

# Wingtips

## Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp



1 July 2024



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## Duck Stamp Modernization Act

By Tim Eisele, Friends of the Duck Stamp

In December 2023 President Biden signed into law the Duck Stamp Modernization Act, which modifies some of the requirements of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, more commonly known as “The Duck Stamp.”

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program, the new law allows hunters to purchase and carry the “electronic” stamp for the entire 2024-25 waterfowl hunting season, after which they will be mailed their physical Federal Duck Stamp after May 10, 2025.

The e-stamp can also now be carried either as a hard copy or as a digital copy where state hunting regulations allow. This permits hunters to have an uninterrupted hunting season due to a lapsed or lost e-stamp.

Typically, the e-stamp purchaser will get both a digital e-stamp (stating they have it) and a purchase receipt that shows what they paid for.

In the past, hunters were allowed to purchase a temporary e-stamp online which was only good for 45 days, while they waited for their physical stamp to arrive by mail.

Hunters and stamp collectors who want to purchase their physical Federal Duck Stamp as in the past can still do that through the traditional methods of purchasing the Federal Duck Stamp: from a consignee; through a local post office; through [Amplex](#), the digital

marketing arm for Duck Stamps; and online through the U.S. Postal Service Postal Store.

The physical stamp continues to sell for \$25. Those hunters who purchase the e-stamp will pay \$29, which includes \$25 for the stamp and \$4 for the federal processing fee.

Some hunters purchase their Federal Duck Stamp through any of the 30 state conservation departments that sell the Duck Stamp when purchasing their regular state hunting license. Those states may set additional fees that they will require for processing the e-stamp.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believes that keeping the tradition and the history of the physical Duck Stamp alive is extremely important. They want to keep the artists and conservation network going, which is what has made this program such an important tool for conservation.

The Service is continuing to look at ways to increase the number of consignees available to sell the physical stamp.

The Federal Duck Stamp was initiated in 1934 with the help of the late Jay “Ding” Darling, then chief of the Bureau of the Biological Survey, forerunner to today’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The stamp is required to be possessed by all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older with proceeds going to purchase wetland and upland habitat to benefit waterfowl and many other species of wildlife.

Traditional fans of the Federal Duck Stamp are pleased that the new law still requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to have the printed stamp mailed to hunters but who want the convenience of purchasing the stamp electronically. The stamp has a long history of preserving wetlands and wildlife habitat. Since 1934, some \$1.2 billion has gone into protecting more than 6 million acres of habitat.

More information will be available on the Federal Duck Stamp Office website once the 2024-2025 Federal Duck Stamp has been issued for sale after July 1, 2024.

The new law had bi-partisan support in Congress; some of the members involved in sponsoring the modernization proposal include Senators John Boozman, R-Arkansas, Angus King, I-Maine, Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, and Roger Marshall, R-Kansas; and Representatives Garret Graves, R-Louisiana, and Mike Thompson, D-California.

## Junior Duck Stamp Contest results

By Tim Eisele, Friends of the Duck Stamp

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp brings out creativity in students, and instills an interest in wetlands.

There are some students who learn better through drawing, and this program allows students to go back to pencil and paper, and be creative.

Participating students will take what they learn about waterfowl and wetlands and carry that throughout their life.

A talented young artist from Oregon won top honors at this year’s [National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest](#). A King Eider by 17-year-old Emily Lian, will grace the 2024-2025 Junior Duck Stamp, which raises funds to educate and engage the nation’s youth in wildlife and wetlands conservation and outdoor recreation.

A panel of five judges chose the entry, painted in oils, from among best-of-show entries from 50 states and Puerto Rico.

The second-place winner in 2024-25 is Madison Grimm, 17, from South Dakota, with a painting in acrylics of a Northern Pintail.

Third place went to 16-year-old Victoria Hickerson, from South Carolina, who entered a Wood Duck hen painted in oils.



First Place  
Emily Lian, 17, OR

Second Place  
Madison Grimm, 17, SD

Third Place  
Victoria Hickerson, 16, SC

“This is always such an exciting day and one of my favorite events every year!” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams. “Thousands of students across the country participate in this program, and it all culminates with this contest showcasing the result of students exploring their natural world through science, art, and writing, and sharing their gift with all of us.”

Students in kindergarten through grade twelve participate in their annual state Junior Duck Stamp Program through their school, home, art studio or after-school group, or from a refuge, park or nature center. After learning about wetlands, waterfowl, and wildlife conservation, they express their learning through a drawing or painting of a duck, goose or swan.

The top piece of art in the nation - chosen at this annual competition - is featured on the Junior Duck Stamp, sales of which support educational programs and activities that nurture our next generation of conservationists.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program began in 1989 as an extension of the [Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp](#), commonly known as the Duck Stamp. The first National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest was held in 1993. The program encourages students to explore their natural world, participate in outdoor recreation activities, and learn wildlife management principles. Approximately 3,000 Junior Duck Stamps are sold annually for \$5 each.

In addition to the art contest, a Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Message Contest encourages students to express in words the spirit of what they have learned through classroom discussions, research, and planning for their Junior Duck Stamp Contest entries. This year’s winner is Kaitlin Garant, 16, of Nevada, with her message, “Conservation is our responsibility, a reflection of our past, present and future.”

“It’s always amazing to see this artwork in person and celebrate these young artists,” said Assistant Director for Migratory Birds Jerome Ford. “We are so proud of the legacy that the Junior Duck Stamp Program has built to instill a life-long sense of environmental stewardship in thousands of young people over the decades.”

This year, more than 15,000 young artists submitted entries to the Junior Duck Stamp contests around the nation. View the [gallery](#) of the 2024 Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest entries. Visit online for the [complete contest results](#).

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest winner receives \$1,000. The second-place winner receives \$500; the third-place winner receives \$200; the Conservation Message winner receives \$200.

You can [buy Junior Duck Stamps online](#) through the U.S. Postal Service and Amplex and at some national wildlife refuges. Proceeds from the sale of Junior Duck Stamps are used for recognition of individuals who submit winning designs in state or national competitions and to further activities related to the conservation education goals of the program.

Adults who buy the Federal Junior Duck Stamp are helping to support the next generation of wildlife artists.

When COVID closed things down, the number of entries were drastically reduced, but since then the number of entries are increasing.

There are a lot of repeats, and this year's winner, Emily Lian, had taken a third place the year before, so it is always good for young people to keep entering.

Some of the students have even gone on to enter the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, including Rebekah Nastav of Amoret, Missouri, who entered the Junior Duck Stamp Contest three years in a row, before winning at age 15 in 2006. To date, now as Rebekah Knight, she has placed as high as second place in the Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

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## Upcoming exhibit

The Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut, will hold an exhibit of Duck Stamp art and Duck Stamp-inspired paintings later this year.

Richard Prager, a long-time art collector and supporter of the Stamp, donated 61 Duck Stamp-related paintings to the museum in early 2022. Prager also served as executive director for the documentary, [The Million Dollar Duck](#), about the Duck Stamp competition, as well as a judge for the competition in 2017.

The yet unnamed exhibit will run from September 5, 2024 through February 9, 2025. Watch the [Bruce Museum website](#) for additional information later this summer.

## First Day of Sale

The 91st Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) went on sale June 28, 2024. The 2024-2025 Federal Duck Stamp features a Northern Pintail by Chuck Black (image at the head of this issue) and the Junior Duck Stamp features a King Eider by Emily Lian.

The First Day of Issue celebration took place at Bass Pro Shops Arundel Mills, Hanover, Maryland.

The traditional selling of the first stamps to the USFWS Director and signing of the uncut press sheets followed introductory remarks.

[Stamps and stamp products are available](#) now through partners at Amplex and the USPS online Postal Store. E-stamp sales start after July 1; and e-stamp purchasers will not receive a physical stamp until after March 10, 2025.

*USFWS Director Martha  
Williams and Assistant  
Director, Migratory*

Bird Program, Jerome  
Ford unveil the new  
Stamp.

Photo: [David L.  
Gorline](#) CC BY-SA 4.0.



## Rebekah Knight interviewed by Ryan Kirby

[The Art of Hunting](#) podcast, hosted by Ryan Kirby, recently featured Friends board member Rebekah Knight in episode #57, "Wildlife Artist Rebekah Knight: Journey from Junior Duck Stamp Contest to International Recognition." Stamp artist Rebekah Knight, 2006-2007 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest winner, continues to capture the beauty of wildlife in her work through her art contest entries and other projects. In this interview with she discusses her growth as an artist and the challenges she faces as an artist and a hunter.

Listen to the episode on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

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