be featured onsite and throughout the state this year.

This dynamic educational program uses principles in both conservation and design to teach wetland habitat and waterfowl biology to students in kindergarten through high school. The program provides an opportunity for students to artistically showcase their knowledge of the diversity, interrelationships, and beauty of wildlife.

“We are so honored to help run a program where young people of all different backgrounds and interests all showcase their talents,” said Assistant Director for Migratory Birds Jerome Ford. “To take what they learn about wildlife, waterfowl and habitat conservation, and then turn that into a piece of personal art they share around the country, is just an absolute treasure.”

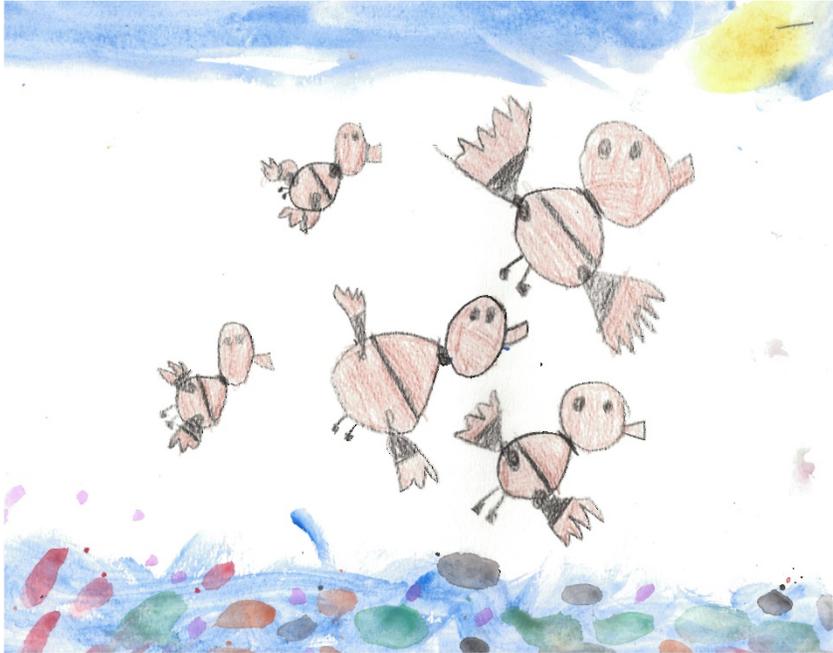
GRADUATING SENIORS

There are three *First Places* awarded per groups. Graduating Seniors who place 1st in Group VI will automatically be entered for a chance to receive the Sid Crawford Waterfowl Conservation Award, presented by the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society.

NONTRADITIONAL ARTWORK

In 2020 we decided to expand our entries to include non-traditional entries. We are accepting all styles and types of two-dimensional visual art entries into the Junior Duck Stamp Contest. In 2020, Iliana Verboam, age 8, of Foutain won the 2nd Category, Michigan Best of

Show. Whether your talents and personal style includes caricatures, ethnic, whimsical, or hyper-realistic art, this is an opportunity for you!



**2nd Category MI
Best of Show 2021**

Michigan
Unidentified Ducks

Artwork Title: Ducks
Flying

Ilina, Verboam, 8

2020 Best of Show Conservation Message

Each entry includes a chance to submit a conservation message. See the Michigan Best of Show Conservation Message for 2020:

Trees are like journals; they tell stories on their infinite pages and it's up to us to save their pages. –Allison Milanowski, age 12

Request Artwork

Would you like to have the Michigan Artwork displayed at your school, center or place of work? Reach out to Jr. Duck Stamp State Coordinator, Lionel D. Grant at (989) 759-1669 or Lionel_Grant@fws.gov to be added to the schedule (free of charge).

Saginaw Schools

In years past we have received low participation within the Saginaw ISD. We are looking to turn that around because Saginaw (ISD) schools have **an extra incentive**. We are interested in incorporating your student's creativity into Green Point Environmental Learning Center. We are looking to collaborate locally with the school that has the most entries. We would like to put your students on display as a whole.

Example of Class Integration

Art teacher Gay Kohl teaches her students about wetlands and waterfowl conservation by getting them involved in the annual Jr. Duck Stamp art competition sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This video was produced by the Information Branch of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Producer: David Majure
View his story at: <https://youtu.be/Rsi8eej-k1g>

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS.



Group 4, 1st Place

Michigan
Common Merganser

Rumei Zha

Contest Rules

Students may submit artwork featuring one of the following species: whistling ducks, swans, geese, brant, dabbling ducks, diving ducks, sea ducks, mergansers, stiff tails, or Hawaiian ducks. A full list of permitted species is available online at <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>. Judging will be done virtually using a 3-5 judges. Artwork entries will be judged on the basis of original design, anatomical accuracy, artistic composition and suitability for reproduction on a 1" by 1.5" stamp.

During the contest, students will be judged in four groups according to grade level: K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Three first, three second and three third place entries, along with 16 honorable mentions will be selected from each group. Contest judges select a "Best of Show" from the twelve first place winners, which will be submitted to the Federal Duck Stamp Office and entered into the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest held virtually on April 16th. The winner of the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest, along with his/her parent or guardian and teacher will receive a free trip to a First Day of Sale ceremony in late June/early July.

The first place art from the national contest is used to create a National Junior Duck Stamp each year. The Junior Duck Stamp is available for \$5 from the U.S. Postal Service and from many National Wildlife Refuges. Proceeds from the sale of the stamps support conservation education and provide awards and scholarships for participating students, teachers and schools.

A downloadable entry form and information on contest rules and regulations for teachers and supervising adults can be found online at <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>.

The following guides are available to download here:

Educator's Guide:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/education/JuniorDuckStamp-EducatorGuide.pdf>

Youth Guide:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/education/JuniorDuckStamp-YouthGuide.pdf>

For additional information or if you have questions regarding your student's or school's participation in the Jr. Duck Stamp contest, please contact your Jr. Duck Stamp State Coordinator Lionel D. Grant, (989) 759-1669, Lionel_Grant@fws.gov. Entries and reference forms should be postmarked by March 15 and mailed to:

**c/o Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator
Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
6975 Mower Road
Saginaw, MI 48601**

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfws, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws>.