



# California Junior Duck Stamp Program

Newsletter

[www.caljrduckstamp.org](http://www.caljrduckstamp.org)

Winter 2008/2009

## TEACH CONSERVATION BASICS

### Connect Art and Science

#### Student Art Earns Dollars for Conservation Education

Enhance your students' ingenuity and commitment to conservation by participating in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program (JDS)! The JDS Program offers a unique, cross curricular opportunity for you to get your students involved in learning about our natural environment. You will witness the beauty of your students' creativity as their knowledge of art and appreciation of natural processes develops.



*Georgia Mae Parrish, 13, Chico Junior High School, with her hooded merganser*

This U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program highlights the importance of conserving our nation's remaining wetlands and North American waterfowl. Kindergarten through 12th grade students from each of the 50 states, the District of

Columbia, and two American territories participate annually. Every work of art entered contributes \$1.00 toward conservation education. In 2008, over 31,000 entries were received nationwide! Imagine, that just by drawing their favorite of 45 different species of North American waterfowl, your students

will be directly contributing to conservation education. Additionally your students will be learning about the science of wetlands by participating in many of the hands on learning activities available.

Take advantage of the free educational resources that are offered with the program. There are activities that focus on language arts and oral presentations that are adaptable to any grade level. There are fun and easily incorporated math lessons on probability

and graphing. Social science and history are demonstrated by looking at the social values, legislation,



politics of water use, and other wetland issues from years past to the present.

## Look for changes in the 2009-2010 calendar!

For nine years our state, with the support of the California State Department of Water Resources and California Waterfowl, has produced a beautiful calendar featuring the annual winners of the Junior Duck Stamp Art competition. This highly prized publication illustrates the strength of the artistic talent of students in California. Keep a lookout for changes as we feature art to represent the variety of schools participating, and include pieces from schools around the state.

California Waterfowl Association  
4630 Northgate Blvd. Suite 150  
Sacramento, CA 95834

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Postage  
Here

### What's Inside?

Getting Started

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Drawing Tips

The Junior Duck Stamp Story

The Duck Stamp Story

# It's Easy to Get Started!

## Students Choose Their Waterfowl Species

Waterfowl include all birds known as ducks, geese, and swans. There are 45 species native to North America that are eligible for the competition. Provide bird ID books, magazines, or look online to find photographs and other people's drawings for ideas.

Online, [www.caljrduckstamp.org](http://www.caljrduckstamp.org) is a great place to see what other students have done!

## Learn about Wetlands and Conservation

Download the Junior Duck Stamp curriculum from <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/educationprogram.htm>. Choose from these exciting activities to help your students understand wetlands, waterfowl, and why conserving them is so important.

## Get Outside to See Waterfowl

Seeing waterfowl in their natural environment can be as simple as walking around a city pond or going to a local river or lake. Or find a wildlife refuge or area near you by visiting <http://pacific.fws.gov/refuges/> or <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/>.

## Draw!!

Drawing exercises can make your students' art stronger. Use the activities on pages 4 and 5, or download a free drawing guide at [www.caljrduckstamp.org](http://www.caljrduckstamp.org).

## Create Your Duck Stamp Entries

Students can use any medium - pencils, crayons, pen and ink, oils, watercolors, collage, etc. - as long as it is on a 9" high by 12" wide paper or canvas. All submitted artwork must be original.

## Submit Your Artwork

Your students will produce amazing art that will surprise you! See contest information on this page to learn how to submit their art to the competition. Every student will receive a certificate of participation. Your school will have the chance to win free art supplies just for participating. Art from high-participating schools may be featured in next year's Junior Duck Stamp Calendar!

## Contest Information

### Contest Facts:

- Youths compete in one of four grade groups (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12)
- 100 California winners (25 winners per grade group)
- Bonus: Participating schools selected at random to receive art supplies
- First Place winners earn art supplies for their schools
- State Best of Show winner is featured on a California Waterfowl print series and goes on to compete in the Federal Contest
- Participating high schoolers from California can apply for California Waterfowl's Wildlife Art Camp.

### Contest Eligibility:

All students in grades kindergarten through high school are encouraged to participate. Public, private, and home-schooled students are eligible, as well as students in Scouts and other youth groups.

### Entry Specifications:

Entry size **MUST** be 9" by 12" **HORIZONTAL**; no more than 1/4" thick; do not mat or frame, do not have lettering, signatures, or borders on the front. Any entry not meeting the size requirements must be disqualified. Entries from ages 7-12 must include a completed reference sheet.

### Species:

Students can choose from North American ducks, geese, or swans; or Hawaiian Koloa, Laysan duck, or Nene. Loons, coots, and mute swans are **NOT** permitted species. Visit [www.caljrduckstamp.org](http://www.caljrduckstamp.org) for a complete list of permitted species.

Entry forms, reference sheets, and more information can be obtained at

<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>  
or by calling (530) 934-2801 or (916) 648-1406  
Entries for California must be postmarked by

## March 15

Send California entries to:  
Sacramento NWR Complex  
Junior Duck Stamp Contest  
752 County Road 99W  
Willows, CA 95988

Below are s

November

December

January

Create a Field Journal

Learn about wetlands and waterfowl

Visit a wetland

Choose a species

Practice Drawing in the Classroom

Head outside to practice sketching birds

Do journal activities (soundmap, quick sketches, habitat studies)

# Teacher Tips from Junior Duck Stamp Pro Mark Rodriguez

**M**ark Rodriguez teaches third grade at Marigold Elementary School in Chico. He has been participating in the Junior Duck Stamp competition for the past 14 years. The program is so popular that while his third graders work on their artwork during class time and it is an integral part of the curriculum, he also has a group of 4th – 6th graders who are excited enough to commit to meeting an hour after school three times a week for six weeks in order to participate.

“I’ve always found the Junior Duck Stamp program to be a wonderful opportunity not only to teach art, but also conservation, habitat, and concentration. Even though my classes have won over 100 statewide awards, that is secondary to the experience of learning waterfowl and habitat, and to the opportunity to look at mounts and draw what’s in front of them. If you isolate the drawing part, it doesn’t really mean anything. My students ‘adopt’ their chosen birds and are more aware of their habitat and life cycle – all the things that the birds need – and therefore take more care in their drawings.

It is always exciting to see how much more accomplished the kids have become between the pre-drawing exercises to the final product. In the beginning I can only give them a silent draw time of 15 minutes. By wrap up they can tolerate 45 minutes of concentration. They have a sense of pride in how far they’ve come.”

## GET OUTSIDE

“Junior Duck Stamp gives us a chance to get out in the field and utilize Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. We prepare for the field day by studying seasonal wetlands, waterfowl species, migration, and such, so the kids know what to look for when they are out. We use a big yellow bus as a moving bird-watching platform. The students use binoculars as they observe the birds in their natural habitat.”

## FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

“We also work with Sacramento River Partners at a restoration site, and spend time planting trees, often revisiting the site to see how it’s doing and for program continuity.”

## FIND GOOD SOURCE MATERIAL

“Because we utilize mounts, I never have to worry about plagiarism, and I’ve only had 5 students through the years that have worked from photographs. Befriend a taxidermist or approach a local wildlife area and borrow mounts to use. Make sure the kids are aware of how valuable they are, and assure the loaner that you will take special care of them.”

## INCLUDE APPROPRIATE HABITAT

“My students’ art refers directly to the wildlife refuge – and includes what the bird needs, depicting what is realistic. They practice drawing the habitat to include in their art.”

## GO CROSS-CURRICULAR

“Every year we have the students write poems inspired by their trip to the refuge; we put the poems in a book and give them away at the Snow Goose Festival.”

“With the mounts and even with photographs, they have the opportunity to actually look and follow the contours. It takes concentration and perseverance. It is not instant gratification, and the kids respond to that. When I take our state-wide winners to the school board I emphasize the attention to detail, concentration, and the exercising of their minds so they can stay at a task for a longer amount of time. It has been shown that kids that do the best on tests take the time to actually look at the questions. I’m convinced the concentration the students learn through this program translates into higher test scores.”



*Back row, left to right: Anthony Thao, Zachary Wallace, Madison Roach, Ashley Allard, Mark Rodriguez  
Front row, left to right: Ashley Casey, Claire Garcia, Juan Pablo Martinez. Mary Schoenthaler, photographer.*

Excerpt from *The Tour, A Poem* by 3rd grade student Nick Harrison:

As we are sitting in the bus with our binoculars,  
looking out among the hordes of birds we are awed  
by the beauty of the waterfowl.  
As we are leaving we think about all that we could  
have seen looking the other way.

Need help with ideas and resources? Check out [www.caljrduckstamp.org](http://www.caljrduckstamp.org) or call the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge at 530-934-2801 or California Waterfowl at 916-648-1406 for California Waterfowl.

## February

Bring in source materials

Sketch duck(s) in position on  
9 x 12 horizontal paper or canvasboard

Write conservation messages

Fill in, color, finish duck Stamp Art!

## March

Fill out submission form and attach  
it to the back of the artwork.

SUBMIT ARTWORK!

# The Art of Judging

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coordinates Judging Events

Judging for the California Junior Duck Stamp competition comes hard on the heels of the submission deadline. This past year, on March 26, 2008, with almost 2,000 entries, judges had the unenviable task of selecting only 100 winners and one Best of Show. Every year the judges are amazed at the time and effort each student puts into his or her duck stamp design. After much debate, 15-year-old Lydia Han from San Jose was awarded the Best of Show title for her acrylic ruddy duck pair.

## Federal Junior Duck Stamp Judging Comes to California

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition winged its way west for the first time ever – and into California. The 2008 Federal Jr. Duck Stamp Competition was held at the San Diego Zoo on April 17th. This was the 15th annual Federal Junior Duck Stamp Judging and a unique event, as for the past 14 years the judging has been held on the East Coast.

The contest was attended by local art and educational supporters, close to 80 school children from

the California area. Several student groups from as far away as Arizona came to view the art and participate in the excitement of the contest. In addition to the contest, the San Diego Zoo educational staff led children on conservation walks through the zoo, and

Federal Duck Stamp artist Joe Hautman gave art education presentations to the children, rounding out the contest events and making it a full and exciting day at the zoo.



## 2008 California Best of Show wins 2nd Place Nationally

More excitement came California's way as this year's Federal judging brought a prestigious win by Lydia Han of San Jose, California. Han placed second nationwide and stole the show with her enthusiasm for all things waterfowl.

Han's design of a ruddy duck pair will also be featured on a print series produced by California Waterfowl, and offered to top waterfowl supporters across the state through a lifetime member program. The artist will receive a set of prints, and the artwork has also been featured on the cover of *California Waterfowl* magazine.



## What's the story behind Junior Duck Stamps?

In 1989 the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program was initiated to help educate youth about wetland conservation through the arts. In April 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Duck Stamp Office expanded the program to include a youth art conservation contest. The program first began in California and Florida and has since expanded to include all 50 states, plus two American territories. The winner gets \$5000 in scholarship prize money and the winning art becomes the next design for the Federal Junior Duck Stamp. Proceeds from this collectible stamp go toward continuing support for this landmark wetland conservation education program.

Artist: Seokkyun Hong, 18  
Artist's State: Texas  
Species: Nene



# Flyway Journeys Opportunities for Older Students

## Every year students from across California are given an Art Camp

opportunity to stay at the beautiful Sunrise Farms Duck Club in Lambertville to experience a three day adventure in wildlife art at Flyway Journeys Wildlife Art Camp.

Camp activities are conducted by biologists and staff at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, from California Waterfowl, and by members of the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association.

Students learn a variety of skills, including bird identification, decoy carving, watercolor, photography, composition, and Photoshop. Also included are sessions on “Wetlands 101,” “Finding Art in



Nature,” and “Why Wildlife Art?” The picturesque refuge provides all

the motivation needed for hands-on wetland and waterfowl study as well as inspiration for wildlife art. Filled with ideas and the desire to learn more about how their artwork can help wildlife, students excitedly take photographs of the thousands of waterfowl on the refuge, and practice field sketching and painting.



Participants also prepare personal artwork presentations, and commit to completing a follow-up visual arts project with the goal of en-

couraging artistic growth and community awareness about wetlands and waterfowl. These projects also present the opportunity to be published in one or more of California Waterfowl’s publications.

If you are an educator and know of a student who might be interested in attending the 2008 art camp, or if you would like to sponsor or donate next year, please contact the education department at California Waterfowl

at (916) 648-1406 or [cwaeducation@calwaterfowl.org](mailto:cwaeducation@calwaterfowl.org).

Flyway Journeys Canada Fellowship provides the opportunity for high school and college age students to spend a full week during the summer at the Delta Marsh Field Station in Manitoba, Canada. Students are chosen by committee to participate in the Fellowship courtesy of Delta Waterfowl Foundation and California Waterfowl.



Jennifer Tenneson

Amidst the spontaneous thunder storms over the lake, skunks scurrying across the road, howling coyotes, and fearless deer and their fawns, the students are afforded the luxury of focusing on wildlife art, honing their skills of observation, and experimenting with representing the environment in different media.

The days swing from quietly sitting on the lodge porch sketching the scenery of trees, leaves, grasses, and swallows, to the whirlwind of activity under the tutelage of wildlife artist Jim Rataczak. Rataczak has been observing and drawing birds since he was a child living along the shores of a Minnesotan lake, and now specializes in the oil, watercolor, and field sketch paintings of birds. Since the inception of the Flyway Journeys Canada Fellowship, Rataczak has faithfully served as teacher, mentor, and relentless encourager. Rataczak presses the students to expand their comfort



Jennifer Tenneson

zones and learn about the subjects of their art, greatly improving their skills of observation and helping



Jayson Ho

them bring to their artwork a sense of the background and meaning of the subjects.

Somewhere between field sketching, watercolors, searching the native prairie for rare songbirds, and wildlife photography, participants manage to squeeze in some fun canoeing on the lake or skeet shooting with the Delta Waterfowl staff. They also have the opportunity to observe first-hand the biological research at the field station.

The 2008 fellowship winners were Jennifer Tenneson, 18, of Lower Lake, Jayson Ho, 18, of Mountain View, and Michael Crocket, 25,

of Sacramento. Accompanied by California Waterfowl staff member Kelly Rathburn, all the students produced excellent artwork, and

returned to California with new skills and indelible memories of the northern plains.



Michael Crocket and the gang hard at work at the Delta Marsh in Canada. 5

## Art Fellowship

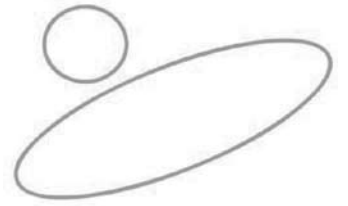
# Steps to Drawing Waterfowl

Starting with simple shapes, you can draw any bird! Follow these steps and you'll have drawn a duck in no time!

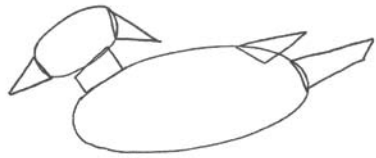
Step 1



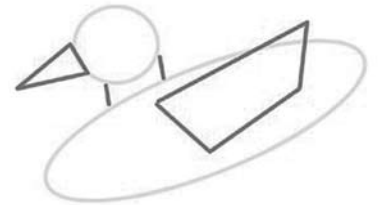
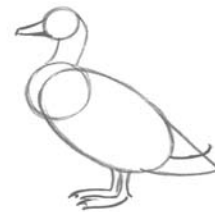
You can measure the size of the body by comparing it to the size of the head. How the shapes are in relation to each other impacts the position of the bird.



Step 2



Add the bill, a triangle shape, and the wing, a slanted triangle or rectangle shape. Draw two lines from the head to the body to make the neck.



Step 3



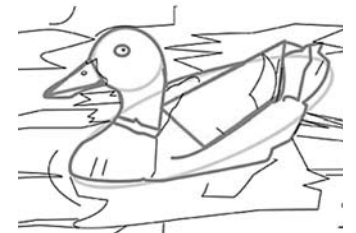
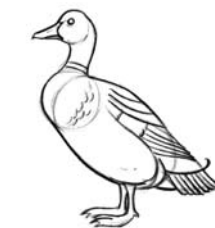
Shape up the bird using curved lines to make the duck look realistic.



Step 4

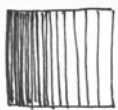


Fill in some details by drawing the major contour lines on the inside. You can also add contour lines for the background.

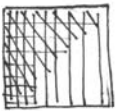


## Using Texture and Value

Texture tells us visually what an object might feel like. Textures in art are most often produced by the character of the marks made on the paper. Try combining different strokes to develop the effect you want.



Hatching - vertical or horizontal parallel lines varying in density.



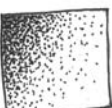
Crosshatching - vertical and horizontal and/or diagonal lines varying in density.



Contour hatching - lines that follow a shape or pattern. Good for conveying fur, feathers, or softness.



Scumbling - random squiggles varying in density.



Stippling - repetition of dots varying in density. Good for conveying smoothness.

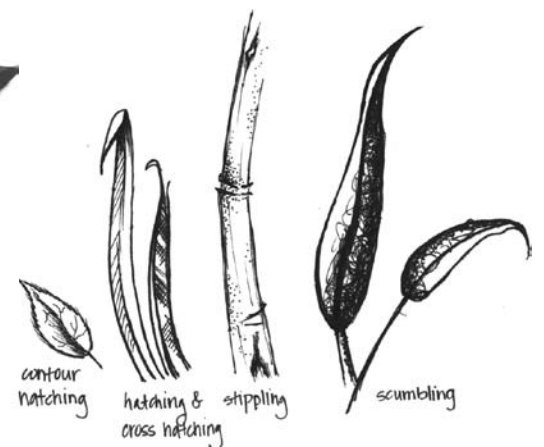
Contour hatching

Hatching

Stippling

Hatching

Scumbling

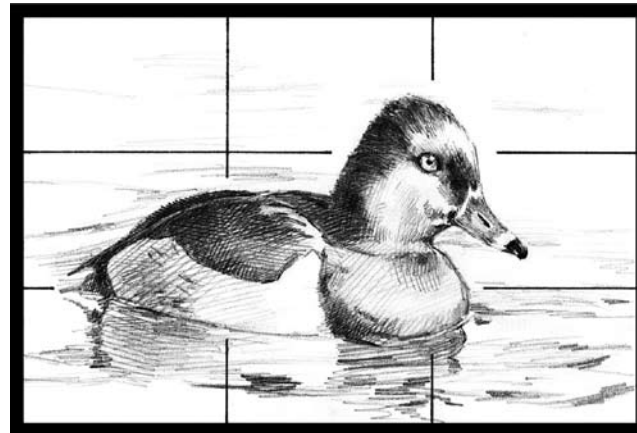


# Composition of a Picture

Composition is the arrangement of elements in a piece of art. A good composition is balanced and will please the viewer. Use these basic rules to get started.

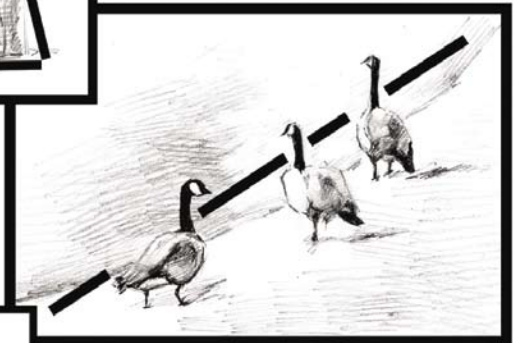
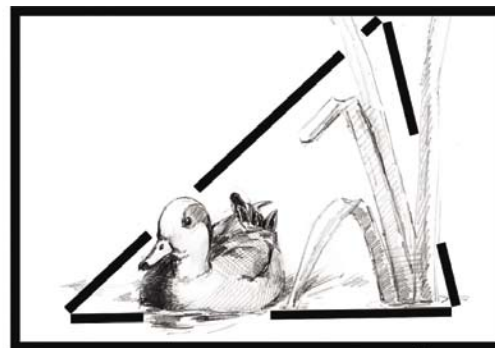
## The Rule of Thirds

Use 4 lines to split your paper into 9 segments. Put your subject, or the most important part of your subject, at one of the intersections of the lines.



## Triangle Rule/Diagonal Rule

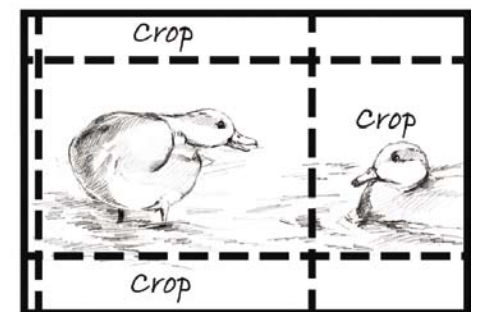
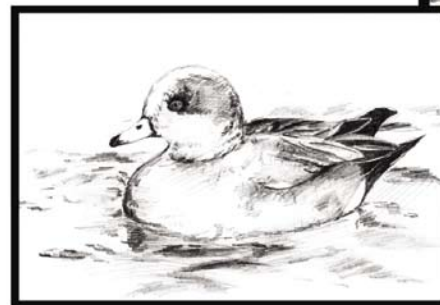
Place the important elements of your picture in a triangle or along a diagonal of your paper. This will help to balance your picture.



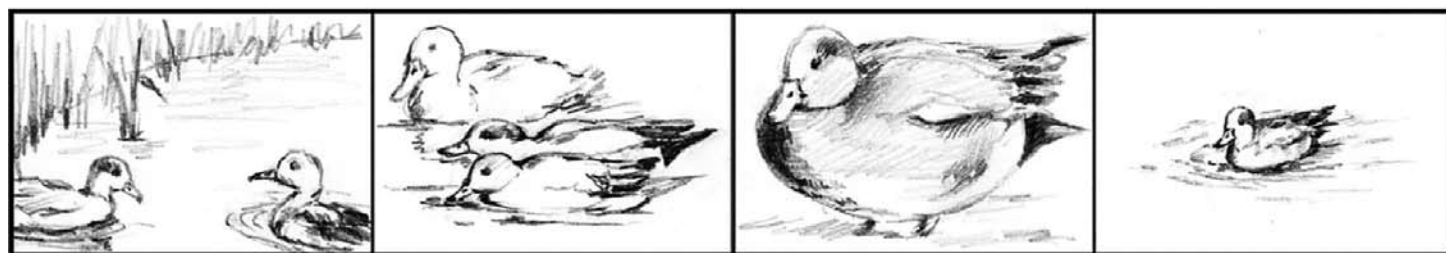
## Breathing Room

If your main subject is an animal, always give it breathing room. That is, if it is moving or looking in a certain direction, place space in front of it so it has room to move or look into.

keeping only what is important to the subject. Make sure that your subject stands out from the rest of the scene.



Here are some common problems you should try to avoid:



too loose

too tight

too big

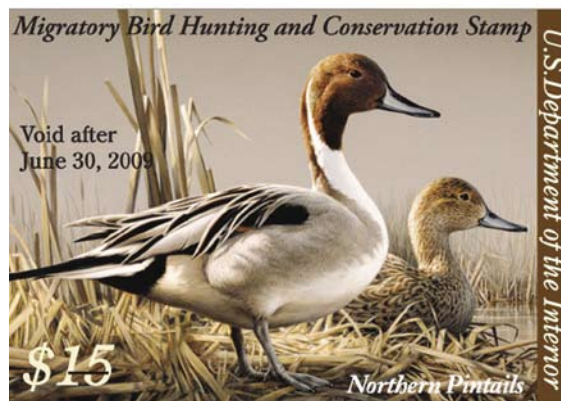
too small

Remember to use these "rules" as guidelines only. Be sure to study and practice drawing so you can find your own style!

This information was prepared by Zhong Du, who received first place in the 2007 Junior Duck Stamp competition and attended the free annual Flyway Journeys Art Camp.

# What are Duck Stamps . . .

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as “Duck Stamps,” are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are not valid for postage but are revenue stamps that raise funds for purchasing and protecting wetland habitat. Originally created in 1934 as the federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps serve a much larger purpose today. Federal Duck Stamps are a vital tool for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Federal Duck Stamp Program has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America’s natural resources. Each year artists compete to have their artwork placed on the Federal Duck Stamp. It has become one of the most prestigious art competitions in the world.



*As a successful wildlife artist, Joe Hautman brought home the Federal Duck Stamp honors in 1992 and 2002 as well as winning the 2007 Federal Duck Stamp Contest at which judges selected his beautiful design of northern pintails to grace the 75th Federal Duck Stamp.*

In recent years, duck stamps have become popular among collectors, artists, and conservationists looking for ways to ensure that wild places will be around for future generations. Buying Federal Duck Stamps is a wonderful way for Americans to actively take part in preserving our nation’s natural resources. For those who like to get outdoors and enjoy wild places, buying a Federal Duck Stamp offers an added bonus. Federal Duck Stamps provide free admission to all national wildlife refuges.

## 10 good things about Duck Stamps

10. The Duck Stamp Program is one of the most successful conservation programs ever. Since 1934, more than half a billion dollars has been raised by the stamps to purchase 5 million acres of habitat!
9. Habitat purchased is providing wildlife with homes nationwide. Duck Stamp funds have been used to purchase habitat at hundreds of refuges located in nearly every state in the nation.
8. Wetlands play an important role in our environment. The protected wetlands help purify water supplies, store flood water, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and provide spawning areas for fish.
7. Duck Stamps benefit more than just ducks. Wetland dependant species also include shorebirds, songbirds, raptors, and hundreds of other types of wildlife.
6. People, too, benefit greatly from the Federal Duck Stamp Program. Hunters have places to enjoy their hunting heritage and other outdoor enthusiasts have places to hike, watch birds, and visit.
5. The stamps are highly prized as collectible. Duck Stamps and the products that bear Duck Stamp images have become popular collector items.
4. The stamp serves as your entrance pass for wildlife areas nationwide. Besides serving on hunting licenses and as a conservation tool, a current year’s Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass for National Wildlife Refuges where admission is normally charged.
3. The Duck Stamp Program is a highly effective way to conserve America’s natural resources. Approximately 98% of every duck stamp dollar goes directly to the purchase of wetlands and wildlife habitat, adding to the National Wildlife Refuge System.
2. Duck stamp funds are making a difference in California. There are 16 National Wildlife Refuges in California that receive funding from the Duck Stamp Program. They need your support.
1. BECAUSE YOU CARE! These mini works of art will remind you of your contributions to conservation for years to come!

The California Junior Duck Stamp Program materials and student prizes are made possible with contributions by these partners and sponsors:

