

Wood Ducks Chosen for Alabama Waterfowl Stamp

A pair of wood ducks painted in acrylic by John Denney of Alexander City is the winner of the 2008 Alabama Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest.

The winning artwork will adorn the 2009-2010 Alabama Waterfowl Stamp. Denney, a repeat participant in the contest, faced competition from 14 other artists. For the second consecutive year, a Denney designed the top stamp. Brother Jim Denny, also of Alexander City, won the 2007 contest with his painting of hooded mergansers.

"It's amazing that these twin brothers share their love of art and wildlife in their talents and both have achieved the esteemed honor of winning this contest," said Wildlife Assistant Chief and contest coordinator David Hayden. "Jim won last year, the first time he entered and John won this year, keeping it all in the family."

First runner-up was a drake pintail by Bill Stem of Madison. Second runner-up was of a drake bufflehead by Ainsley McNeely (former winner 2002) of Mobile. Third runner-up was by former contest winner (2004 and 1998) Eddie LeRoy of Eufaula, who painted mallards. There was a tie for fourth runner-up between Steven Burney's depiction of a pair of ring-necked

ducks and Taylor White's pair of wood ducks.

Entries were judged on suitability for reproduction as a stamp, originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy and general rendering. The designs were limited to living species of North American migratory ducks or geese. The winning species from the past three years – canvasback, blue-winged teal and hooded merganser – were not eligible subjects for the 2008 contest.


The artwork was publicly displayed and judged by a panel of experts in the fields of art, ornithology, and conservation. Representing the field of art was Judie Hooks, who is an

art instructor and retired art teacher from the Montgomery County School System. Quincey Banks, a photographer from Eufaula who serves on the board of directors for the Alabama Wildlife Federation, represented the field of conservation. Representing the field of ornithology was Dr. Barry Grand, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey



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and assistant professor at Auburn University.

The funds from stamp sales are used to procure and manage wetland habitats for waterfowl. All licensed waterfowl hunters are required to be in possession of state and federal migratory waterfowl stamps signed in ink across the face. Like the federal stamps, state issued stamps are popular with collectors. The artwork competition for the Alabama Migratory Waterfowl Stamp design is held each year in February and is open to Alabama residents only. 



Conservation Department Needs Hunters' Help Report Deer Harvests Online




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Now that the 2007-08 deer season is closed, the Alabama Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) is asking hunters to report their deer harvests. When Alabama's three-buck limit was implemented this past hunting season, all hunters were required to have a harvest record form in their possession. If they killed a buck, the details were to be recorded on the form. To gather that harvest information, ADCNR is asking hunters to transfer it to an online form at www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/harvestdata.

Conservation Commissioner M. Barnett Lawley encourages hunters to use the online harvesting system. "Collecting this information will give us more management tools to protect the quality of the deer herd in the state," he said.

Even if a hunter did not harvest a deer, the Department would still like that information, Lawley said. "If a hunter was not successful, we need that data, too. We would also like to know the number of does harvested and the number of days hunters were in the field. Any factual data that we can get will help us," he said.

The online form asks for the following information: date of harvest, number of antler points, county where harvested, total number of does harvested and estimated number of days spent hunting in the 2007-08 season. The form is also set to accept turkey harvest information after turkey season closes in April. 

Stone Honored by National Wild Turkey Federation

Alabama Conservation Officer Jonathan E. Stone was selected as the National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTF) Officer of the Year by the Alabama NWTF Chapter. The NWTF honored America's top Conservation Officers during the Federation's 32nd Annual Convention and Sport Show Awards Banquet in Atlanta.

Stone has served the Department over five years, first with the Marine Resources Division and then transferring to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division in December 2003. Now serving in Winston County, Stone's supervisors praise his quick response times to all situations, his professional manner and even his writing ability. He has penned several columns in local newspapers educating the public about hunting, fishing and the outdoors in general. "Among his most outstanding qualities are his willingness to go the extra mile and get job done and his dedication to

protecting our wildlife resources for future generations," said ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Enforcement Chief Allan Andress. Stone also dedicates his time to present wildlife education and hunter safety demonstrations at area schools.


"Without the tremendous level of support for wild turkey conservation from wildlife officers, America's restoration efforts and wildlife management strategies would never have succeeded," said NWTF CEO Rob Keck. "We want to ensure they receive the thanks and recognition they so richly deserve." Keck also noted that in addition to enforcing wild turkey hunting regulations, officers help relocate turkeys to suitable habitat and promote hunting to the public.

The NWTF initiated the Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award in 2000 to highlight the contributions from wildlife officers across the country. 

State Parks Offer Pressed Penny Souvenirs

You've probably seen the machines at Disney World, Six Flags and the like. Now pressed penny machines are cranking out souvenirs at Cathedral Caverns and Cheaha State Parks. For 50 cents, plus a penny, you can choose a design unique to the state park for your souvenir.

You may have heard them called elongated pennies, squished pennies, souvenir pennies, pressed coins, collector pennies, flattened pennies, or pressed coppers. By whatever name they are called, these coins are fast becoming collector's items.

Don't forget to press a penny the next time you visit Cathedral or Cheaha, and machines will soon be up at Oak Mountain and Lake Guntersville State Parks. 



State's First Community Archery Park Now Open

Alabama's first community archery park is now open in Athens, Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) partnered with the Archery Trade Association through the Community Archery Program (CAP) and the City of Athens to construct the new Athens Archery Park, providing opportunities for individuals, families, groups, school students, clubs, and organizations to enjoy archery.

The new state-of-the-art facility is equipped with four youth targets (5-20 yards), eight adult targets (15-50 yards) and a 12-foot elevated platform with 3-D and Olympic style targets available for bowhunters to simulate hunting or shooting from a treestand. A simulated ground blind will also be available for bowhunters to practice shooting from a kneeling or seated position. The park will be open to the public during daylight hours.

"This is a wonderful addition to our Parks and Recreation Department," said Athens Mayor Dan Williams. "We are very excited about the many features this facility will offer not only to our community but to people from other places as well. We certainly are looking forward to using the archery range to bring visitors to our city for tournaments and other events."

The facility can be used for permitted archery tournaments and instruction. The Athens Parks and Recreation Department Staff will receive training to become certified to teach archery that will be offered as part of their Instructional Sports Programs.

Jay McAninch, ATA CEO/President said, "We are excited to partner with ADCNR to develop this first community archery program in the state of Alabama. I'm sure with the enthusiasm and excitement of the school, city and county, that this will be a great program to recruit new archers in the area and become a model site for similar programs elsewhere in the state." McAninch added, "We hope the Athens community finds archery to be a great activity for families who are looking to get outdoors and enjoy some physical exercise."

"We are extremely appreciative of everyone who made this new archery park possible, includ-



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Officials shoot the first arrows to open the Athens Community Archery Park.

ing the Career/Technical Education students from Limestone County Area Vocational Technical School who assisted in building the target frames for the new archery park as part of their curriculum," said WFF Director Corky Pugh. "Not only will the facility be used by the public, but in the future, students in the Athens City and Limestone County School Systems who enroll in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) will also benefit in having an outdoor practice facility." The NASP is a joint venture between the ADCNR and the Alabama Department of Education promoting student education and participation in the sport of archery as part of a school's physical education course and after school programs. Over 100 Alabama schools are participating in the NASP this school year.

Alabama Department of Education Career and Technical Education Director Sherry Key said, "Anytime our students have an opportunity to help their local community and gain valuable hands-on experience at the same time, it is truly wonderful. This project is a great example of teamwork and demonstrates the significant impact that our students will have in the future success of Alabama." Career/Tech students from schools in other areas of the state have assisted ADCNR in the past with other projects. The construction of additional CAP archery parks is planned in other areas of the state in the near future. **DA**