2021 LOUISIANA WATERFOWL CONSERVATION STAMP

Art Competition Rules and Procedures, March, 2020
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Background

In 1988, the Louisiana State Legislature enacted legislation which authorized the Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program to generate revenues for conservation and enhancement of waterfowl, protection and acquisition of valuable wetland habitats, and other worthy projects that benefit Louisiana's ducks and geese. Income was derived from the sale of state duck stamps to hunters, who were required to have a stamp for waterfowl hunting in Louisiana, as well as from the sale of limited edition art reproductions of the design. Stamps and prints were sold to collectors nationwide via normal retail sales outlets. The state received royalties from the sale of prints and revenue from the sale of duck stamps.

However, changes mandated by HB 670 which was enacted during the 1992 Legislative session modified the original Duck Stamp Act. Beginning with the competition for 1993-94 design, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries became responsible for selecting the species for the design, the competition, selection of the winning design and production of only the stamps for hunters and collectors. The artist retains the original artwork, after the Department has used the image to produce the stamps, and will have reproduction rights to the image for prints and other commodities. Excluding stamps, the artist will be solely responsible for production, marketing and selling the prints of the Duck Stamp design. No royalty from the sale of prints will be paid to the Department.

In the 1999-2000 licensing year, the Department initiated a new automated licensing issuance system. This electronic system allows customers to purchase almost all recreational hunting and fishing licenses on a single document. No longer is the state duck stamp a license for waterfowl hunting. It has become primarily a collector's item.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Louisiana waterfowl conservation stamp program is to produce revenue for waterfowl habitat conservation and enhancement projects.

Objectives

1. Obtain the highest quality work of art that will have broad appeal to art collectors.

2. Provide a nationwide opportunity for waterfowl hunters, viewers, and art collectors to contribute financial support for waterfowl conservation and enhancement programs in Louisiana.

General Guidelines

By tradition, most waterfowl conservation stamp art is highly realistic in style, exhibiting extensive detail in anatomy, plumage, and the natural setting. Although artists are free to submit any composition that they desire, highly stylized or unusual designs may be viewed as too incongruous by series collectors or may limit the breadth of appeal among print buyers.

A key aspect of duck stamp art is the strength of the composition and dominance of the featured subjects. Because the final image will be 6 1/2" x 9" on the print and only 1 3/8" on the stamp, lighting, spatial arrangement and colors should provide a clean, attractive composition at both scales.

Specific Requirements

The 2021 Louisiana's Waterfowl Conservation Stamp will feature MOTTLED DUCK(S). The 2020 contest was restricted to Ring-necked duck, and the 2021 contest will be restricted to designs featuring **Mottled duck(s)**. Designs **must also include associated habitat**, as that is one of the 5 judging criteria below. Designs may also include, but are not limited to, hunting scenes, harvested waterfowl, waterfowl decoys and structures in wetland habitats.

1. The design must be a full-color, realistic rendering of the chosen waterfowl species.

2. The image must be horizontal, 13" x 18" and bear no signature or other marks that would identify the artist.

3. The design must be original, never have been published, and not have been entered in competition for any federal or state waterfowl stamp program.

4. There is no restriction on media or substrate, but the Department will not be responsible for damage or deterioration of pastels or other sensitive, unstable materials.

5 Each artist may enter only one design in the 2020 stamp competition. A winning artist may not compete for two successive years following his selection year.

6. Works must be matted in white to outside dimension of 18 1/2" and 23" and should be loosely covered with a protective overleaf, but must not be framed or covered with glass.

7. A card on the back of each entry must list the artist's name, mailing address and phone number. A brief summary of the artist's background and credit should also be enclosed.

8. All entries must be shipped in **sturdy, reusable containers following UPS guidelines for shipping artwork**, bearing a legible return address, at the expense of the sender. Return shipping will be to the point of origin, unless requested otherwise, at the Department's expense. The Department will be held harmless for loss or damage during shipment.

9. The Department reserves the right to photograph all entries for purposes of

documentation, promotion, and education. The winning entry will be retained by the Department for a period of time necessary for stamp production.

Judging Criteria and Selection Procedures

The winning design will be selected by a panel of no more than five judges who have expertise in waterfowl biology or artistic method and expression with at least one judge being a resident of Louisiana. Judges will be selected by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Judging will be done in two stages as follows: (1) the panel will evaluate the selected entries. A numerical value from 1-10 will be assigned each print by individual judges. Total points will be tallied and the highest three scores will become finalists, (2) the final designs will again be evaluated by the panel and a numerical value assigned to each print. Each judge will be instructed to assign a value comparable to what he believes to be the order of finish. These numbers will be tallied and the design with the lowest score shall be declared the winner. Should a tie exist, step #2 will be repeated.

All art works will be scored on the following criteria:

1. Accuracy of the form, size, proportion, posture, and colors of the chosen waterfowl species.

2. Level and accuracy of detail in all aspects of the anatomy of the waterfowl.

3. Appropriateness, accuracy, and detail in depiction of the habitat.

4. Attractiveness and creativity of the composition, regarding spatial balance, lighting, and harmony of subject and background.

5. Visual appeal and suitability for reproduction at both the print and stamp scales.

Eligibility

This art competition is open to all artists who are 18 years of age or older, except employees of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and members of their immediate families.

Entry Procedures and Deadlines

1. Entries must be prepared and shipped to the specific requirements listed above. Entries will only be accepted from **October 19 through 4:00 p.m. on October 27, 2020,** at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, ATTN: Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Program. Judging of the artwork will take place on **Wednesday October 28, 2020** beginning at 10:00 a.m. You are invited to attend.

2. Entries will not be considered complete without a signed and notarized Artist Agreement (attached) and a $50.00 Entrance Fee received by the deadline.

3. Entries may be hand-delivered, sent via U.S. Mail, or by express parcel service. Senders are advised to obtain adequate shipping insurance on their entries.

4. **Only designs with MOTTLED DUCK(S) will be accepted.**

Additional Information

For more information on the Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program and the art competition, contact the following office:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
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