



Duck Tracks™

Dedicated to Making a Difference

The Official Journal of the National Duck Stamp Collectors' Society

Fall 2006
Whole No. 46

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Rudy Donates Stamp Rarities to Smithsonian Collection

In a special ceremony held August 14, the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum received a significant donation of Federal Duck Stamps from Jeanette C. Rudy of Nashville, Tenn. Rudy's collection, which took more than 50 years to assemble, is widely considered to be the finest private collection of its type.

Rudy's donation includes a complete set of all Federal Duck Stamps ever issued, highlighted by the very first Federal Duck Stamp ever sold, as well as important rarities, valuable plate blocks of early issues and a number of rare and unusual errors. In addition, Rudy will donate rare local and American Indian reservation hunting permit stamp issues. The National Postal Museum plans to display many of Rudy's donated items in the future.

"We are proud to receive this wonderful donation, which is an important addition to the National Postal Museum's collections," said museum registrar Ted Wilson, who accepted the donation on behalf of the museum during a ceremony at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville. "Mrs. Rudy's generosity has made it possible to introduce new audiences to the artistry of Duck Stamps and also stirred an interest in wildlife conservation issues."

Rudy is a prominent philanthropist in Nashville, Tenn., where she serves on boards of several non-profit organizations. She served as chairman of the board of Cumberland University, where she founded



Jeanette C. Rudy signs her donation to the National Postal Museum With Mrs. Rudy are Jim O'Donnell and Ted Wilson of the NPM.

the school of nursing and was awarded an honorary doctorate. Rudy is a longtime supporter of the National Postal Museum. In 1996, she donated \$500,000 for the creation of the exhibition "Artistic License: The Duck Stamp Story" and loaned items from her magnificent collection to the museum for display in the exhibition. Additionally, Rudy served on the museum's advisory council. An avid sportswoman and champion trapshooter, she currently serves on the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission.

The National Postal Museum is devoted to presenting the colorful and engaging history of the nation's mail service and showcasing the largest and most comprehensive collection of stamps and philatelic material in the world. The museum is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave. N.E., in Washington, D.C. For more information visit the museum's Web site at www.postalmuseum.si.edu.

Welcome New Members!

Duane E. Wilson	Reno, NV	Bob A. Worley	Weddington, NC	Marilyn Grant	Burnt Hills, NY
Mike Szymanski	Pittsburgh, CA	John R. Calder	Green Bay, WI	Paul Harter	Phoenix, AZ
John Schupp	Lowell, IN	Jack Dempsey	Kitty Hawk, NC	Donald LeShane	Bedford, MA
George Cyr	Boothbay Hbr, ME	Ron Brawner	Tehachapi, CA	George Matisick	Clements, MD
Michael Johnson	Alexandria, VA	Joseph Velasquez	Hunt. Beach, CA	J. M. Nawrot	Bethesda, MD
Richard B. Jordan	Cambria, CA	Joseph A. Sipos	Dunedin, FL	Malcom Nash	Highpoint, NC
Ralph Schumacher	Bloomsburg, PA	Sidney Crawford	Ozona, FL	George Soohoo	Dahlgren, VA
Kathleen Boudman	Turbotville, PA	Joe Herman	Mdlburg Hts, OH	John Waener	Havertown, PA
Mae Tabar	Pittsgrove, NJ	James E. Barrett	Clinton, MD	M. Corbett	Byntn Beach, FL
Judy B. Justice	Charlotte, NC	Carol Anne Visalli	Williamstown, NJ	Lt Col Ron Todd	Tampa, FL
Julie Froning	Bellevue, WA	Mark Hartmann, Jr.	Stanhope, NJ	Wayne Taylor	Omaha, NE
Simmons Ink	Olympia, WA	Thomas A. Edwards	Granby, CT	Richard Arnone	Seabrook, NH
Randall Trotter	Tulsa, OK	Benjamin V. Rezba	Winchester, VA	Bob Johnson	Lodi, CA
Nancy Waldeck	Perrysburg, OH	Charles Drouillard	Bellaire, MI	James F. Purdon	Oak Hill, VA
Bill Scarpantoni	Highland Mts, NY	Edward Wigger	Mechanicsburg, PA	Ed Azarian	Mooresville, NC
Linda Feirl	Columbus, OH	Kevin Terplak	Columbia, MD	Capt. John A. Hugg	Solomans, MD
Tim Hickey	Fairfax, VA	James Savage	Reading, PA	Hui Lin	Chesapeake, VA
John W. Parr	Webster, NY	Mike Friedman	Agura Hills, CA	C. P. Coyner	Richmond, VA
Bruce M. Davis	Lunenburg, VA	J. L. Chatterton	Macomb, IL	Lagl Olsen	Lidingo, Sweden
George Haydon, Jr.	Leawood, KS				

NDSCS Financial

Certificate of Deposits	\$ 13,000.00
Checking Account	\$ 4,003.09
Total Assets	\$ 17,003.09

Membership Type

Active

Charter - Life29
Life30
Associate, Charter - Regular, Regular, Junior ..	.296
Total Active Membership355
Total Complimentary Copies16
Total Mailing List371
New Members Since 1/1/0659

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Duck Tracks™

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Reader Letters

Duck Stamp Prints

Hi Ira,

A quick inquiry? I think that it is more of an "expertise" question than a book one. (I have ordered several of the latter at your suggestion). Why are duck prints so valuable? The values seem to increase rapidly. Are duck prints sold by the government service offices? (Like the USPS?).

Thanks much,
Nancy Waldeck
Perrysburg, Ohio

Hi Nancy - Duck prints are popular because they are limited edition works of art that are appreciated by sportsmen (and women) and conservationists. Their initial offering prices are not very different from other limited edition works of art - typically no more than a few hundred dollars. They increase in value due to their inherent scarcity and the growth in the collector population who seek copies of older editions.

The print of the federal duck stamp is produced and sold by the artist and art wholesalers and dealers. In contrast,

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President's Corner

Washington International Stamp Show and Duck Stamp Minisheets



Ira Cotton and daughter, Amy

Some major activity related to duck stamps has taken place since the last issue of *Duck Tracks* was published.

The first of these was a decennial

international stamp show in the United States, held this year in Washington, DC. I was fortunate to have been able to arrange a trip to my younger daughter Amy's graduation from college in Boston that had us traveling through Washington on our return. The good news is that I was able to attend the opening day of the show; the bad news is that I was only able to attend the opening day.

I had lived in the Washington, DC area for about twenty-five years before making a career move to Nebraska some ten years ago. Though I have been back many times since then, the full impact of the growth in the area stimulated by the construction of the regional metro rail system had not struck me until this visit. My former home turf in the Bethesda/Rockville area north of the city is nearly fully built out and a formerly dense area is even denser, especially as compared with suburban Omaha!

Downtown, the stamp show was held at a new convention center that I had a little difficulty finding, because I didn't realize which metro line went directly to it.

I have been to all the international shows in this series since 1976 in Philadelphia, so I was not surprised by its size - though this show did seem to be one of the biggest

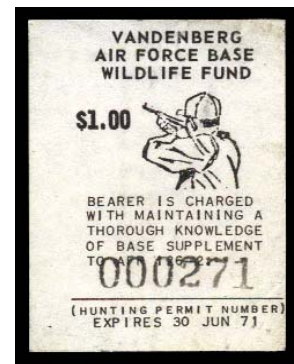
in terms of booths and exhibits. The new DC convention center also gave a sense of space and openness. Arriving on the floor shortly after opening, I just positioned myself at one corner and started a methodical pattern of walking the aisles so as to pass by all the booths. There were several large dealers in fish and game material that I wanted to visit in particular, along with our society's own table.

I had chosen to start my walk through the hall at the side where the Sam Houston Duck Company (owned by Bob Dumaine, our society founder) had its booth, and soon arrived there to discover some old friends, meet some collectors whom I had only known through eBay, and discover I had just missed one catalog author I had wanted to meet (J.R. Wooten, whose *Streamside Catalog of Fish & Game Stamps* has become a standard in the non-duck stamp areas).

One of the eBay trading partners I met bought my last year's Nebraska duck hunting license right out of my wallet. This is not a transaction I had come to the show to make, but I am pleased my old license will reside in a collection other than my own for the foreseeable future. Another of the formerly faceless collectors with whom I have bought and sold items through eBay, have now started a direct correspondence and have already exchanged some duplicates. I find these personal connections to be the most enjoyable part of collecting!

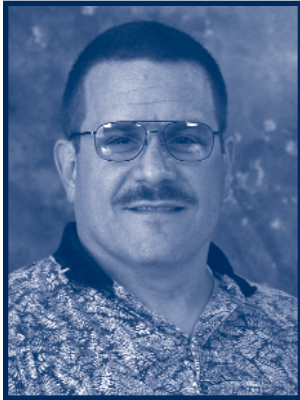
At the Sam Houston booth, I got to see some of the items from the Jeannette Cantrell Rudy collection that this firm is now handling for auction. It was most impressive to see rarities of the sort that I am not likely to ever own. I was most interested to see page after page of such series as the Illinois daily usage stamps (Scott A1-37 under Illinois in the *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue* section on waterfowl hunting stamps), the California Honey Lake waterfowl stamps (A1-30 in Scott), and the Vandenberg Air Force Base hunting stamps (unlisted in Scott but included in the Wooten catalog).

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Items from the Jeanette C. Rudy collection.

Secretary's Column



by Tony Monaco

Hunters of all ages are gearing up for various hunting seasons throughout the world and we duck stamp artists and collectors have October 7 to circle on their calendars for the big event – the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest in Memphis, Tenn.

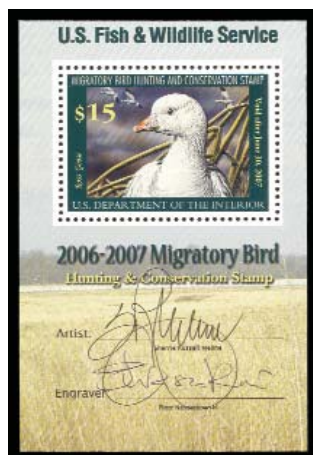
In this competition, the top prize is not a dead duck delivered at the hand of a talented hunter and capable retriever but a duck that will be brilliantly reproduced by a talented artist. The winning art will feature one of these species: American Wigeon, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck or Cinnamon Teal. The winning art will garner a score in the high 20's and the margin of defeat could be as slim as one point.

Experiencing the Federal Duck Stamp Contest is an awesome thing. Not only do you rub shoulders with art lovers, and conservation folks but you could meet the eventual contest winner in the crowd. If you have never attended the contest, check it out, there are several one of a kind events this year including a panel discussion featuring the reigning contest winner Sherrie Russell-Meline and five time contest winner Maynard Reece.

The society boasts several past Federal Duck Stamp winners and most if not all of them are eligible for this years contest. I can't wait to see how they all fair with the entries in the contest. Good luck to all artists entering the prestigious Federal Duck Stamp contest.

Check out all of the Federal Duck Stamp information on the Federal Duck Stamp Office home page – <http://www.fws.gov/duck-stamps/>. There are many informational links that capture the previous contests and the current years contest as well.

This year's sale of the Federal Duck Stamp again had the sheetlet version of the stamp available for purchase. In con-



RW73b with artist and engraver signatures.

junction with the Washington 2006 Stamp Show, there was also the opportunity to have the piece signed by the engraver who happened to be attending the show as well. The initial market for these items seemed to have cooled but only time will tell how much of an investment return these sheetlet products will bring.

The NDSCS presence at WA 06 was led by Wes Miller and we signed up several new members as a result of this endeavor.

On to the society business items – Check out our web site ndscs.org. Membership renewal by credit card and printing of membership forms for mail-in are available from this site. Our e-commerce affiliate website allows for secure credit card renewals and general donations. We continually update the site with useful information so make it a point to check it out at least monthly.

Society membership business - Your *Duck Tracks* mailing label is the key to your membership expiration date (Expires: Month Year). All memberships that have a note of EXPIRES: JULY 2006 or earlier on the first line of their mailing label are now past due! Depending on the timing of this issue mailing the October 2006 renewals will also become due. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to risk missing the next society newsletter or e-mail information message.

Using your mailing label as a guide, jot your membership number on your check and save the society time and money by renewing as soon as possible. The society also accepts Visa and MasterCard for your renewal by using our on-line e-commerce site powered by BigStep.Com at this URL: <http://www.ndscs.bigstep.com>. A reminder, your dues are fully US TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Membership Renewal Invoices - We completed a very successful extensive renewal campaign with the last *Duck Tracks* mailing. A renewal invoice was included in all envelopes to make it easier for members to renew their memberships. This saves the society time and money so please use your mailing label and the invoice enclosed in your *Duck Tracks* mailing envelope to renew today, if applicable.

Mailing Labels - The Membership Summary Table provides the details on the current membership by type. The mailing labels used for this issue of *Duck Tracks* were generated around Sept 22, 2006. All membership renewals received through that date are reflected on the mailing labels. If you feel there is something wrong with your

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Federal Duck Stamps May Go Electronic e-Duck Stamp Makes it Easier for Hunters

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed legislation (385 to 4) that will make it easier for waterfowl hunters to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp. The Senate passed the bill earlier. It now goes to President Bush to sign into law.

The bill approves a pilot program beginning Sept. 1, 2007, in 15 states that are yet to be determined allowing waterfowl hunters, stamp collectors and conservationists nationwide to buy the Federal Duck Stamp electronically over the phone or Internet. A conventional paper stamp will also remain available at retail outlets.

Waterfowl hunters have contributed well over \$600 million to habitat conservation during the past 71 years with their purchases of Federal Duck Stamps. The ability to buy an electronic Duck Stamp should make it easier for hunters to acquire their annual Duck Stamps, and that will be a positive step for wetland conservation.

"The new e-stamp will make it easier for waterfowl hunters to get their stamp, and that's good for conservation," said Ducks Unlimited Executive Vice President Don Young. "Many hunters have stood in some remote part of the country at some dark hour in the morning only to realize they couldn't hunt that day because they forgot to buy a Federal Duck Stamp. This certainly makes getting that stamp easier."

“Provisions (are) in the bill to protect the tradition of the art contest and the continued printing of the paper stamp”

The bill's sponsor, Senator Mike Crapo of Idaho, agrees. "Hunters are early risers and by allowing the purchase of Duck Stamps electronically, sportsmen will be able to spend more time enjoying nature and less time waiting for stores to open or in line to purchase their Ducks Stamp."

The e-Duck Stamp would be valid up to 45 days from date of purchase, in which time hunters would receive their paper stamp through the mail.

Young says he's also happy that language in the bill protects the rich tradition of the paper stamp and the conservation art contest that has determined which duck or goose species is featured on the stamp during the past 71 years. In July 2005, Young and former two-time Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition winner Joe Hautman of

Plymouth, Minn., testified before the House Resources Committee. The comments by Young and Hautman led to provisions in the bill to protect the tradition of the art contest and the continued printing of paper stamps.

"The Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition has a storied history that shouldn't be lost," Young said. "The sale of Federal Duck Stamps and Duck Stamp prints have fueled conservation and restoration of critical waterfowl habitat throughout North America, and the Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition has been the stepping-stone to increased exposure and success for many wildlife artists. It's an American tradition that shouldn't be lost. We would encourage all duck hunters to purchase a paper stamp to perpetuate that tradition."

New Jersey continues Retriever Puppy Series

The 2006 duck stamp is the twenty-third stamp to be issued by New Jersey and the fourth in the Retriever Puppy Series. This year's stamp features a golden retriever puppy. Painted by award winning artist Roger Cruwys, the stamp also features a wood duck decoy carved by Jode Hillman.



Golden Retriever puppy and decoy. by Roger Cruwys.

The stamps are issued in both resident and non-resident formats (face value \$5 and \$10 respectively) along with hunter types for both denominations. The hunter type stamps come from booklets and will have a straight-edge on one side.

Since 1984 the sale of New Jersey waterfowl stamps and artist-signed limited edition prints have raised more than \$4,068,000 for the acquisition, protection and improvement of waterfowl habitat and associated wetlands. To date, donations of land and funds committed for the purchase of wetlands have totaled more than 13,000 acres.

New Jersey waterfowl stamps are required for hunting waterfowl in the state, but the beautiful designs are sought after by stamp and print collectors nationwide.

Reader Letters continued from page 2

most state conservation departments offer prints for sale directly. In both cases, since the artist receives only nominal payment for winning the stamp design competition, sale of prints is the major source of income for the artist.

Best regards,
Ira Cotton

Best way to sell a collection?

Dear Mr Cotton,

We recently purchased a duck stamp collection at an auction for resale and don't really know the best way to market it. I don't really want to put it on e-Bay. There are federal and a few Montana state stamps. There are also some signed and unsigned. They range from 1936 -1984. If you have any information on how best to market these stamps, please e-mail me.

Thank you.
Shelley Haffner

Dear Ms. Haffner:

There are basically two ways to sell a collection such as this: - directly to a dealer or through an auction. There are lots of dealers who would make you an offer on the collection, but I doubt it would be as much as you paid on eBay, unless you got an exceptionally good deal when you bought it. Sale at auction could be for the entire collection or the individual stamps in multiple lots. Many dealers conduct such auctions and you would pay a commission for the sale. eBay is another auction alternative and, without knowing why you wouldn't want to put the individual stamps up for sale there, I think that would be where you would get the most money for this type of collection. Buyers on eBay tend to pay more than dealers would pay, since most buyers are collectors, not dealers. Of course, there is the effort of scanning each stamp, entering the lots, collecting the money and shipping out the lots. eBay typically takes a smaller commission than a dealer auction, but there is more work on your part. Think of it as "sweat equity" by which you can earn more by splitting the collection into smaller parts. If you don't want to do that, then the only practical alternative is to offer the collection to a dealer who does both retail sales and auctions and see what that dealer offers and recommends.

Good luck!
Ira Cotton

Weighing in on Duck Stamp Mini-sheets

Hi Rita,

I got the email today that you want our comments on what we think of the mini sheet. It will be interesting to see what you get. I think that last year's (RW72b) issue is prettier with the design on the bottom of the sheet. This year's was more "plain."

Anonymous

The following is a letter by NDSCS member Murray Eskenazi, submitted to Linn's Stamp News (not published). Mr. Eskenazi would like to share his opinion on the mini-sheets issued by the Federal Duck Stamp Office.

I would like to enter my 2-cents worth regarding Bob Dumaine and the Sam Houston Duck Co.

I have collected federal and state duck stamps, fishing stamps and conservation stamps for many years, beginning at a time when they were virtually unknown.

Sometime in the 1980s Bob Dumaine invested a great deal of his money in inventory and promotion of duck stamps. Within the space of 2-3 years, continuous promotions aroused sufficient collector interest to put real life in the duck stamp market. Prior to Bob Dumaine, duck stamps were a quiet backwater, mostly ignored, in the back-of-book section of most collector albums. Dumaine changed all that and he did it almost single-handedly.

Many people are duck stamp collectors (and dealers) today because Bob Dumaine made the market for duck stamps, kept it going, and is still the major dealer in these stamps. Stamp collectors owe Bob Dumaine a great debt of gratitude and appreciation for all he has done for philately and especially for the duck stamp market.

In my opinion, Dumaine's handling of the single duck stamp pane was above board, honest, and eminently fair. He could have hoarded those stamps and sold them for 5-10 times the price he got.

Instead, he gets blasted in the press! Letters in the major stamp publication in the U.S., both this year and last, blame Dumaine for the scarcity of mini-sheets.

A reader in *Linn's* complains of Bob Dumaine's prediction that the inflated prices of the 2006 Duck Stamp Pane of one will go down and finds fault with Dumaine's advertised price of \$275 for a pane with dual signatures. He ends his letter with the question: "Am I missing something here?" The answer most certainly is "Yes."

Dumaine's advertised price for the two signature pane is

continued on the next page

Secretary continued from page 4

membership expiration date - drop me a quick note and we will resolve it quickly. If your renewal arrived after that time, accept our apology and the next mailing should reflect your update.

Address Changes - Please continue to let us know when you move or change mailing addresses so your copy of *Duck Tracks* and any other society mailings can follow along with you without interruption.

E-Mail List - We continue to build our e-mail mailing list for society use only. If you want to receive timely electronic messages sent by the society, please keep your e-mail address up-to-date as well so this time sensitive information gets to you before it gets too old. E-mail your address changes to ndscs@hwn.org. We use a method to keep the mailing list secure so don't hesitate to join it at this time. We also mail a full color preview copy of *Duck Tracks* to this mailing list; if you prefer not to receive these PDF files, please let us know. Also, note that the NDSCS does not sell our mailing list or e-mail list to anyone! Your personal information is used to only send duck stamp information and society mailings to you.

Continued success in your collecting adventures!

Letters continued from previous page

§275. In the same issue William Langs is offering the same pane for §349, and Dana Okey is advertising the same two signature pane for §395. Mystic Stamp Company wants you to call their "Hot Line" (which is an answering machine) for a price. Four calls to the "Hot Line" over a 10 day period did not get one return call.

As for the pane with only one signature: Dumaine's advertised price is §165. Okey's advertised price is §295. Mystic's price is still a mystery as they haven't called back.

Considering that Dumaine paid §100 (or more) for each pane with one signature, he is doing his bit to keep the hype, hot air, and exploitation out of the market. *Linn's* has printed lots of letters unfairly roasting Dumaine. It is about time someone gave Dumaine credit for being a good guy.

If there is a shortage of these stamps, it is not Dumaine's fault - is there not a shortage of C3a's and §5 Columbians, too? Are stamp dealers to blame for that situation? I say hats off to Bob Dumaine and a big "thank you" for all he has done and for all he continues to do for our hobby.

Sincerely,
Murray Eskenazi

Black Ducks for Va.

Virginia is proud to announce the selection of the artwork for the 2006 Virginia stamp. The artwork, painted by Virginia artist Tim Donovan, depicts a pair of American black ducks.



The 2006 Virginia duck stamp.

Donovan won Virginia's 2000 and 2001 duck stamp contest; the Kentucky in 2000; the Ohio in 1998; and placed fifth in the 2006 Federal Duck stamp contest.

Ducks Unlimited, under contract with the Department, retains the license for the artwork and provides the service in fulfillment of the hunter and the collector stamps and prints. Last year a total of 18,879 Migratory Waterfowl conservation privileges were sold generating \$169,911.

Upcoming Shows & Events

Tennessee – Oct. 6 & 7. Federal Duck Stamp Contest
Memphis College of Art. Contact Ryan Booth, 703-358-2004, e-mail: Ryan_W_Booth@fws.gov.

California – October 13-15 SESCOAL
Radisson Hotel at Los Angeles Airport. sescal.org, 888-995-0548 or e-mail number1banana@hotmail.com.

Canada – October 13-15 Stampex 2006
Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario. E-mail: secretary@csdaonline.com; 519-681-3420.

California – October 20-22 Filatellic Fiesta 2006
Civic Auditorium, 135 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose. E-mail Jim Sauer, hjamesauer@yahoo.com; 408-445-2694.

Maryland – November 10-12, Easton Waterfowl Festival. Federal and junior duck stamp contest entries on display. waterfowlfestival.org, 410-822-4567.

Illinois – November 17-19, CHICAGOPEX
Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 W. Euclid, Arlington Heights. E-mail afkugel@hotmail.com; 312-368-7715. www.chicagopex.com.

Florida – December 1-3 FLOREX
Florida Fair Grounds, Commercial Exhibit Hall, 4603 West Colonial Drive (State Route 50), Orlando. www.florex-stampshow.com. E-mail show@florexstampshow.com; 407-493-0956.

Easton Waterfowl Festival scheduled for Nov.

The 36th annual Easton Waterfowl Festival is scheduled for November 10-12, 2006. Hours: for the festival are Friday and Saturday 10-6; Sunday 10-4. The festival is held in Easton, Maryland.

Dedicated to wildlife conservation, the promotion of wildlife art, and the celebration of life on Maryland's Eastern Shore, in its 36 years, the Festival has become a leader in the conservation of waterfowl and wildlife habitat. More than \$4.6 million has been raised and donated to projects throughout the Atlantic Flyway, and in particular the Chesapeake Bay.

The festival provided the ultimate weekend for the sophisticated sportsman or art lover. Fifteen venues throughout Easton feature world-class wildlife paintings, sculpture, carvings and photos. Collectible decoys, sporting gear and adventures to delight every outdoorsman. A wine tasting pavilion is not to be missed. Also scheduled are World Championship Calling Contests, decoy auctions, shooting, retriever and fly-fishing demonstrations, a sporting clays tournament, kid's activities and evening concerts. A festive atmosphere topped by great food and music make this event a must each November. Free parking and shuttle service are provided.

Duck stamps have always played a big part at the Waterfowl Festival. The Federal and Maryland Duck Stamp competitors are represented by the artists and their

winning paintings. Additional paintings judged to be at the top of the field are also displayed.

Duck stamps, prints, and collectibles are offered for sale by selected dealers. The top entries in the federal duck stamp contest and the new artist, the contest winner will be announced Oct. 7, will be in attendance.

Other recognizable duck stamp artists that will be exhibiting during the festival include Terry Donahue; Tim Donovan; Adele Earnshaw; Jocelyn Beatty; Al Dornisch; Heiner C. Hertling; Jim Killen; Rob Leslie; Scot Storm; and Keith Mueller.

Paying homage to the annual migrating Canada geese flying overhead, Easton closes colonial streets, decorates historic buildings with natural greens, and recruits 1,500 volunteers to greet 18,000 visitors and 400 of the nation's finest wildlife artists, craftsmen and vendors with a ready smile and a helping hand. Excitement radiates throughout the town and neighboring St. Michaels, Oxford and Tilghman Island. Enjoy the 36th annual Festival, the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, fine restaurants, and quaint shops lining historic streets.

For additional information, visit the festival's web site at: <http://waterfowlfestival.org> or call 410-822-4567.



Engraving shift discovered

John Wells, a dealer in England, reports finding the RW73 with a downward shift in the engraving.

If you look at the two examples above, you will see that apart from the open beak, on the right hand stamp, the black lines below the long diagonal reed have slipped and protrude from the neck of the goose. In fact if you look at all the reed work in the lower left corner and behind the goose's neck there are a number of differences.

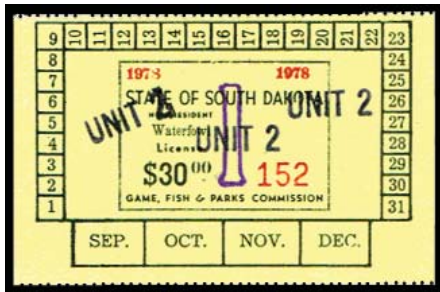
Bush Signs Bill Extending Jr. Duck Stamp Programs

President Bush signed into law H.R. 3179, the Junior Duck Stamp Reauthorization Amendments Act of 2005. The legislation, now Public Law 109-166, extends the popular art program designed to expose students to migratory waterfowl and to motivate them through art to take a leadership role in the conservation of these species.

The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is an art and science program designed to teach wetlands habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in K-12. The program guides students to communicate visually what they have learned through an entry into the Junior Duck Stamp art contest. The Junior Duck Stamp contest begins each spring when students submit their artwork to a state or territory contest.

President continued from page 3

I had never before seen any of the latter stamps outside the catalog illustrations. I was able to find some affordable items that filled in blanks in my collection of South Dakota non-resident waterfowl stamps (Scott A1-A18), Bennett County Goose Stamps (Scott 2A1-7), and Prairie Geese Stamps (Scott 2A8-14). (These stamps all have many overprint varieties, so the total number of stamps in each series is greater than the catalog numbers would suggest.) So I now have a few ex-Rudy items in my collection along with some ex-Vanderford items from that auction some years ago - items from two of the most prestigious collections of fish and game stamps ever assembled!



SD non-resident waterfowl stamp.

Moving on, I next found our society table, staffed by Vice-President, Wes Miller. Wes organized our participation in this show and staffed the table throughout his stay in Washington, meeting many members in attendance and signing up new members. Throughout the show, he had a computer at the table running a PowerPoint slide show that I had begun for a presentation at the international show in Anaheim and that Wes had greatly supplemented. [This show can be made available to any member volunteer who wishes to present an overview of duck stamps to a local show or club meeting.] Wes is owed a debt of gratitude by our society for his work at the show!

After that, I spent some time with member dealer and *Duck Tracks* contributor Michael Jaffe. There I was able to add a number of fish and game items to my collections. x

My most prized purchase of the day came at this booth: a copy of the unissued South Dakota Whistling Swan stamp. A swan hunting season had been planned for 1984 for which stamps were printed, but the season was cancelled. Reportedly, just 105 stamps in booklet panes of five reached the market. (I did see a full pane of 5 of these



Unissued South Dakota Whistling Swan stamp.

stamps in the Rudy collection.) This stamp is not the most expensive in my collection, but it is the rarest. (A discussion of scarcity versus price will have to wait for another day.)

I also picked up a few duck stamp booklet panes I needed from another dealer who really didn't specialize in that area, but if there were any other dealers with major holding of fish and game stamps at the show, I missed them, though I did inquire at most booths if they had any holdings in that area.

Most dealers were aware that the federal duck stamp would be issued later in the week at the show, along with the second special minisheet. Many dealers already had buy offers posted at their booths for the minisheets and press sheets. Since I could only attend the show on opening day, I wasn't present for the second annual fiasco when the minisheets were placed on sale.

My sentiments about the handling of the minisheets were documented in a personal letter to the editor that was published in *Linn's Stamp News* and also placed on our society web site. In short, I concluded that the Duck Stamp Office had learned little from last year's experience, which made this year's experience even worse.

Publicly announced phone/mail order dates were ignored, dealers at the show were given the opportunity to buy sheets before collectors, and the quantity sold to each buyer (10) was still too high. As a result, a lucky few made windfall profits at the expense of the rest of us who had to buy on the aftermarket. These same comments apply to the duck stamp press sheets. I've heard it said that the USPS was more responsible than the DSO for these distribution problems - and I have to agree that they bear some culpability - but the USPS is a contractor of the DSO, who should be able to set the terms of sale.

After my letter appeared in *Linn's*, I wrote a private letter to the head of the Duck Stamp Office offering the services of myself and other society members in offering advice on how to improve the release of future minisheets (and the press sheets as well). Since I have not had any reply from her to date, I am listing below the key advice I would give about these special issues:

- Announce the phone order sale date early and don't change it
- Limit minisheet and press sheet sales to just two per collector for the first week or so

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Schultz wins Wisconsin contest a second-time

A painting of a green-winged teal pair by Tim Schultz of Green Lake has been selected as winner of the 2006 Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp contest from 26 paintings submitted this year.



The 2006 Wisconsin stamp.

Schultz is a second-time winner of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp contest, first winning in 1981. In addition, he has submitted winning entries for other state stamps, including

Turkey, Inland Trout, and Great Lakes Trout and Salmon. As an avid hunter and fisherman, he supports wildlife habitat preservation efforts in the state and reflects the outdoor experience in his work. Schultz is married and has three young boys with whom he shares much of his time outdoors.

This was the 29th annual judging of the stamp contest, which began in 1978. Because of the Automated Issuance License System (ALIS) duck and goose hunters will be purchasing "stamp approval" in order to have a valid license, but will not receive an actual stamp unless they request it. DNR service centers will have the stamps available for free to everyone with stamp approval.

Pintails grace Penn. stamp

Pennsylvania Game Commission officials announced that the 2006 Pennsylvania Duck Stamp winner was Kerry L. Holzman, of Bernville. His winning entry features two male and one female pintail ducks.

Holzman, 50, has been a faithful entrant in the agency's Pennsylvania duck stamp contest and has submitted entries for more than 10 years, in which he has placed in the top five for the last eight years.



The 2006 Pennsylvania stamp.

Holzman's entry is a trio of pintails, two males and one female, done in acrylic. He said that he chose pintails because they are "one of the better looking ducks, that are graceful, elegant and sleek."

South Carolina duck stamp will feature black ducks

South Carolina's 26th annual duck stamp will feature black ducks by wildlife artist Richard D. Benson of Washington Courthouse, Ohio.

Benson's painting of black ducks flying over a freshwater marsh was



The 2006 South Carolina stamp.

judged the winner of South Carolina's 26th annual State Duck Stamp Contest by members of the S.C. Migratory Waterfowl Committee. The stamp competition is a program of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Benson is a retired mechanical engineer and said he painted the black ducks in a scene that he had found in a DNR publication. "Winning here is a real achievement, because the level of artistry in South Carolina is easily some of the best I've seen around the country," Benson said. He came fairly late to painting, only picking it up seven years ago after a medical condition forced him to stop carving decoys.

Next year's duck stamp art contest (2007-2008) will feature the redhead duck.

South Carolina duck hunters age 16 and older are required to have the state waterfowl stamp in their possession while hunting. Duck hunters purchase about 24,000 stamps each year, and collectors buy another 5,000.

Clifton wins Ohio



Artwork for the 2007 Ohio stamp.

A Canada goose by Richard Clifton of Milford, Delaware won this year's Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp design competition. Clifton's painting will appear on the 2007 Ohio stamp.

"I have always been inspired by hunting, watching and photographing Canada geese," Clifton said.

This was Clifton's second win in an Ohio stamp competition. In 1994, he was the winner with his painting of a pair of mallards. He has won 23 state wildlife stamp designs.

Classified Ads

● **For Sale - RW 72b Blue Ink**, PSE Graded Certificate, VF-XF 85. \$5500.00 or best offer. Bev Gay, P.O. Box 846, Stoddard, NH 03464. 603-446-7408, e-mail: jerbev@aol.com. Member APS & NDSCS

● **Collector seeks fish & game stamps**, especially text labels from Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and elsewhere. Full want list available by mail or e-mail (Cotton@Novia.net). Will trade, so send yours. I. Cotton, 9939 Broadmoor Road, Omaha, NE 68114.

● **California duck stamps and prints**, Indian Reservation hunting and fishing stamps. Discount prices! Contact Tom Richardson 530-894-1057 or e-mail: tomr@trducks.com.

● **Discount prints, frames, stamps and more!** Duck stamps for collectors and framed duck stamp prints, also Ducks Unlimited items and stamp mats for your collection. All on our web site - **DuckStampCity.com**.

● **Everything for your duck stamp collection!** Find it all at: **shduck.com**.

For Sale



1934-2005 U.S. Federal Duck Stamps in three wooden frames, triple matted. Center frame features the Golden Anniversary Medallion and duck print with engraved brass nameplate "The First 50 Years".

The mint stamps are in mounts, extremely well centered and superb condition. Scott 2006 *Specialized Catalogue* value is \$6,856, which includes the self-adhesive souvenir sheet issues.

In addition, this collection also contains RW56 first day program and postcard print, Harry Curieux Adamson matted duck art print and autographed hardbound book, *The Duck Stamp Story*, by Eric Dolin and Bob Dumaine.

Asking \$9,000 plus shipping costs.

Philip Czekaj, 14961 Bassett, Livonia, MI 48154. 734-464-3469.

NDSCS Member Application

All membership categories except Associate and Junior require the applicant to be 18 years of age.

Membership Categories

- Patron Life Member Limited to 50\$ 500.
- Life Member Limited to 150\$ 250.
- Junior Member Must be under age 18 ... per year \$10.
- Associate Member Open to any non-profit stamp club, society, association or corporation, museum, public library or school per year \$30.
- Regular Membership One year \$20 Two years \$35
 Three years \$55 Five years \$90

Privacy Information

The Society publishes each new member in the Quarterly Newsletter. Your name, city/state, collecting interests and e-mail address will appear unless you check any or all of the following boxes:

- Name/Membership Number City/State
- Collecting Interests E-mail Address

Online application and dues payment at
ndscs.org

Collecting Interests

- Federal Ducks State Ducks Foreign Ducks
- Souvenir Cards/Appreciation Certificates First Day Covers Artist Signed Prints Other

Event Participation

Would you be interested in contributing to the Society newsletter, *Duck Tracks*? Yes No

Are you interested in participating in Society functions and stamp shows? Yes No Local only

Send completed application to:
NDSCS Secretary, P.O. Box 43, Harleysville, PA 19438-0043

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Country _____
E-mail Address _____@_____
Phone (w) _____ (h) _____
Birth date _____
Signature _____

President continued from previous page

- Treat dealers the same as collectors
- Apply serial numbers to the minisheets so that each can be identified
- Adopt a minisheet format next year that includes both the federal duck stamp and the junior duck stamp
- Raise the price to \$50 or \$100 per sheet
- Continue with an issue size of 10,000 for one more year with the new price and order limits
- Omit the lines for the signatures, but have the first 100 sheets signed, and offer them via a mail auction (limited to one per bidder) in order to raise the most money from them
- Issue the remaining sheets unsigned
- Significantly increase the number of press sheets that are offered



Here is how the minisheet might look according to my recommendations.

If the DSO doesn't think it has a problem, they may not see the need to take any of this advice, but I hope they will consider it anyway. As I stated both publicly and privately, I support the mission of that office even though I disagree

with their performance over the past two years with these special issues.

Finally, I recently learned that the State of California would be issuing a duck stamp minisheet this year similar in format to the two federal minisheets. Society members who accept e-mail from us were notified about this and the information is also posted on our website.

Though I have some misgivings about such special issues (and the Governor, souvenir sheet and Patron stamps that preceded them), I have to favor anything that

raises both awareness of state duck stamp programs and funds for conservation. In the case of the California program, individual purchases are limited to five for the collector edition of 1000, which may still be too many to achieve fair distribution, but is at least less than the federal limit. Also, there are far more collectors of the federal stamps than of state stamps.

I hope all duck stamp collectors will feel free to buy or ignore these special issues as their interests (and wallet) dictate. I invite comments from members about these special issues and we will print them in *Duck Tracks* with your permission.



Planned design for 32006 California. mini-sheet.



National Duck Stamp Collectors Society

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