

Artists sought for waterfowl stamp art contest entries

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is soliciting original artwork entries for the 2011 Colorado Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest. This year's species of focus is the green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*). The deadline for artists to submit entries is Friday, March 4 at 4 p.m.

"It is amazing every year to see what the artists come up with and to see the new artists that are starting out in this specialized category of art," said judging committee member Tilman Bishop, a former state senator who sponsored the legislation that created the waterfowl stamp in Colorado.

The Colorado Waterfowl Stamp program was implemented in 1990 and provides funding to conserve wetlands for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife. Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older are required by state law to purchase a waterfowl stamp validation annually before hunting. In addition to hunters, many collectors aid in wetland conservation by purchasing collector stamps and prints that are created from the winning entry.

"We are all beneficiaries of the Waterfowl Stamp," Bishop added. "Whether you are a hunter, a bird watcher or just a citizen that likes seeing birds around the house, every one of us gets the benefit of this terrific program."

The green-winged teal is a colorful duck found in Colorado primarily during fall and spring migration, with lower numbers during the breeding season and winter. The vocal and often noisy duck is the smallest North American 'dabbling duck,' which feed on the surface of waters instead of diving for food. It is one of the most frequently harvested ducks taken by Colorado waterfowl hunters and is known as excellent table fare.

Artists must submit a 13-inch high by 18-inch wide, full-color original artwork for the contest. Complete requirements are explained in the application packet, which is available at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/Waterfowl/WaterfowlStampProgram/>

Hunters can purchase the required waterfowl stamp validation where hunting licenses are sold.

Artists sought for waterfowl stamp art contest entries

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Collector gum-backed stamps and art prints of the 2011 waterfowl stamp will be available for purchase in late July. Collector stamps and prints are sold through the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation. The Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation also has past stamp winner prints available.

Past stamp winners can be viewed online at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/Waterfowl/WaterfowlStampProgram/PastWaterfowlStamps.htm>

The Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation was created in 1989 as a result of Governor Roy Romer's Wildlife 21 Task Force report. The report recognized Colorado's abundant and diverse wildlife makes an immense contribution to the state's economy and the quality of life in the state. The report also found declining hunting and fishing revenues were insufficient to protect wildlife habitat from the threats posed by development.

The Foundation was formed to raise funds to help fill the gap between available hunting and fishing funds and wildlife needs. The Foundation focuses its efforts on habitat preservation, wildlife research, species recovery, responding to wildlife emergencies and educating people about wildlife. For more information on the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation, visit <http://www.cwhf.info/>