



Duck Tracks™

Dedicated to Making a Difference

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APS Chapter # 210

Duck Stamp includes "bad" number

The federal government says it has no choice but to reluctantly keep distributing to millions of waterfowl hunters and stamp collectors a toll-free phone-sex-service number that features a breathy woman promising callers that they can "talk only to the girls who turn you on" for \$1.99 per minute.

About 3.5 million federal duck stamps, featuring artwork by Joe Hautman, are affixed to backing paper that bears the misprinted number, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Wednesday.

Rachel Levin, a Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman, called the misprint, which connects callers to a phone-sex service, "an unfortunate typographical error" that her agency "really regrets." Levin adds that the agency will keep selling the \$15 stamps with the

naughty number because reprinting the stamps would cost too much.

The correct number, which connects to the U.S. Postal Service's stamp fulfillment center is 1-800-STAMP24 (1-800-782-6724). This number is for people wishing to order additional duck stamps.

Levin said two digits of the phone number are transposed on the

Number continued on page 12



Federal Contest set for Minnesota, Large variety of events planned

After 75 years of supporting wetlands acquisition throughout the United States, the Federal Duck Stamp Program continues to be a conservation success story, providing funds used to protect millions of acres of irreplaceable waterfowl habitat.



Bloomington Art Center

For the first time in its history, the Federal Duck

Stamp Art Contest will be held in the Midwest. Run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the contest will take place on October 17 and 18 in Bloomington, Minn., at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 Shakopee Road. During the only federally sponsored art competition, a panel of five judges will select the art to grace the 2009-2010 Federal Duck Stamp. The two-day contest is free and open to the public. Public events hosted by Duck Stamp partners will begin two weeks prior to the

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Welcome to all our new members!

New Regular Members

Ken Head	Sacramento, CA
Richard Horner	Des Moines, WA
Gerard Lepouttre	New Baltimore, MI
George H. Seifert	Rochester Hills, MI
George K. Seifert	Richfield, OH
Michael Driver	Midland, MI
Terrie Lee DeLoria	Denver, CO
Carl T. DePrima	Iuka, MS
G. Ray Arnett, Sr.	Stockton, CA
James Edwards, Jr.	Raleigh, NC
Timothy Turenne	Bloomington, MN
Scott Nowell	Chattanooga, TN
David Jones	Xenia, OH
Stephan Roel	Encinitas, CA
Chris Cripps	Greenwich, NY
James Brown	Jonesboro, LA
William Rudd	Syracuse, NY
Joseph C. Harack	N. Tonawanda, NY
Joseph A. Santaniello	New Milford, CT

New Life Members

Wesley J. Hutcheson	Little Falls, NJ
Charter - Life29
Life35
Associate, Charter - Regular, Regular, Junior291
Total Active Membership355
Total Complimentary Copies19
Total Mailing List374
New Members Since 1/1/200818

NDSCS Financial

Certificates of Deposit:	\$ 10,000.00
Checking Account:	\$ 5,734.05
Total Assets:	\$15,734.05

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 e-mail: ritadumaine@aol.com

Letters



NDSCS received this copy of a letter sent by a collector to the Federal Duck Stamp Office

Dear Pat Fisher:

My wife and I have recently received our \$30 artist signed \$15 2008 duck pane of one, and we are sadly disappointed in the quality that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service accepts from its printers for a premium price item for the philatelic community.

It would seem with the technological advances over the last 40 years that we would/should have better perforated stamps than what you are accepting today. We have a 1965 plate block of six (RW 31) that puts to shame any of the four years of artist signed mint singles that we have. Do you have NO quality specifications for something akin to uniform spacing of the perforations in the frame around the design? If FWS doesn't, then they should be incorporated into the printing contract for 2009.

And while we are at it, I would also comment that the perforating of the very premium \$50 75th Anniversary sheet is only marginally better. It is one thing to be a collector and contributor to wildlife preservation, but it is quite something else to be annually "ripped-off" with premium stamps at premium prices for an inferior product.

It is time you paid a bit more attention to what you are selling and instigate some quality control to determine what is a premium product and what is not.

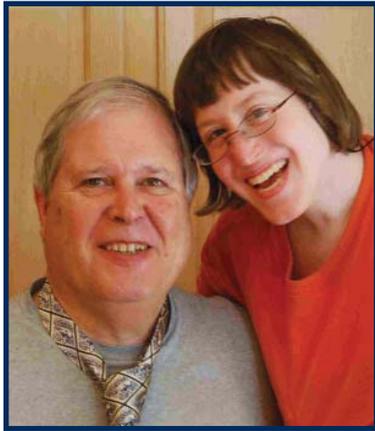
Sincerely,
 F. H. H.
 Tucson, AZ

Letters continued on page12

To receive a copy of this newsletter in full color via e-mail, send your request to: kward33@cogeco.ca

Uncatalogued Stamps

President's Corner



by Ira Cotton

In case you're wondering, the picture shows a bit of Fathers Day fun with my older daughter who had just presented me with a stamp tie with a woven image of Scott 114, the U.S. 3¢ ultramarine of 1869 portraying an old locomotive. You might not recognize it from this small photo,

but when I blow up the digital image from my Nikon D40x, the stamp image is clearly visible.

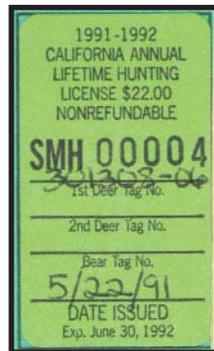
Soon thereafter, I received an eBay lot that I purchased because it included a hunting license stamp I had never before seen or known about, nor was able to locate it in any catalog. I also saw a few other lots on eBay (that I didn't win) containing other stamps I hadn't seen nor known about either, but was able to locate in an unpublished catalog. Credit these lots for the idea for this column.

Uncatalogued items are so unusual in normal philately that they make headlines in stamp publications when someone finds one. Fish and Game stamps are not so well researched or documented, and it is not uncommon to find items that aren't in any catalog, published or unpublished. This opportunity to discover new items is, I think, one of the real charms of this area of collecting.

The eBay lot I won (pictured below) was a California lifetime hunting license for the 1991-92 season. Three stamps were on the license: a trimmed RW58 (the 1991 federal duck stamp), a CA21 (California state duck stamp),



California lifetime hunting license.



and the prize, a 1991-1992 California Annual Lifetime Hunting License stamp that is uncatalogued and hence unnumbered.

I believe this stamp belongs in the 2A series of California statewide hunting license validation stamps in the [waterfowl] Hunting Permit section of the Scott U.S. Specialty catalog. This series is also described more thoroughly in *David Torre's Specialized Catalog of U.S. Non-Pictorial Waterfowl Stamps*.

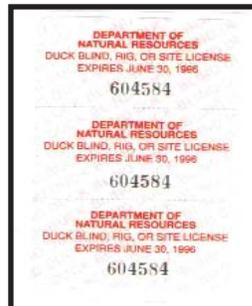
I learned about California lifetime licenses while researching my handbook on *California Pictorial Hunting & Fishing Licenses*, and illustrated one from 2006 that had the upland game bird and state duck stamps printed directly on the license. I knew about the California hunting validation stamps and have been accumulating those issues, but had no idea at the time that a similar stamp existed specifically for lifetime licenses.

I have written to the California Fish and Game Commission for any available information on when this series began and how many stamps were sold each year from inception. If any readers have specimens, I would welcome information and scans of entire lifetime licenses and/or lifetime stamps from other years.

Another example of uncatalogued stamps that came to light a few years ago are the Maryland duck blind stamps. These stamps were issued in identically numbered sets of three stamps that are evidently used on different copies or parts of a state license to maintain a permanent duck blind. I was fortunate to obtain sets at a reasonable price for 1994-95 and 1995-96. These demonstrate that both

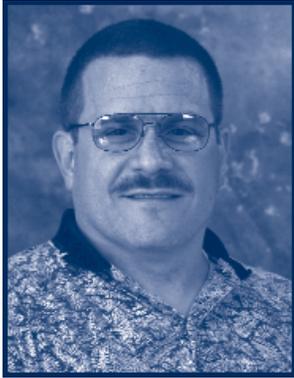
horizontal and vertical self-adhesive formats were used.

I did try to get information from the State of Maryland about the issuance and use of these stamps, but there seems to be no institutional memory in the Department of Natural Resources about these *President continued on page 19*



Maryland duck blind stamps.

Secretary's Column



by **Tony Monico**

This issue finds us scrambling to purchase our new Duck Stamps. The 75th anniversary sheet of two is a surprise entry on the list from the FDSO. The FDSO has made some major changes in the last 10 years and I hope the one change they never make is eliminating the contest or the use of the winning art on the hunting stamp.

The pane of one figures prominently again in the FDSO line up of products. It will be interesting to see how the market trends determine the price this year. Again this year the traditional lick and stick version of the duck stamp has generated some controversy. Plate numbers are missing from the sheets.

Our society needs more members volunteering to become active in the society activities. We could use a few hands to help and maybe even assume some of the board positions. Please consider sharing some of your free time with the society.

Since the last issue we eliminated our on-line credit card web site, BigStep. This has been a losing proposition since day one due to the processing fees and with the PayPal option available it makes it more cost effective for us to focus completely on just one vendor. NDSCS continued to offer PayPal as our on-line payment source for credit card and bank transfers.

Also, please take note of this common question that comes in several times a month. What are those large "purple blocks" on our web page for? Those buttons, as they are called, provide a user a mechanism to see other information on our web page. Using your mouse, click on them to navigate to the information identified in the text within the box. Hopefully, this will clarify this for all of our members new or old, computer savvy or not.

On to the society business items -

Web Site: Check out our web site ndscs.org. Late breaking information and membership renewal, by credit card and printing of membership forms for mail-in, is all available from our web 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. All memberships that have a note of EXPIRES: July 2008 or earlier on the first line of their mailing label are now past 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 using PayPal on our on-line payment web page. A reminder, your dues are fully US TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Membership Renewal Invoices - We continue to use the *Duck Tracks* mailing to send a renewal invoice in all envelopes of past-due, current-renewal and coming-due members 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 September 12, 2008. All membership renewals received through that date are reflected on the mailing labels. If you feel there is something wrong with your membership expiration date - drop me a quick note and we will resolve it quickly. If your renewal arrived after that time, except 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. We use the mailing list to provide you late breaking duck stamp news and a full color preview copy of *Duck Tracks*. If you want to receive timely electronic messages sent by the society, please keep your e-mail address up-to-date by e-mailing your address changes to ndscs@hwc.org. 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!

Anniversary Sheet contains date error



The 75th Anniversary sheet for the 2008 Federal Duck Stamp is a collectible piece, with a glaring error!

The sheet commemorates the first duck stamp and the 75th stamp. Technically, 2008 is not the 75th Anniversary of the program, which began in 1934, that works out to 74 years. (This is the reason when RW51 was issued, it was the 50th Anniversary stamp *not* RW50.)

The 75th Anniversary sheet has an informative story about J. N. Darling, the formation of the Federal Duck Stamp Program and its success over the past 74 years.

The error occurs in the text when it says, **“On August 14, 1934, Darling bought the first stamp from the postmaster for \$1.”**

The actual first day of sale was August 22, 1934. The actual stamp, affixed to a Form 3333 along with an affidavit signed by Clinton Eilenberger, Third Assistant Postmaster, as well as by Darling, is house in the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum, donated by Jeanette C. Rudy.

Letters to the Editor continued from page 2

This response was received when the story broke about the incorrect phone number listed on the back of this year’s self-adhesive duck stamp (see story page 1)

Well the duck hunting fraternity has been wringing their hands for a couple decades about the declining number of duck hunters and the future of the sport. USFWS may have hit upon a novel approach to increasing participation.

Similar to the newspaper stories every fall prior to the opening of deer season in Michigan about how hookers from all over the eastern half of the nation and as far south as Miami all rent everything from mini-vans to ultra-luxurious mobile homes and drive up into the Michigan woods and pick up steady business.

Who said Kempthorne couldn’t rejuvenate the DOI?

G. Ray Arnett
Sacramento, Calif.

Dumaine inducted in to Writers Hall of Fame

Bob Dumaine, the founder of the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society, joined three other new members of the Writers Unit #30 Hall of Fame, during an August 17 induction ceremony.



Bob Dumaine

This year’s class -- Thomas J. Alexander, the late Pandelis J. Drossos, Robert F. Dumaine, and Robin M. Startup -- were inducted at the Writers Unit breakfast in Hartford, Ct. during APS Stampshow 2008.

The awards are presented in recognition of outstanding service and scholarship by authors, editors, and publishers. A plaque on public display at the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Penn., displays the names of the honorees.

Dumaine who operates Sam Houston Philatelics, has been a professional stamp dealer and auctioneer since 1976. As the preeminent authority on duck and conservation stamps, his encyclopedic knowledge of the subject has made him the primary resource for duck stamp information. He regularly reports discoveries of duck stamp errors and varieties.

Dumaine is coauthor with Eric Jay Dolin of the gold medal winning *The Duck Stamp Story*, which traces the history of the federal duck stamp program and the stamps that have been issued. He was a duck stamp columnist for *Linn’s Stamp News* for 18 years, a columnist for *Stamp Collector*, and a contributor to *Duck Stamp and Print Forum* and *Duck Tracks*. In all, Dumaine has more than 250 published articles to his credit.

He was also the force behind the duck stamp listings in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* and has been an expert contributor ever since. He publishes eight annual auction catalogues. In total, he has published nearly 70 public auction and 225 mail auction catalogues. He also publishes and edits the *Duck Stamp and Print Catalogue*, a biennial retail price catalogue.

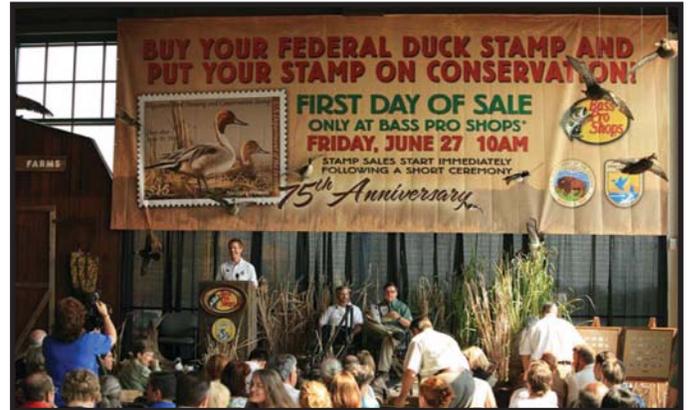
Dumaine is a former American Stamp Dealer Association board member and a Federal Duck Stamp Contest judge.

Federal Duck Stamp First Day Ceremony

A Photo Essay by Jim O'Donnell



This year's primary First Day of Sale ceremony was held at the Bass Pro Shop in Hanover, Md., just outside Baltimore. Other ceremonies were held at Bass Pro Shops throughout the United States.



Over 120 people attended the event, which was held in a large hall inside the store. Paul Schmidt, Assistant Director of the Migratory Bird Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was master of ceremonies.



An honor guard presented the colors of the United States to begin the ceremony. The audience stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and hear the national anthem.



Dale Hall, Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, spoke of the conservation benefits of the duck stamp program which is celebrating its 75th year and thanked all veterans and current military personnel for their service.



Expert duck callers amused the audience as well as Dale Hall (left) and Martin MacDonald.



Legendary wildlife artist Joe Hautman, whose painting graces the 2008 issue, spoke. Joe was a research physicist before winning the 1992 Federal contest and deciding to become a full time wildlife artist.



Seokkyum Hong's winning depiction of Nene geese for the Junior Duck Stamp netted him a \$5,000 check, presented by Martin MacDonald, Director of Conservation for Bass Pro Shops.



The ceremony concluded with Stanley Newsome, the Hanover, Md., postmaster, selling the first 2008 Federal Duck Stamp to Director Hall.



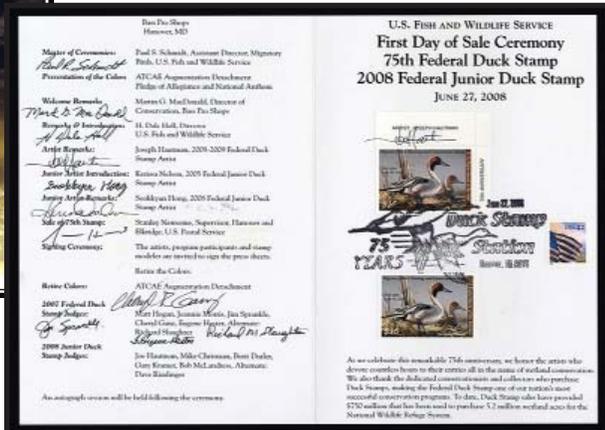
The speakers, artists and judges signed both gummed and self-adhesive sheets of the 2008 issue. This year they signed four sets of sheets instead of the customary two sets. The receiving institutions were the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service archives, Bass Pro Shop headquarters in Springfield, Mo., and the Bass Pro Shop in Hanover.

Afterwards, the speakers, artists and judges signed programs and stamps for hours. Middle photo – artists Joe Hautman and Seokkyum Hong autograph programs. Right photo – Among the signers was National Postal Museum curator Cheryl Ganz, who was one of the judges for this year's stamp.



Everyone who attended the ceremony was given a copy of the program.

Many collectors buy a Federal Duck Stamp and a first class postage stamp and after affixing them in their program and obtaining a cancellation, try to obtain the signatures of all the people listed in the program. The result is a valuable collectible. This program contains both the gummed and self-adhesive varieties of the Federal Duck Stamp.



Note: Federal Duck Stamps are revenue stamps, listed in the Scott Catalogue as RW1, RW2 ... The "RW" prefix is an abbreviation of "Revenue Waterfowl." Thus they cannot be used to pay postage and a regular postage stamp must be purchased and affixed to the program before the U.S. Postal Service will cancel it.

Jim O'Donnell is a museum specialist at the National Postal Museum where from 1996-2006 he served as project manager for 'Artistic License-The Duck Stamp Story,' a display of the Jeanette C. Rudy collection.

Contest continued from page 1

contest weekend. Eligible species for this year's contest are: Brant, Northern shoveler, Ruddy duck, Canada goose, and Long-tailed duck (oldsquaw). The Federal Duck Stamp Office received 270 entries for the contest.

Collectors unable to attend the contest can view all the entries at the web site of Minnesota-based Outdoors Weekly – outdoorsweekly.com

Minnesota wildlife artists have won more Federal Duck Stamps than artists from any other state. Minnesotians have purchased more than 9.1 million duck stamps since 1934.

MEET DUCK STAMP ARTISTS RECEPTION

Mark your calendars and save the date for the first ever celebration honoring winners of the Federal Duck Stamp contest. The event is being held at the Bloomington Art Center on October 15th from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Wildlife Forever's "**Meet the Artists Night**" is one of the premier events of the Federal Duck Stamp judging being held in Bloomington, Minnesota. Enjoy gourmet hors d'oeuvres while rubbing elbows with winning artists of past competitions and this year's hopefuls.

Current winning Federal Duck Stamp artist, Joe Hautman will chair the evening's events. Joe, a noted Minnesota wildlife artist, is a three-time Contest winner. Additional past Federal Duck Stamp artists will also be in attendance.

The artwork exhibit of the 270 competing images from this year's judging will be on display for everyone to view. Past winners will be recognized in a brief ceremony and limited edition signature cards will be available to gather autographs from artists.

Tickets are \$35 per person in advance and \$40 at the door. Proceeds from the event will benefit local wetlands conservation efforts. Advance tickets can be purchased by calling Wildlife Forever at: 763-253-0222.

2008 DUCK STAMP GALA ARTISTS

Wild Wings and Ducks Unlimited will be hosting a Duck Stamp Gala on Friday October 17, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Select in Bloomington. David Maass will be Honorary Gala Chairman. Master of Ceremonies will be Jared Brown, Host of DUTV.

The schedule for the evening is:

5:30 p.m. Doors open/cocktails & hors d'oeuvres

7:00 p.m. Dinner (filet mignon)

8:00 p.m. Program

8:45 p.m. Silent/live auctions featuring original artwork

9:30 p.m. Closing remarks

Recommended dress is cocktail attire

Contact Mark Pederson for more information or sponsorship opportunities 952-525-2331 or mpederson@mnducks.org. Ticket Pricing: \$195 single, \$350 couple, \$1,200 table for 8. Tickets may be ordered on line at: duckstampgala.org

In addition to individual tickets, Ducks Unlimited is offering "**Dinner with an Artist**" to individuals, corporations or businesses with an interest in adding to their efforts supporting wildlife conservation, a great opportunity to partner with Ducks Unlimited in an evening of fundraising.

With all proceeds from the Gala Event dedicated in support of the USFWS Small Wetlands Program through DU's habitat conservation efforts, there is an excellent opportunity to help add to the success of the program with a Major Donor commitment to Ducks Unlimited. Through the commitment of a small cadre of the group of elite wildlife artists of our time you can experience a special benefit of pledging as a DU Major Donor through the Gala event.

This special opportunity will match up Gala attendees who have made a new DU Major Donor commitment in association with the Gala, with a prominent wildlife artist. Along with the traditional

Major Donor amenities associated with a pledge, the new Gala Major Donor will receive seating for two at a table with the artist of their choice (as available), recognition in the official program and a special personal 'thank you' from the artist. This 'thank you' will include original artwork at the choice of the artist. A 'thank you' may come in the form of a pencil remarque on a duck stamp print, a small pencil sketch or some other work personalized with original art.

DU Major Donor pledges are \$10,000 commitments of cash or investment instruments with a cash conversion option, payable over a 5 year period with a \$2,000 first year payment accompanying the pledge. Cumulative giving credit is not applicable for this special opportunity. Final recognition will be provided upon completion of the commitment.

For more information on how you can host a wildlife artist for an evening contact - Joe Breidenbach, Ducks Unlimited, Director of Fund-raising and Volunteer Relations 218-825-7105 jbreidenbach@ducks.org.

Contest continued on next page

Contest continued

Artists participating in the program include:

Scot Storm - As a youngster, Scot discovered his talent for drawing, sketching and design. These skills eventually led him to North Dakota State University where he earned a degree in architecture. While working in this field, Scot's love of hunting and the outdoors drew him to explore the challenges of wildlife art. In 1987, as a self-taught artist, he entered the Minnesota Duck Stamp contest and placed second. Encouraged by the acceptance of his initial work, he continued to enter stamp contests and enjoyed his first top award by winning the Indiana Pheasant Stamp competition in 1991.

Thereafter, Scot's interest in wildlife art became such a passion, that in 1999, he decided to give up his career in architecture and devote himself full-time to painting. Scot was then able to challenge himself in every aspect of his creations from composition, to lighting, to the accuracy and psychology of color. His paintings of waterfowl, hunting dogs and other animals all reveal his attention to the fine details that breathe life into every image and draw the viewer into a scene.

Jim Hautman - In 1989, at the age of 25, Jim became the youngest artist in history to win the prestigious Federal Duck Stamp Contest. His second, in 1994, not only took first prize but he set a new record by receiving a perfect judges score as well as the distinguished People's Choice Award. In 1998, Jim captured top honors for the third time receiving a perfect judges score once again. Jim is only the second artist in competition history to win three times.

David Maass - After high school graduation, Maass worked in the tool and die department for Josten Jewelry, a manufacturer of high-school and college jewelry, and he eventually became the Art Director. Stu Ferreira, a wildlife artist, worked in the department and helped Maass improve his technique and gave him the encouragement he needed to continue painting.

Maass also spent two years in the Marines in California, where he became friends with another wildlife painter, David Hagerbaumer, receiving pointers from him. After his service, Maass returned to Minnesota.

Maass has won thirty-three duck and conservation stamp competitions, including two of the coveted Federal Duck Stamp Contests, one of them in 1974, when he was also chosen Artist of the Year by Ducks Unlimited. He has been named Artist of the Year and feature artist by many

other exhibitions and conservation organizations, including the National Wild Turkey Federation and the National Wildlife Art Collectors Society. Maass has raised millions of dollars for conservation causes through donations of his original artwork and limited edition prints.

Over three hundred of Maass' illustrations have been published by Wild Wings, Inc., and he has produced calendar illustrations for twenty-seven years for Brown & Bigelow.

His work has been widely reproduced in journals, books and magazines. Two books are: *A Gallery of Waterfowl and Upland Birds*, with writer Gene Hill; and *The Wildfowl Art of David Maass* by Michael McIntosh from the *Master of the Wild Series*.

Maass shows his work in the annual Lywam Birds in Art and Lywam Wildlife in Art exhibitions in Wausau, Wisconsin. He is represented in the collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota.

Maass was termed a "master artist" by U.S. Art in June 1997.

Bruce Miller - Born in Minneapolis in 1952, Bruce Miller showed signs of artistic talent at an early age. Given a set of acrylic paints for seventh grade art class, he painted exclusively with acrylics until 1999, when he began painting with oils.

After high school, Bruce majored in art at St. Cloud State University and expanded his horizons as a world traveler. He returned to Minnesota to seriously pursue his art career in 1975. Miller experimented with a variety of genres including portraits, landscape, abstract and surrealism. Being an avid outdoorsman and Eagle Scout, in 1981 he began painting wildlife.

In 1988 he won his first national contest, Artist of the Year for the Michigan Wildlife Art Festival and since has won over 50 awards and been featured at several major art shows in the country. He has won 23 conservation stamps including the 1993 Federal Duck Stamp and the 2007 Texas Duck Stamp. And was named the 1999 Ducks Unlimited International Artist of the Year and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Artist of the Year in 2002. Miller's work has generated over \$10,000,000 for conservation. His work also has won critical acclaim, being selected for the Leigh Yawkey Woodson "Birds in Art" exhibition. His painting recently won an Award of Excellence at the Natureworks art show in Tulsa.

Contest continued on next page

Contest continued

In 1999, Miller was moved by some art he saw at The Russian Museum of Art. He decided to switch to oil and attempt to paint in the impressionistic manner. His work continues to evolve after 4 years of intense study, from 2000-2004. He studied composition, value and color for the first time! Each morning from 8-10 am, Miller would read art books on the principles of good painting, and study the work of artists he admired.

Now he takes this knowledge, and the information he continues to learn and tries to create better paintings. He paints with oils on Belgian linen canvas for the larger pieces and Masonite for the small ones. He feels fortunate to be a professional artist for the last 25 years.

Brett Longley - A Canada native, Brett Longley first came to the United States in 1985 to further his education. It was during his college days that he had the opportunity to illustrate book covers for a Minnesota based publishing house. Blessed with innate talent, a studious nature, and an incredible passion to create, Longley thrives on taking his art to the next level.

His inspiration started at an early age growing up with three family dogs. Some of his cherished memories can be retold of biking through the neighborhood with Chico the Chihuahua riding shotgun. Yes, it was a sight to see!

As a self-taught artist, Longley has come to some deeper realizations about his passion for art. According to Brett, "Art is not something I do, it is who I am. It is not something I turn on and off, but with every breath it makes a deeper impact in my life. It is like a hunger that never goes away. To me, artists are children at play but instead of a pail and shovel in a sandbox, artist play with brushes, paint, and other cool stuff. the true joy of creating and an attitude of play is what I strive to show in my work."

As for Longley's long-term goals, well, let's just say he has many. We could fill a loose-leaf notebook with the ideas he comes up with weekly, but, as his friends say, "Don't get him going."

As for Longley's favorite breed of dog, it would have to be the sight hounds with the greyhound topping the list. One of his projected goals is to adopt six retired racers of his "Six Pack" as he affectionately calls it.

Who is Bret Longley? Some may say that he is an artist who loves dogs, or a dog lover who happens to be an artist. Either way you look at it, he is one dog guy you want to keep an eye on.

Bob Hautman - Robert Hautman's winning pintail

design was his second image to be chosen as a Federal Duck Stamp - his first win was the 1997-1998 stamp featuring a majestic solitary Canada goose. Since his 1997-1998 Federal win Robert has painted the 1999 Texas Duck Stamp, the 1999 SCWA Stamp, and was selected to paint the 2001-2002 New Jersey Duck Stamp. He also won the Minnesota Duck Stamp for 2001-2002.

Hautman credits his success to the influence of his parents and a supportive family environment. His mother Elaine is an accomplished painter; and his late father Tom bestowed on his family a love of the outdoors and a commitment to wildlife conservation. Robert began his wildlife painting career in 1983 painting "Birds on Boards," and selling at local art fairs, In 1987 he won his first contest, the Minnesota Duck stamp, with a pair of Buffleheads. He has been painting, doing shows, and winning contests ever since. The Hautman name and elements from Robert's studio were used in the Academy Award winning movie "Fargo." Robert currently resides on a farm in western Minnesota where he is working to restore parts of the land back to wetlands and prairie.

Joe Hautman - Joe Hautman's first experience as a professional artist came when he won the Federal Duck Stamp contest in 1991. Before he had even sold a painting, he was receiving honors for his artistic achievements and had visited with President George Bush in the Oval office.

Ten years later, after winning several state contests and his second Federal Duck Stamp contest in 2001, Joe has begun to earn his reputation. From an early age Joe loved to draw and paint, but he soon became fascinated by the sciences as well. His artistic talents took a back seat during his academic career. He studied physics and astronomy at the University of Minnesota, and eventually earned a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Michigan. In the midst of an active research career, Joe began to enter the Federal Duck Stamp contest as a way to exercise his artistic skills. His surprise victory provided the extra incentive he needed to return professionally to his first love. He now paints full-time and says he finds it as challenging and fulfilling as his scientific career.

Joe lives Plymouth, Minnesota. His work features a variety of North American animals and, inspired by several trips to India, tigers and other Asian wildlife. The accuracy of detail and well researched naturalistic settings in his work reflect his scientific background, as well as a

Contest continued on next page

Contest continued

reverence for the wildlife and their habitat.

Jim Killen - A master artist, avid sportsman, and dedicated conservationist, Jim Killen has reaped national and international awards, including being honored three times as "International Artist of the Year" for Ducks Unlimited. Jim merges his passion for the outdoors into every facet of his life.

He spends hours with his camera recording the beauty and serenity of the great outdoors with his own sporting dogs by his side. "I feel a closeness to dogs... I have hunted with some great dogs and painted them as well... I know the dedication that exists between an owner and their dog."

The distinctive style and quality of Jim's original paintings, along with his wealth of knowledge and experience makes for an extraordinary combination. His art has generated millions of dollars for numerous conservation groups such as Ducks Unlimited International, Pheasants Forever, Quail Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation. He was also named Southeastern Wildlife Expo "Artist of the Year" in 1987.

Born and raised in Minnesota, the pheasant fields and prairie potholes inspired him to strive to preserve these gifts of nature for future generations. Jim's studio overlooks the 160 acres he developed into a wildlife management area focusing on waterfowl, pheasant, wild turkey and deer. A favorite project for Jim is perpetuating the forest and he has planted more than 30,000 trees on his property.

Jim Rataczak - A small strip of woods behind his boyhood home in a Minneapolis suburb provided the surroundings in which Jim Rataczak (pronounced "RAT-a-check") began his life as a naturalist and artist. As a kindergartner, Jim, with great encouragement from his parents, was already drawing and painting pictures of the birds he regularly saw around his home. Then, at the age of 9, Jim and his family moved to a rural Minnesota lake and he suddenly had the natural world all around him. Here, what had for him been a strong interest in nature grew into a full-fledged passion as he made countless explorations around the family home.

Jim decided to enter the University of Notre Dame to study art, but soon found himself drawn instead to science, and he graduated with a degree in Biology in 1987. A Masters Degree, for conducting research in bird behavior, followed from the University of Michigan, and Jim assumed

he was on his way to career in biology. However, a summer Fellowship at the famous Delta Waterfowl Research Station in Manitoba, Canada, exposed Jim to Delta's rich artistic heritage and he realized that he wanted to get back into painting, perhaps even to devote his life to it.

This idea met with approval from Jim's wife, Joan, and so a corner of their one-bedroom apartment in Chicago became a "studio". While Joan's nursing career paid their way, Jim zealously pursued his art, taking classes at the Art Institute of Chicago, and learning bird anatomy at the Field Museum of Natural History where he painted and prepared bird skins for the museum's collection. Most significantly, however, it was during this time that Jim unearthed what has proven to be an almost religious devotion to field sketching birds and nature. This direct approach to study and painting was further cemented as Jim began studying the work of Louis Agassiz Fuertes and became inspired by the work of Swedish artists Bruno Liljefors and Lars Jonsson.

In 1993, Jim and Joan moved back to Minnesota, where Jim continued his studies, and slowly began to exhibit his work. Continued fieldwork, and an annual critique group gathering (with several of the same artists whose work he studied as a youngster) has fostered the continued emergence of Jim's own painting style. Today, his work can be found at the Snooty Fox Gallery in Annandale, MN, Wild

Wings Gallery in Lake City, MN, and Krom's Natural Images in Rochester, MN. Further, Jim's paintings hang in private collections across North America, and in the Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis. His work appeared in Wildlife Art magazine, Delta Waterfowl Report, Upland Hunter's Almanac, Minnesota Birding, and throughout the pages of Doug Larsen's recent books *Don't Shoot the Decoys* and *The Duck Gods Must Be Crazy*.

Michael Sieve - To capture the adventure and excitement of the hunt is to know the sportsman. To join forces in preserving and protecting habitat is to understand the conservationist. To identify the songs of the wind and relish calloused hands is to appreciate the farmer. To see this combination in a painting is to view the art of Michael Sieve.

Sieve's talents and expertise are undeniable. To date, over 100 of his original artwork have been chosen for print in limited edition form. His original paintings can be found in collections throughout the world and have been featured in some of America's finest wildlife and nature

Contest continued on page 18

Bad stamp continued from page 1

self-adhesive version of the stamp. That incorrect number, 1-800-872-6724, translates to 1-800-TRAMP24. Callers are warned that they must be 18 years or older before proceeding.

Levin doubted that the digits were purposely transposed. "As far as we know," she said, "it was just an error." Levin said reprinting the self adhesive stamps would cost about \$300,000, and "that's a lot of money we could be putting into conservation. The stamp is perfectly usable," she said. "It will just be a lot more interesting for people now."

The stamps were produced by Ashton Potter Ltd. of Williamsville, N.Y. Ashton Potter's last duck stamp printing was RW70, which also resulted in major errors – back inscription missing and the first imperforate duck stamp since RW1.

There is no similar error involving the gummed duck stamps. Both types have been on sale since June.

The 75th duck stamp features artist Joseph Hautman's depiction of a pair of northern pintail ducks.

"Oh, no," Hautman said upon learning of the error. "It's just an accident, I hope."

Hautman said he understands why Fish and Wildlife would not want to pay for reissuing the stamps, but he said he's unsure whether that is the right decision.

An update from Laurie Shaffer of the Federal Duck Stamp Office informs us the bad phone number has been disconnected. Amplex, the stamp fulfillment center, has been instructed to put a sticker on the packs of 25 that are sent to the retail stores with the following verbiage provided by the Federal Duck Stamp Office:

"There is a typographical error on the back of the carrier sheet for the 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamp self-adhesive version. One of the phone numbers listed for ordering Federal Duck Stamps is incorrect. The stamp itself is not affected by this error and may still be used. You may keep selling these stamps, but please use a black permanent marker to cross out only the incorrect phone number: 1-800-872-6724. The other two phone numbers on the carrier sheet are correct. Thank you for your assistance with this."

Attention Members!

Sign up for e-mail notices of breaking news and upcoming events. Receive your duck stamp news when it happens! Register today at ndscs.org

Update on the 2008 Federal Duck Stamp

Margin blocks and singles are available, but each corner will have the artist name - Joseph Hautman and 75th Anniversary instead of the usual plate number. If you ordered a plate block or plate number single, this is what you will receive.



PLEASE NOTE: There are NO PLATE NUMBERS on the sheets.

The Federal Duck Stamp Office reports that because of the trim on the sheets this year, the plate number was removed. This also allowed for the addition of the words "75th Anniversary." The sheet format was changed this year to three panes of 20 (instead of four panes as in prior years). The center stamps of the sheet still contain the registration color ducks, which are included if you collect plate blocks of six.

Crow Creek – Sioux Tribe Waterfowl Stamps

The 2008 Scott Specialized Catalogue lists all Crow Creek waterfowl stamps through 2006.

Interested in completing your collection of waterfowl stamps?

Visit www.dickkeiser.com and click on "Fish and Game" to see a complete list of all available Crow Creek Sioux Tribe waterfowl, fish and game stamps.

Quantities are limited. Only several sets of the very scarce '03 waterfowl set are available!

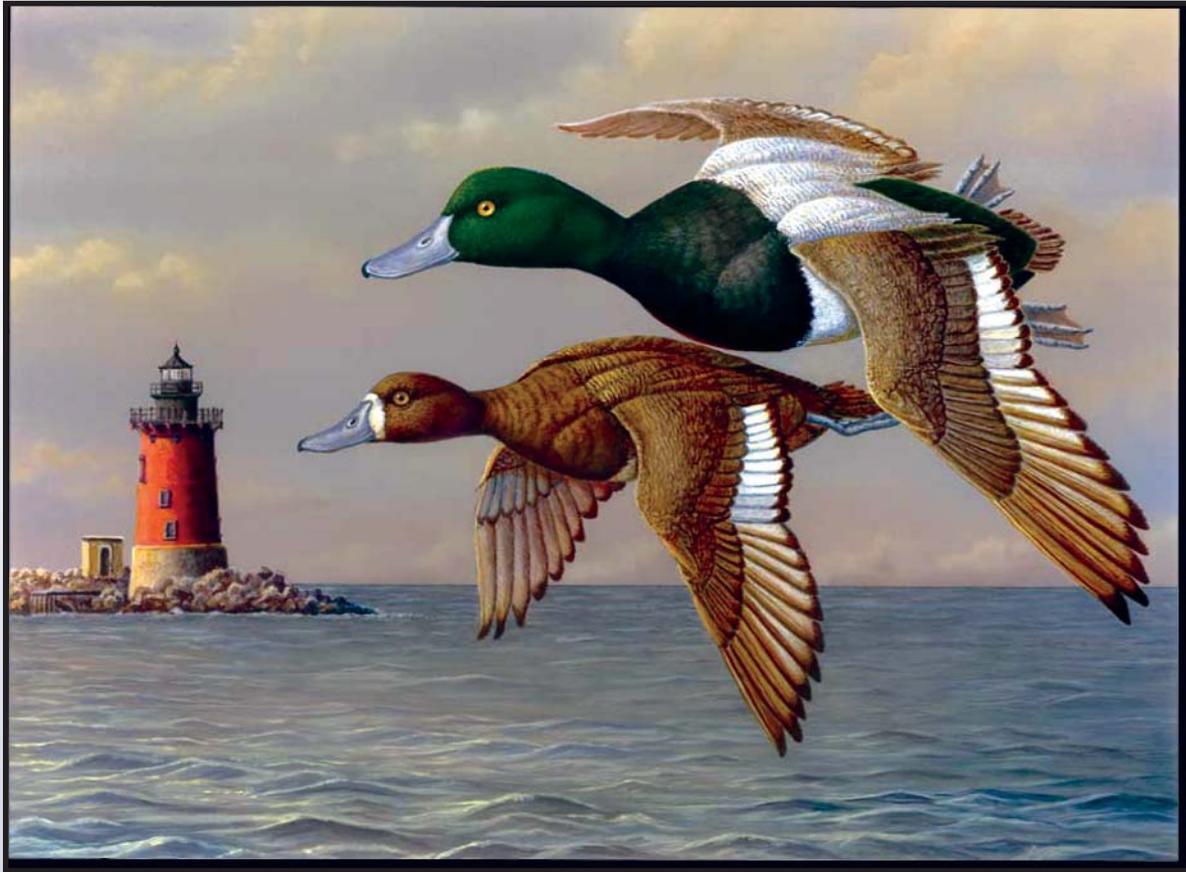
Call for quote.

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Delaware Duck Stamp Program

*Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife,
In partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.*



2008 Delaware Duck Stamp

The Greater Scaup and the Delaware Breakwater Lighthouse

By John Stewart of Wilmington, Delaware

The Division of Fish & Wildlife, in partnership with Delaware Ducks Unlimited, began the duck stamp and print program in 1980 to raise funds for waterfowl conservation, including acquiring and improving the wetland habitats in Delaware and Canada that are vital for the survival of migratory waterfowl. To date, more than \$2.3 million has been raised. This conservation effort helps to ensure that waterfowl species will prosper and provide enjoyment for generations to come.

Delaware's Duck Stamps and Prints from 2008, 2007, and 2006 are currently available for sale.

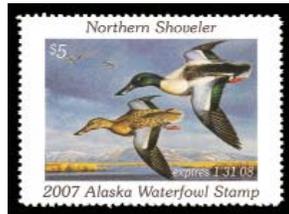
For information on the Delaware Duck Stamp Program or to purchase available stamps/prints, call 302-739-9911 or visit our website: <http://fwdelaware.gov/Hunting/Pages/DuckStamp.aspx>





Alabama

Blue-winged teal by David Nix



Alaska

Shoveler by George Lockwood



Arizona

Wood duck by S. R. Meline



Arkansas

Mallard/Black lab by P. Crowe



California

Pintail by Paul Johnson



Colorado

Hooded merg. by J. Klinefelter



Connecticut

Black duck by Keith Mueller



Delaware

Surf scoter by George Lockwood



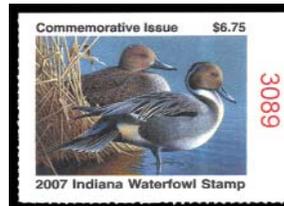
Hawaii

Gray francolin by Dan Hoyes



Illinois

Bufflehead by C. Van Dellen



Indiana

Pintail by Ken Bucklew



Iowa

Wigeon by Darren Maurer



Kentucky

Green-winged teal by C. Walden



Louisiana

Choc. lab by Tony Bernard



Maine

Oldsquaw (long-tail) by R. Alley



Massachusetts

Goldeneye by Matthew Schulz



Michigan

Pintail by Rod Lawrence



Minnesota

Mallard by Joe Hautman



Mississippi

Wood duck by J. M. Hudspeth



Nebraska

Canvasback by Brett Cooper



Nevada

Wood duck by Ken Michaelsen



New Hampshire

Black duck by Kate Kotulak



New Jersey

Choc. lab/G-W teal by M. Braun



North Carolina

Wood duck by Gerald Putt



North Dakota

Text



Oklahoma

Redhead by Jeffrey Holt



Oregon

Wood duck by Robert Steiner



Pennsylvania

Wood duck by Gerald Putt



Rhode Island

Harlequin by Keith Mueller



South Carolina

Redhead/Gldn retrv by J. Killen



South Dakota

Text



Tennessee

Harlequin by Kaydee Hanks



Texas

Wood duck by Bruce Miller



Vermont

Ring-necked duck by H. Forcier



Virginia

Canada goose by G. Cittenden



Washington

Snow goose by Bob Steiner



Wisconsin

Redhead by Arthur Anderson



Wyoming

Bue grouse by Art Biro



Ohio

Canada goose by R. Clifton



Maryland

Wood duck by Jim Taylor

No stamp: FL, GA, ID, KS, MO, MT, NM, NY, UT, WV.



Federal

Ring-necked by R. Clifton



Junior

Wigeon by Paul Willey



Canada

Wilson's snipe by Nigel Shaw



United Kingdom

Gadwall by Barry Van Dusen

Duck Stamp Ballot

My favorite stamp of 2007 is: _____

My favorite state duck of 2007 is: _____

I think the best design for 2007 is: _____

I think the worst design for 2007 is: _____

Comments: _____

Mail to: Rita Dumaine, P.O. Box 820087, Houston, TX 77282
or e-mail to: ritadumaine@aol.com. Results will be published in the next edition of Duck Tracks.

Minnesota to issue Walleye stamp in 2009

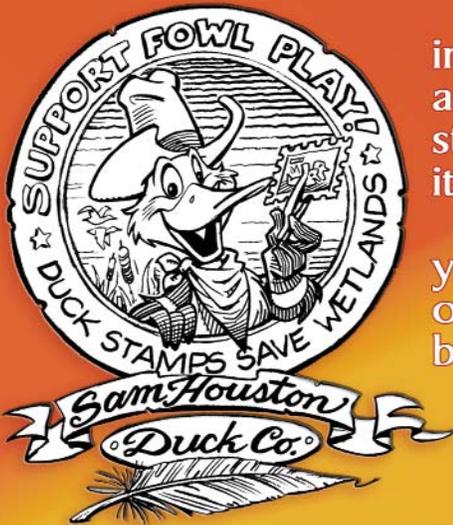
Minnesota will issue its first walleye stamp, which will be available to anglers when they purchase a 2009 fishing license.

Earlier this year, the Minnesota Legislature passed a law creating the voluntary walleye stamp, which will add \$5 to the cost of a 2009 fishing license if an angler chooses to purchase the stamp. Revenue from stamp sales is dedicated to walleye stocking and directly related activities.

The walleye now joins the trout and salmon, migratory waterfowl, wild turkey and pheasant as a species that offer a DNR-sponsored wildlife art contest.

The design will be selected in a contest held on Thursday, Oct. 30, at DNR Headquarters. The contest, which offers no prizes, is open to Minnesota residents only. Winning artists usually issue limited edition prints of the artwork and retain the proceeds.

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Bealle wins Maryland duck stamp contest

Robert Bealle of Waldorf took home top honors for the third time in Maryland's 34th Annual Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest.

His painting of a male canvas-back titled, "Morning Cruise," was selected first place from a field of 34 entries submitted by artists across the state.

Bealle, a former professional taxidermist who resides and works a family farm in southern Maryland, started his painting career in 1981. Bealle's prior winning designs were featured on the 1994 and 2004 Maryland Waterfowl Stamps. He has also been a finalist many times in the prestigious Federal Duck Stamp Contest, finishing as high as second.



MD35 - the 2008 stamp.

Classified Ads

● **Wanted: Nebraska licenses and ephemera** for new handbook, especially non-resident, trapping, and short-term licenses. Will pay fair price for all items I need. If you have an interesting license you don't want to sell, I would appreciate a high-resolution (300 dpi) scan of both sides and permission to picture it. Ira Cotton, 9939 Broadmoor Road, Omaha, NE 68114 (Cotton@Novia.net)

● **California Duck Stamps and Prints** also Indian Reservation hunting and fishing stamps. Discount prices. Contact Tom Richardson 530-894-1057 or e-mail tomr@trducks.com.

● **Catch the wave!** *The hottest thing in stamp collecting! Graded stamps - Ducks and United States.* One of the best selections in the country! Inventory constantly updated, color photos at our NEW web site devoted solely to graded stamps - shpgraded.com.

Sign up for e-mail notices of breaking news and upcoming events. Receive your duck stamp news when it happens! Register today at ndscs.org

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

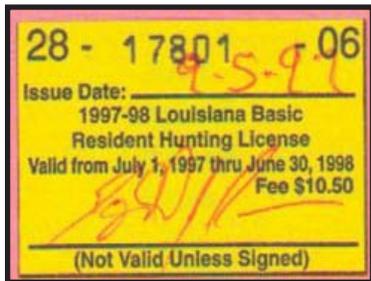
Send completed application to:
NDSCS Secretary, P.O. Box 43, Harleysville, PA 19438-0043

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

President continued from page 4

stamps. Perhaps a reader of this article once licensed a duck blind in Maryland and can document the experience in a future *Duck Tracks* article.

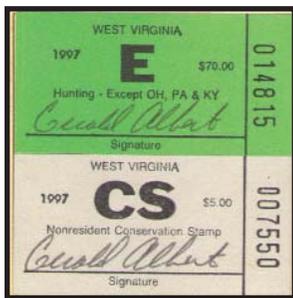
Both Florida and Louisiana have issued text-only license stickers that are not listed in published catalog, though Howard Richoux' online catalog -**Ducks2k.com**- lists and illustrates some examples, and the draft of



Louisiana text stamp.

a comprehensive fish and game stamp catalog in development by Charles Souder lists them more thoroughly. The example shown suggests that some stamps in these series could have been required in connection with waterfowl hunting.

West Virginia also has a fair number of self-adhesive stamps that have not been fully catalogued. Here's a pair of West Virginia stamps I have not seen catalogued. Presumably, different fees apply for the adjacent states of Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kentucky. These stamps might have been required for waterfowl hunting, as some states require hunting license fees and conservation stamps in addition to duck stamps.



West Virginia self-adhesive stamp.

I have also seen text stamps from Maryland in some recent eBay lots that I did not win. This bow/muzzleloader stamp isn't in any of the published, unpublished or on-line catalogues, and I don't know what other similar stamps exist.



Maryland bow/muzzleloader stamp.



South Dakota "Free" overprints.

stamps. Such overprints are variously used for VIPs, veterans, persons with disabilities, and native Americans. There was no indication on the license why this overprint applied.

Uncatalogued stamps like those illustrated can be found in dealer "junk boxes" or with tucked in stock books with revenue stamps. Another source is friends or relatives who enjoy hunting or fishing and may have saved their old licenses. Garage and estate sales are also a source. Pricing is uncertain because the items are uncatalogued. If you have a reasonable understanding of what series have been issued by the states and you see an item you don't recognize, I recommend snapping it up and figuring out later what it really is. In the area of fish & game license stamps, you have a reasonable chance of uncovering something new or unusual.

Please share information about your discoveries with other collectors. *Duck Tracks* welcomes short or long articles on new items and may be able to help you figure out what something is even if you just send in a good quality scan. Happy hunting!

Ekstrom wins APS Gold Medal Award

Congratulations to NDSCS member Charles Ekstrom, III, who won a Gold Medal for his duck stamp exhibit during the annual APS Stamp Show, held in Hartford, Ct.

Ekstrom's award winning exhibit is entitled, "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps." In addition to the APS Gold, Ekstrom also won the American Revenue Association's Multiframe Award and its Best Revenue Award!

Overprints are another area where fish & game catalogues are often not up to date. This row of stamps on a South Dakota license show FREE overprints on small game, fishing and wildlife habitat

Alaska duck stamp prints to end in 2009

New Jersey plans last stamp and print issue

On its 25th anniversary, the Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Stamp art print series will conclude with a final edition in 2009. The art print series, reproducing the state's annual duck stamp designs for art collectors, has been highly successful, both in terms of offering outstanding images of Alaska's ducks, geese, and swans, and raising funds for waterfowl conservation projects.

The department will continue to produce duck stamps annually with art designs, as required license items for most waterfowl hunters, and for stamp collectors. Like revenue from other hunting licenses, fees from Alaska duck stamps are deposited in the Fish & Game Fund to support the waterfowl management program.

Since its inception, the art print program has generated nearly \$1.5 million from print sales and nearly \$450,000 from the sale of accompanying stamps. The Alaska First-of-State stamp design in 1985 set a national record for the sale of state duck stamp prints—17,350 prints of Daniel Smith's dramatic portrayal of emperor geese.

As with most markets for collectibles, print sales declined after the initial flush of popularity and investor interest. In the case of duck stamp prints, casual collectors were no longer willing to pay \$150 or more each year, and many dropped out.

Thus, the department has concluded that the art print

program has run its course; it is no longer an effective revenue source, nor is it worth the cost of program administration. Over the long term, the Alaska duck stamp print program has been one of the most sustainable and successful in the country—most states dropped art prints by the mid-1990s.

The 2008 Alaska Waterfowl Stamp, due for release July 1, will feature northern pintails in flight created by Robert Steiner. Steiner is a very accomplished duck stamp painter whose art is extremely popular in the west. His company, Steiner Prints of San Francisco, has published the Alaska stamp program since 1997 and will produce the final edition in 2009.

In addition, New Jersey has announced that the 2008 stamp will be the last in the series.

The 2008 stamp which pictures a pair of Canvasback's by Rob Leslie is the 25th stamp in the program. New Jersey issues resident and non-resident stamps in both collector and hunter formats.



The 2008 Alaska stamp.

Contest continued

publications. Additionally, Michael Sieve has appeared as a featured or guest artist at most major art shows in the United States.

STAMP CLUB HOSTS SHOW

A Stamp Show and display of 2007 original Federal Duck Stamp artwork sponsored by the Maplewood Stamp Club and Minnesota Federation of Stamp Clubs will take place. **Metropex 2008 Stamp Show** hours are Oct. 11 from 10am to 5pm and Oct. 12 from 10am to 4pm. The show is at Century College West Gymnasium 3300 Century Ave. No. White Bear Lake, Minn. There will be 25 stamp dealers in attendance. Free admission, parking and stamps for the kids. The theme is "A Salute To Duck Stamps". One of stamp club's goals is to encourage the

youth of our country to start and enjoy the many benefits of stamp collecting. The show will have two special show covers (cachets) honoring duck stamps for sale. Cost for the two covers is \$3. Requests can be sent with a SASE to Tom Eckers at 4601 Ensign Ave. No. Minneapolis, MN 55428. For more information: Tom Eckers at 763-533-1860 or tome56@earthlink.net.

VIEW ALL ENTRIES

Unable to attend the contest? You can view all 270 entries on the web at **OutdoorsWeekly.com**. Click on the Duck Stamp Entries link.

To learn more about all dozens of events surrounding the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, go to www.fws.gov/duck-stamps/2008contest.htm.

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