



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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For Immediate Release

One Hundred winning art entries were selected on March 26, 2008 during the Texas Junior Duck Stamp Contest at the Pearland Bass Pro Shop. The 2008 Best of Show honors go to eighteen year old Seokkyun Hong from Hillcrest High School in Dallas, Texas. He submitted an oil painting on canvas of a Nene (Hawaiian Duck). His teacher Terri Muldoon said, "Seokkyun is truly one of the most talented and persistently hard-working art students I have ever been privileged to teach. His art work is his gateway to the world at large. I eagerly await to see the art he will create as he explores new experiences in college and beyond." He will receive a \$300 saving bond, a framed wildlife print, and copy of the "Duck Stamp Story". All entrants are awarded certificates of appreciation.

Hong's painting was selected from a field of 373 entries, of talented students throughout the state. The five judges who assembled for the difficult task of selecting this year's winners were Bob and Rita Dumaine of the Sam Houston Duck Co., Bill Baker with Reliant Energy, Storey Sloan from Storey Sloan Galleries, and Laszlo Perlaky with Natural Perl Photography.

Hong's Best of Show will be sent to Washington D.C. to compete in Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest. The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest winner receives a free trip to Washington D.C. along with their art teacher, a parent, and the state coordinator, to be honored during a First Day of Sale Ceremony held in June. The first-place winner receives a \$5,000 award. The second-place winner receives \$3,000, and the third-place winner receives \$2,000. The first place design is used to create a Junior Duck Stamp for the following year. Junior Duck Stamps are sold by the U. S. Postal Service and Amplex Corporation consignees for \$5 per stamp. Proceeds support conservation education and provide awards and scholarships for the students, teachers, and schools that participate in the program.

Including Seokkyun, five of the twelve first place winners were from the Dallas Area. Academy of Dreamart students, Min Sin (9 years old) and Yu Jin Kim (12 years old) were first place winners in Group II which are students in Grades 4-6. Yu Jin Kim's ring-necked duck received a third place overall as well. Academy of Dreamart students Angela Ko (14 years old) and Daniel Pak (15 years) were first place winners in Group III which are Grades 7-9. Academy of Dreamart students are taught by Jung Moon.

The twelve first-place winners of the Texas art will become part of a traveling exhibit, which will be displayed throughout Texas from May 2008 to February 2009. Please watch your local paper for the exhibit landing in your area.

In Texas, the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and supported by U.S. Post Office, Bass Pro Shops, Sam Houston Duck Co. and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For more information, contact Jennifer Sanchez the Texas Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator at Texas-Mid Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 2547 County Road 316, Brazoria, Texas 77422 (979-964-4011).

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic arts curriculum that teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum with participants completing a JDS design as their visual “term papers.”

The JDS has increased in popularity significantly since its inception in 1989 and moreover since the implementation of a national art contest and stamp in 1993. The program was first recognized by Congress in 1994 when the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act was enacted. In 2000, Congress reauthorized the program and expanded it from 17 states to all 50 states.

