



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



APR 27 2018

In Response Reply to:
FWS/AMB/067814

Memorandum

To: Principal Deputy Director

From: Assistant Director, Migratory Bird Program

Subject: 2018 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest Judges

The 2018 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest will take place September 14 and 15, 2018, at the Springs Preserve in Las Vegas, NV. During the two-day competition, a panel of judges will select the winning artwork from among the eligible entries received by the Duck Stamp Office. The selected image will grace the 2019-2020 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, popularly known as the Duck Stamp.

Federal regulations (50 CFR 91.21) state that “five voting judges and one alternate judge will be selected annually by the Secretary of the Interior . . . The Panel of five judges will be made up of individuals, all of whom have one or more of the following prerequisites: recognized art credentials, knowledge of the anatomical makeup and the natural habitat of the eligible waterfowl species, an understanding of the wildlife sporting world in which the Duck Stamp is used, an awareness of philately and the role the Duck Stamp plays in stamp collecting, and demonstrated support for the conservation of waterfowl and wetlands through active involvement in the conservation community.”

The theme of the 2019-2020 Duck Stamp will be “Celebrating our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage.” In 2018 it will also be mandatory “that all selected judges have an understanding and appreciation of the waterfowl hunting heritage and be able to recognize waterfowl hunting accessories.” We have tailored our nomination slate to reflect only potential judges who can address this additional requirement.

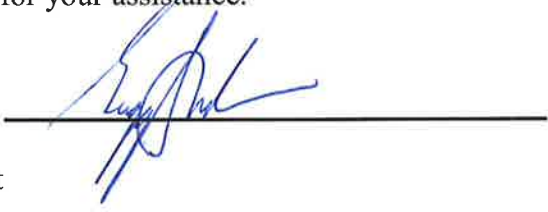
The task of selecting the judges for the Federal Duck Stamp Contest has traditionally been delegated by the Secretary to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore, attached for your review, is a list of proposed candidates with expertise in at least one of the prerequisites detailed above. They are all also known to be able to recognize waterfowl hunting accessories and have expressed an understanding and appreciation of the waterfowl hunting heritage. The names of 17 nominees are presented in priority order, followed by a brief description of their qualifications. More than six names are submitted so that the unavailability of any nominee will not prevent us from reaching the required number of judges. We will begin

at the top of the list and continue through it in priority order until the positions of five judges and one alternate are filled.

With your concurrence of these nominees and the selection process detailed above, the Federal Duck Stamp Office will finalize the slate of five judges and an alternate and arrange for their travel to Las Vegas, NV for the contest.

Thank you for your assistance.

CONCUR



Date

5/1/18

Attachment

2018 Judge Nomination Slate:

Roberta Laine, Artist and Educator. Ms. Laine received her B.S. in Art Education and Masters in Education from University of Wisconsin and has been an art educator for 30 years. She is the retired Art Director of Stevens Point Area Senior High, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Ms. Laine currently teaches design in the interior architecture programs at the University of Wisconsin. Her artwork is in many corporate and private collections and has been displayed in numerous galleries and juried shows in the Midwest. She has served as a juror at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Festival of the Arts and served as the 2017 Federal Contest Alternate Judge. She comes from a waterfowling family - complete with duck dogs, shotguns and decoys; she shoots, cleans, cooks, and eats waterfowl.

H. Dale Hall, Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservationist. H. Dale Hall joined America's leading wetlands and waterfowl conservation group, Ducks Unlimited, as its CEO in April of 2010. A former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2005-2009), Hall is widely respected as a visionary conservationist and one of the country's most effective wildlife professionals. During Hall's 31-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), he served in numerous roles at field offices, regional, and national levels. As director, he was responsible for approximately 7,500 USFWS employees working out of the national headquarters and nine regional offices. Before joining the USFWS in 1978, Hall spent four years in the U.S. Air Force, in overseas assignments. Hall holds a master's degree in fisheries science and is the author of numerous published papers on wetlands, fisheries and ecology. He has also taught courses on wetlands identification and delineation. A native of Kentucky, Hall is a lifelong outdoors enthusiast who enjoys hunting and fishing.

Lowell E. Baier, Conservationist. Mr. Baier has been a practicing attorney, an author, and an environmental historian. In his role as a conservationist he has been an environmental advisor and counselor on wildlife conservation agendas to many elected officials, created wildlife conservation PhD programs at five universities and led national campaigns to raise funds to purchase land to include in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, the President's Leadership Council of the National Wildlife Federation, as the Vice Chairman of the National Conservation Leadership Institute, is one of 12 members of the Conservation Leadership Council, president of the Boone and Crockett Club, and one of the founders of the Wild Sheep Foundation. He is an avid art collector.

Dr. Robert J. Blohm, Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservationist. Dr. Blohm served as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist in the Migratory Bird Program for over 32 years. Culminating his federal career as the Chief of the Division of Migratory Bird Management, Dr. Blohm worked with biologists and other conservationists to establish annual federal waterfowl hunting regulations, develop management plans for snow geese and resident Canada geese, and oversee the development and implementation of international and national guidance and activities for the more than 800 species of migratory birds. An Army veteran who served in

Alaska and Vietnam, Dr. Blohm holds a B.S. degree from Michigan State University and an M.S. and Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin where he studied the breeding ecology of gadwall. He has served as a Director of the Trumpeter Swan Society and has been awarded by Ducks Unlimited, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the Wildlife Management Institute, among others, for his conservation work. He is a fervent waterfowl hunter and outdoorsman.

Dawn Webb, Stamp Knowledge. A native of Delaware, Ms. Webb grew up on a dairy farm in the center of the state. She worked for the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife for over 20 years. Among her positions with the state she served as the curator and manager of the DuPont Nature Center, coordinated Delaware's Project WILD and the state's Junior Duck Stamp Program. She also coordinated the state duck and trout stamp competitions and the state's hunter education and Becoming an Outdoors Woman programs. She is a 4-H Project leader and licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Peggy Watkins, Artist. She is self-taught in the mediums of graphite and colored pencil and attended the Atlanta College of Art to study oil painting. Sporting art is the predominant subject matter of her professional work. Her interest in sporting art began in 2003 when she was invited to a plantation in south Georgia to observe the finer points of quail hunting. Ms. Watkins' work has been carried by Holland and Holland gun rooms in New York and London and the Sportsman's Gallery in Charleston, SC and Beaver Creek, CO. Honors include her selection as the Featured Artist for the 2008 Southeastern Wildlife Exposition held in Charleston, the 2006 Wildlife Art Magazine Publishers Award, and an Award of Merit at the Artists For The New Century special exhibit at the Bennington Center For The Arts Museum in Vermont, where a piece of her work is now in the museum's permanent collection. Her work has also been featured in several publications including *Grays Sporting Journal*, *Shooting Sportsman Magazine*, *Wildlife Art Magazine*, *Southwest Art Magazine*, and *Sporting Classics*. She spends a great deal of time in the field observing and photographing wildlife as well. She and her husband own land and a private home in the wild bush country of Zambia which provides ample inspiration for her African work.

Chris Maynard, Artist. Mr. Maynard worked for 20 years as a professional biologist. He left to become a professional artist and is known in the wildlife art world for bird-themed carvings of feathers into intricate art. His extremely detailed work has been collected, displayed in museums and galleries, and earned awards in the U.S. and abroad. He is a member of the Society of Animal Artists and Artists for Conservation. The book featuring his art, *Feathers: Form & Function*, also describes what feathers are, how they are used on birds, and importance of feathers to humans. Mr. Maynard is an avid hunter and comes from a family of artists and stamp collectors.

Cole Johnson, Artist. He completed a BFA with an emphasis in Painting at the State University of New York. Spending most of his time hunting, fishing and in the woods of upstate New

York, Mr. Johnson's favorite subjects include deer, trout, turnkeys, hunting dogs and waterfowl. Today he prefers to work in graphite powder using a method he has perfected to gain the form built from shadows and light. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Society of Animal Artists and has been juried into the *Birds in Art* exhibit at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum and the National Arts for the Park competition.

Brett James Smith, Artist. His early life was shaped by a grandfather who taught him to hunt and a father who was a professional illustrator and fine artist. Mr. Smith started his professional career as a commercial illustrator before turning to the fine art market where he was able to choose the subjects from his hunting and fishing experiences. He paints in watercolors and oils, etches, and recently has begun trying his hand with bronze casting. His paintings hang in collections throughout the country and his artwork has been featured in many publications.

Tom Landweher, Conservation Partner. Mr. Landweher is Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), overseeing a staff of about 2,700 located in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was formerly Assistant State Director for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and prior to that, directed the Ducks Unlimited conservation programs in Minnesota and Iowa. Landwehr previously worked for the DNR from 1982 through 1999, primarily with wetland wildlife conservation programs. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Management and an MBA with a finance concentration, all from the University of Minnesota, where he is currently Adjunct Instructor of a course on wetlands conservation. He formerly taught adult hunter education, and is himself an ardent hunter, camper, angler and outdoor enthusiast.

Paul Wait, Conservationist. A lifelong waterfowl hunter and conservationist, Mr. Wait began his education at University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point as a wildlife management student before transferring to St Cloud State University (Minnesota) for a communications degree. The editor and publisher of Delta Waterfowl magazine, he now has over 25 years of educational and professional experience as a photo and art editor. Mr. Wait has written several articles advocating the Duck Stamp program and celebrating its traditions and history. He has been a judge of several state conservation stamp contests and a staunch supporter of the Junior Duck Stamp Program.

Sigmund Aronson “Sig” Rogich, Philatelist. A journalism student from the University of Nevada, Mr. Rogich is a Las Vegas advertising and marketing legend, responsible for public relations and shaping the image of Las Vegas, its entertainers, athletes, and businesses as well as Nevada politicians and U.S. presidents for more than 40 years. He contributes to student education and philanthropic organizations which promote research and awareness of cognitive disorders and intellectual disabilities. He is an advisory board member for the Las Vegas Valley Water District. He is a stamp collector.

David Torre, Philatelist. Mr. Torre is a lifelong stamp collector, dealer, and exhibitor specializing in waterfowl stamps. Dedicated to growing the stamp collecting hobby, he has recently expanded his business to the online world where he provides educational information to further the interest and understanding of the complexity of duck stamps and other wildlife and firearm related stamps.

Scott Penegar, Artist. Mr. Penegar received his art degree from Appalachian State University and also studied marine biology at the College of Charleston and under Jan D'Esopo in the Caribbean. He has worked as a commercial fisherman, tour guide, and as an exhibit designer for the North Carolina Aquarium. After two solo transatlantic crossings in a 34-foot sailboat, he returned to Charleston. His passion for the ocean and sea life can be seen in his sculptures, paintings, and bronze castings. Two of his bronzes are found in the capitol building in Puerto Rico.

Barry Van Dusen, Artist. A graduate from Southeastern Massachusetts University with a degree in visual design and illustration, Mr. Van Dusen has worked as a commercial designer and illustrator, but has specialized exclusively in natural history art and illustration for the past 30 years. He was the 2016-2017 Artist-in-Residence at the Museum of American Bird Art in Massachusetts. He regularly sketches outdoors and his field sketching and watercolor paintings show attention to detail that have been the basis for illustrations in several bird guides. In 2007 he was commissioned to create the UK Habitat Conservation Stamp, the artwork on the First Day Cover envelope and stamp sheet surround. He works with young artists to increase their skills in wildlife observation and art.

James Gurney, Artist. Mr. Gurney is a self-taught artist who studied archaeology and earned a degree in anthropology from the University of California at Berkley. He coauthored *The Artist's Guide to Sketching*, worked as a background painter for the animated film *Fire and Ice*, illustrated several National Geographic Magazine articles, illustrated several U.S. Postage Commemorative Stamps, but may be best known for his work *Dinotopia: A Land Apart from Time*. He also has artwork in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

Kelly Leahy-Radding, Artist. Ms. Leahy-Radding specializes in painting wildlife, botanicals, and natural history, developing her style with field observation on location, and then translating her natural experiences to paintings in the studio. She has been a graphic designer/illustrator since 1982. She paints with watercolors on calfskin vellum, egg tempera & oil on panel, and gouache. Ms. Leahy-Radding is a member of the Society of Animal Artists, American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA), the New England Society of Botanical Artists, and the Brooklyn Botanical Garden Florilegium. She has exhibited her work in solo, regional group, national and international juried shows including Birds in Art, the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, the Horticultural Society of New York, BISCOT Scotland, and numerous juried ASBA exhibits.