

# The Fiftieth Annual Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest for 2024-2025

Presented by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Waterfowl Festival.



Winning entry of the 2023-2024 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Contest  
Marsh Buddies by Gerald W. Putt

## ***Information, Rules and Entry Forms***

The design contest judging will be held in conjunction with the Fifty-Second Annual Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Maryland, taking place November 10-12, 2023. The entries will be on display at Easton High School, 723 Mecklenburg Avenue, beginning November 10. People's Choice Voting will take place November 10-11, with judging being held on Saturday, November 11 at 2pm



# ***Species Eligible for Depiction in the 2024-2025 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest***

This list is representative of waterfowl species common to the Atlantic Flyway.

Atlantic Brant	Common Merganser	Northern Shoveler
Black Duck	Gadwall	Pintail
Black Scoter	Greater Scaup	Red-Breasted Merganser
Blue-Winged Teal	Greater Snow Goose	Ring Necked Duck
Bufflehead	Green-Winged Teal	Ruddy Duck
Canada Goose	Hooded Merganser	Surf Scoter
Canvasback	Lesser Scaup	Tundra Swan
Common Goldeneye	Long-Tailed Duck	White-Winged Scoter
	Mallard	Wood Duck

The Fiftieth Annual Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest marks the end of the annual Maryland Duck Stamp design competition. The artwork from this, the final design contest, will be reproduced only as a Commemorative 50th Anniversary Maryland Duck Stamp Decal.

## ***Contest Rules***

**Eligibility Requirements:** Entries from all artists will be considered for the fiftieth Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest.

### **Requirements to enter:**

- All entered designs must be the artist's original work, neither copied nor duplicated from any previously published paintings, drawings, prints, or photographs of the contestant, or any other artist, nor may it be a winning entry from any previous migratory game bird stamp design contest either state or federal.
- Each contestant may submit up to three entries. Entries must be accompanied by the fee of \$15 for one entry; \$20 for two entries; \$30 for three entries. Fees are to be made payable to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- For the 2024-2025 contest, species depicted on entries may not be Redhead, Lesser Snow Goose or Gadwall.
- An Entry Identification Form must be completed and attached to the back of each entry.
- All two-dimensional media, except photographs and computer generated art, in either black and white or color, are acceptable for entries.
- Designs must have a horizontal orientation and be 7 inches in height by 10 inches in width. Each entry must be matted, with the exterior mat dimensions not to exceed 9 inches in height and 12 inches in width. Mats must be white. Designs on paper should be mounted between the front mat and a back mat. The entire entry must not exceed three eighths (3/8) of an inch in total thickness. All materials must be affixed so as to remain together for the duration of the contest.
- Entries in frames or under glass or plexiglass will not be accepted. Acetate and shrink wrap used during shipping over the surface of a design will be removed for judging.
- Designs may be titled as long as the name of the depicted species is not part of the title. Titles may be included only on the mat. Neither the name of the species nor the name of the artist may appear on the front.

**Delivery:** The entry fee, a signed "Agreement to Enter the Contest" form and entries with completed "Entry Identification Forms" attached to the back must be received (by mail, UPS or Federal Express only- no walk-ins) by 4:00 pm Friday, November 3, 2023 **at the following address only:**

**The Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest**

**Christopher Markin**

**828 B Airpax Road, Suite 500**

**Cambridge, MD 21613**

Mailed entries should be appropriately packaged for shipping. Contestants are advised to obtain adequate insurance coverage for entries. Contestants are reminded to allow appropriate time for transit and any issues that may occur with the chosen carrier that may delay delivery that are outside of the Department of Natural Resources' control.

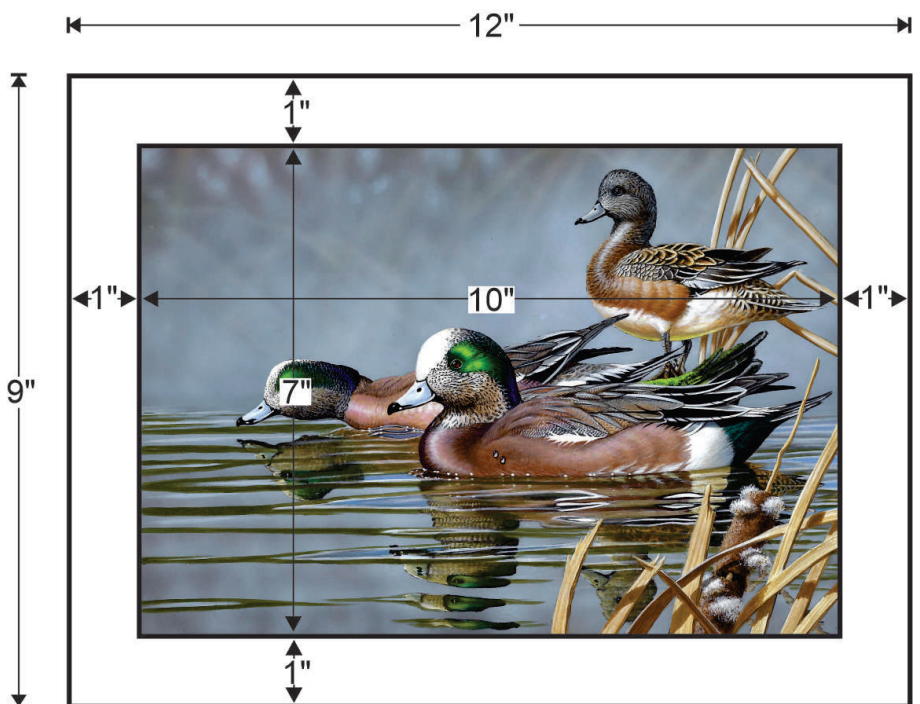
**Return of Entries:** Entries will be returned to the contestants either by UPS, USPS, or Federal Express. Entries will be returned within two weeks following the contest.

## Guidelines for Judging

- Five judges and one alternate will be selected annually. Any of the following circumstances would disqualify a potential judge: having an entry of his/her own entered; having a relative with an entry; having seen an entry; having or planning any kind of financial interest in the work of any entering artist; having or planning any financial interest in the printing, distribution, or sale of the waterfowl prints; having close personal or social connections with an entering artist or having enough familiarity with an entering artist's work that there would be a high probability of recognizing those entries.
- The judging will be open to the public, but the contest director may close the contest to the public if there is any sign of communication between the audience and the judges.
- Entries will be given randomly selected numbers so that multiple submissions by the same artist will not appear in sequence.
- There will be no communication among the judges during the judging of the entries.
- For the first round of judging, each entry will or will not receive a checkmark from each judge. Entries receiving two or more checkmarks will advance to the second round.
- For the second round, judges will conduct a silent vote by holding up a score card indicating how many of one to six points they are giving each entry. Judges will not consult each others' cards. A highest point number and a lowest point number will be dropped, with the remaining points totaled for the score. The total will not be announced. Entries having 12 or more points will advance to the third round.
- For the third (final) round, judges will again conduct a silent vote by holding up a score card indicating how many of the three to six points they are giving each entry. In the third round, all points will be counted and the artwork receiving the highest number of points will be the winner.
- In the case of a tie for first, the judges will choose a winner.
- The winner will be announced immediately following the final round of competition. There will be no official second or third place or honorable mention. The names of the top 3 artists receiving the highest total points will be made available upon request.
- Protests, by contestants only, may be registered with the contest director and should be submitted, clearly stated and in writing, within five (5) working days after the judging. In the event the winning entry is disqualified, the entry receiving the second highest score shall be declared the winner.

### Stamp Design Submission Format

Designs must have a horizontal orientation and be 7 inches in height by 10 inches in width. Each entry must be matted, with the exterior mat dimensions not to exceed 9 inches in height and 12 inches in width. Mats must be white. Designs on paper should be mounted between the front mat and a back mat. The entire entry must not exceed three eighths ( $3/8$ ) of an inch in total thickness.



## ***Agreement to Enter the Contest***

I, the undersigned, have prepared and submitted an original design(s) featuring the following species:

entry 1: \_\_\_\_\_

entry 2: \_\_\_\_\_

entry 3: \_\_\_\_\_

to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the 2024-2025 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest. I agree to the following conditions if my design is selected as the winner: 1.) Ownership of the original design and all copyrights shall be retained by me except as outlined in the following. 2.) By signing this agreement I agree to provide the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the use of the art for printing of the commemorative decal, and for reproduction in the department's publications and website relating to migratory game bird seasons, and publicity for the Maryland Migratory Game Bird commemorative decal and related stamp revenue projects. 3.) The design, as prepared by me and submitted to Maryland Department of Natural Resources, may be retained by the department until such time as reproduction of the stamp has been completed. 4.) By signing this agreement; I affirm that the entry is a design of my own creation, neither copied nor duplicated from any previously published art including paintings, drawings in any medium, photographs, or previously published work of my own; and if an entry is found to have been copied or duplicated, it shall be disqualified. 5.) I understand that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Waterfowl Festival will not be held liable for any damage and/or loss to my entry(s), and I am responsible for providing adequate insurance at my own discretion. 6.) I affirm that I have read the rules governing this contest and agree to abide by them.

Artist's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Artist's Website \_\_\_\_\_

(to be used in the press release for the winning entry and artist)

Entry Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 for 1 entry; \$20 for 2 entries; \$30 for 3 entries)

(Make payable to: Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Agreement must be signed by each submitting artist and accompany submission of design(s) for the Department of Natural Resources' acceptance.

For questions about the receipt of submissions, please call Christopher Markin at 410-260-8587.

# ***Entry Identification Forms***

(Attach one to the back of each entry)

Artist's Name _____
Street Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Local Newspaper _____
Phone # _____
Species Depicted _____
Title of Entry _____
Agreed to Exhibit _____ Artwork for Sale _____
For DNR Use Only: Accepted for Judging _____ Disqualified _____

Artist's Name _____
Street Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Local Newspaper _____
Phone # _____
Species Depicted _____
Title of Entry _____
Agreed to Exhibit _____ Artwork for Sale _____
For DNR Use Only: Accepted for Judging _____ Disqualified _____

Artist's Name _____
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For DNR Use Only: Accepted for Judging _____ Disqualified _____



Josh Kurtz, Secretary

For additional information concerning the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest contact Christopher Markin at [christopher.markin@maryland.gov](mailto:christopher.markin@maryland.gov) or call 410-260-8587.

Wildlife & Heritage Service  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Toll free in Maryland: 877-620-8367  
Out of state call: 410-260-8540  
TTY Users call via the MD Relay 711  
[dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife)

The facilities of the Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or physical or mental disability. Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Seven days advance notice is requested. This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.



Christopher Markin  
Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service  
828 Airpax Road  
Cambridge, MD 21613