

# Federal Duck Stamp Program

## Fact Sheet

### What is a Federal Duck Stamp?

A Federal Duck Stamp is a revenue stamp waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older must purchase and carry with them each year to hunt. It is also a conservation stamp because proceeds from stamp sales help purchase and protect wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Formally known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the Duck Stamp was conceived in 1934, when Congress passed and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act.

### What is the Federal Duck Stamp Contest?

Each fall, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosts the Federal Duck Stamp Contest to select the artwork that will provide the design for the next year's stamp. A distinguished panel of judges reviews hundreds of entries and selects the winner. The Federal Duck Stamp contest, the only federally sponsored art competition mandated by Congress, is considered the most prestigious wildlife art contest in the country.

### When and where is the Federal Duck Stamp Contest held?

The annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest is usually held in early October, in Washington, D.C. Since 2005 the contest has been moving to different locations throughout the United States to give more people the chance to attend. In 2008, the contest will be held in Bloomington, Minnesota on October 17 and 18.

### Why Buy Federal Duck Stamps?

- Conservationists buy Federal Duck Stamps because they know that the stamps are, dollar for dollar, one of the best investments one can make in the future of America's wetlands.
- Artists buy them because the Federal Duck Stamp Contest is a

way for wildlife artists to show their work and support conservation.

- Hunters are required to buy a Duck Stamp, but they know that their purchase helps acquire prime habitat for ducks and geese to feed, breed, rest and nest.
- Birders and other outdoor enthusiasts annually purchase Federal Duck Stamps to gain free admission to national wildlife refuges.
- Stamp Collectors have bought Federal Duck Stamps for 75 years because the beautiful stamps are sought after collectibles.
- Wetlands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars help purify water, aid in flood control, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and provide spawning areas for fish important to sport and commercial fishermen.

### How much land has been purchased with Federal Duck Stamp dollars?

Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by the sales of the Federal Duck Stamp goes to purchase or lease wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. In recent years, Duck Stamp revenue has totaled more than \$25 million annually, with overall stamp sales exceeding \$700 million. To date, proceeds from Federal Duck Stamp sales have helped purchase and protect more than 5.2 million acres of wetlands and habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. In the continental United States, at least one national wildlife refuge in every state has acquired important waterfowl



2008 - 2009 Federal Duck Stamp  
Minnesota artist Joseph Hautman

habitat with Duck Stamp funds!

### How can I buy a Federal Duck Stamp and Duck Stamp Products?

Federal Duck Stamps are sold through U.S. post offices across the country, Amplex, and at national wildlife refuges and some sporting goods and outdoor stores. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Duck Stamp Office does not sell duck stamp products, but it does allow licensed vendors to produce and sell products bearing the images of both Federal and Junior Duck Stamps. Visit the Federal Duck Stamp Program website for information about licensing agreements.

### 2008 Federal Duck Stamp Value Added Products

Artist-signed Pane of One - Produced on small format paper, each Artist-signed Pane of One incorporates a single perforated Federal Duck Stamp and the artist's signature. This value-added product is released primarily for sale to stamp collectors. In 2008, the Federal Duck Stamp Program offered 10,000 Artist-signed Panes of One for sale, each selling for \$25 and featuring a pair of pintail ducks by Minnesota artist Joseph Hautman.

Other products, such as the Artist Commemorative Issue, may be purchased through the USPS Philatelic Center in Kansas City.

Special 75th Anniversary Pane of Two - This year, for the first time, the Federal Duck Stamp Program is offering a limited edition 75th Anniversary Pane of Two. This 4 3/4 x 6 3/8 commemorative sheet features the 2008-2009 75th Anniversary Federal Duck Stamp along with a modified version of the 1934-1935 stamp. Both on a carrier sheet that tells the story of J.N. "Ding" Darling and celebrates 75 successful years of the Duck Stamp.

#### **What is the E-Stamp?**

Beginning in September 2007, the Department of Interior initiated a three-year pilot program in which up

to 15 states can sell and distribute electronic Federal Duck Stamps. Paper stamp fulfillment are still necessary, but hunters may hunt with the electronic stamp proof of purchase for a specific time period while waiting to receive their Duck Stamp.

#### **Buy Duck Stamps, Save Wetlands**

Here's how to buy a Federal Duck Stamp:

United States Postal Service  
www.usps.com  
1-800-782-6724 or 1-800-STAMP24

Amplex Corporation  
www.duckstamp.com  
1-800-852-4897

Local Post Offices  
Hunting and Fishing Retailers/  
Outfitters (Call to ensure they sell the stamp !)  
National Wildlife Refuges  
www.fws.gov/Refuges

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Federal Duck Stamp Program  
(703) 358-2000  
<http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps>**

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