

Stewart's Art Selected for Alabama Waterfowl Stamp

A northern pintail drake painted in acrylic by Clarence Stewart of Brewton, Ala., is the winner of the 2009 Alabama Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest. The winning artwork will adorn the 2010-2011 Alabama Waterfowl Stamp. Mr. Stewart, a repeat participant in the contest, faced competition from 15 other artists.

"Representing my home state on its waterfowl stamp is the highest honor I can ask for as an artist," he said. "I feel very fortunate to win based on how great the other artists are." Stewart previously won the 2005 contest with a painting of a canvasback duck.

First runner-up was a pair of buffleheads by Beverly Basham of Vinemont. Second runner-up was of a pair of redheads by Steve Burney of Town Creek. Third runner-up was by Ainsley McNeely of Mobile, who also painted a pair of redheads. Fourth runner-up was a pair of northern shovelers painted by Everett Hatcher of Birmingham.

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, and winning species from the past three years – blue-winged teal, hooded merganser and wood duck – were not eligible subjects for the 2009 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 Donnave Lindsey, a Society of Arts and Crafts member since 1940. Representing the field of ornithology was Dr. Allen Tubbs, associate professor of Biology at Huntington College. Representing the field of conservation was Ducks Unlimited regional director for Alabama, Shawn Battison.

"Mr. Stewart did an excellent job capturing the details of this very elegant duck," Dr. Tubbs said. "The northern pintail is the Audrey Hepburn of the duck world."

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. ☐



Lemley named Alabama Enforcement Officer of the Year by NWTF




Conservation Officer Luke Lemley and his supervisor, Lieutenant Jim Kirkland.

Conservation Officer Luke Lemley has been named the National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTF) Alabama State Chapter Officer of the Year. Lemley, of Paint Rock, Ala., has been an enforcement officer with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division since 2005. He is assigned to Jackson County in District 2.

Since beginning his career with the Department, Lemley has worked diligently to enforce the state's hunting and fishing laws. In 2008, he initiated an investigation that resulted in more than 12 arrests for the illegal possession and sale of wild turkeys and wood ducks in Marshall County.

"Luke is an excellent officer and an asset to the Department's enforcement program," said Allan Andress, WFF Chief Enforcement Officer. "We are proud of his accomplishments. He is very deserving of this recognition."

According to his supervisor, Lieutenant Jim Kirkland, Lemley's success is due in large part to the trust and respect he builds with the public. "These (public) contacts have provided Officer Lemley with the information that has led to many arrests, and have also given concerned citizens a way to participate in the protection of our wild turkey population," Kirkland said in a nomination letter to the NWTF.

Lemley is dedicated to educating the next generation of hunters and anglers in Alabama. Each year Lemley volunteers at various Future Farmers of America (FFA) events in north Alabama by assisting during shooting sports demonstrations and with the setup and operation of the events. Lemley also teaches extra hunter education classes in the Woodville, Ala., area in addition to the two he is required to teach for the state. 


Alabama's FREE Fishing Day Is Saturday, June 6, 2009

"Free Fishing Day" for Alabama is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2009, during National Fishing and Boating Week. Approved by the Alabama Legislature, the law allows an annual free day of fishing when residents and non-residents may fish without a fishing license. The specific date is set each year by the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

"We have many partners that want to encourage people to fish. We try to set the Alabama Free Fishing Day early so our partners can plan their events," states Commissioner M. Barnett Lawley.

"Fishing is a gateway activity to allow kids to be a part of nature. Fishing events will be scheduled throughout Alabama to bring families together," added Stan Cook, Fisheries Section Chief with the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division.

Marine Resources Division Director R. Vernon Minton noted that many anglers do not get a chance to fish each year. "Free Fishing Day is a time to remind anglers to take some time to relax with family and friends."


The exemption of the usual fishing license requirement on Free Fishing Day does not affect some lakes that may still require fees and permits. Fishing in a private pond requires the pond owner's permission. National Fishing and Boating Week is June 6-14, 2009. 

Conservation Web Site Lists Fishing Tournaments

Fishing tournaments are not just for big name anglers. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has responded to the public's requests for information on local freshwater fishing tournaments. Tournaments are being listed on the ADCNR Web site, www.outdooralabama.com, for six lakes in a trial effort to inform anglers of fishing tournaments.

Lakes Jordan, Lay, Martin, Mitchell, Smith and Weiss will have information about tournaments posted at www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments. Anglers may also visit the reservoir pages or boating access pages for these six reservoirs. The boat ramps included in this program will have signs posted in the parking lot.

To post their tournament on the www.outdooralabama.com Web site, tournament organizers may email Doug Darr at doug.darr@dcnr.alabama.gov or call the Fisheries Section at 1-334-242-3471. Organizers should be prepared to give: the lake (Jordan, Lay, Martin, Mitchell, Smith or Weiss), boat ramp, their organization name, tournament date, start time and end time (Central Time), entry fee, and their contact information (name and phone number or email address). If tournament organizers have a Web address or link to a registration form, the Department will list that also.

Fishing is a fun activity. Some anglers enjoy the friendships gained from being in a tournament; others enjoy the competition. Whatever the reason you enjoy fishing, the Department of Conservation would like to make your experience more enjoyable and help more people become anglers to develop their stewardship and love of Alabama's aquatic resources. 



Meaher State Park Campground Expansion Completed

Situated on scenic Ducker Bay where Mobile Bay and the Mobile-Tensaw Delta meet, Meaher State Park has finished a renovation and significant expansion of its camping facilities.


The 12 original gravel-based camping sites have been converted to storage sites, and 56 improved camping sites have been constructed on the edge of Ducker Bay. The new sites are paved with 20-, 30- and 50-amp electrical service, water and sewer.

Campers and day visitors can enjoy a 500-foot fishing pier on the bay, which offers freshwater fishing in the spring and inshore saltwater angling in the fall. A 1,600-foot boardwalk meanders through the

edge of the bay and into the Delta marsh, where a variety of wildlife and waterfowl can be observed. The park also offers a boat ramp and access to the Blakeley River.

New facilities at the park include a bathhouse with vending and laundry facilities, as well as day-use restrooms. Two picnic shelters are under construction.

Meaher State Park is also situated just across Battleship Parkway from 5 Rivers – Alabama's Delta Resource Center, which offers an expanded Mobile-Tensaw Delta experience.

Visit www.alapark.com for more information or call Meaher State Park at 251-626-5529. 





State Championship Archers Announced

The largest youth archery competition in Alabama, the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Championship, was held in February at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. Approximately 1,100 young archers in Grades 4-12 from schools across the state competed in the event.

Scoring for the state championship is based on Olympic style, target archery in three divisions – elementary, middle and high school. Competition included team and individual levels.

The day-long competition paused for a brief moment during the morning to recognize Ashville Middle School archer Stephanie Whisenant, who split one arrow with another. This shot, known as a “Robin Hood,” helped her go on to win the overall competition in the female division. Her team also won the Middle School Division.

Team Level Winners of the 2009 NASP State Championship:

Elementary School Division: Breitling Elementary, Mobile County Schools

Middle School Division: Ashville Middle School, St. Clair County Schools

High School Division: Alma Bryant High School, Mobile County Schools

Top Overall Individual Winners of the 2009 NASP State Championship:

Female: Stephanie Whisenant, Ashville Middle School, St. Clair County Schools

Male: Joshua Clarke, Alma Bryant High School, Mobile County Schools


Visit <http://www.outdooralabama.com/education/archery/results09.cfm> for a complete listing of the 2009 NASP State Championship winners.

Winners of the Alabama competition qualified to participate in the NASP United States Invitational Championship in Louisville, Ky. on May 8-9.

The NASP is a joint venture between the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and the Alabama Department of Education. The program promotes participation in

the lifelong sport of archery as part of a school’s physical education course and after-school programs. Approximately 153 Alabama schools take part in the NASP. The program can also be included as a unit or activity in the Lifelong Individualized Fitness Education (LIFE) course included in the Alabama Course of Study; Physical Education, which is the one-credit physical education requirement for graduation. The goal of the LIFE course is for students to make physical activity a part of their lives beyond high school, and archery is a sport that can be enjoyed in adulthood.

Sponsors of the event included Academy Sports + Outdoors, the Alabama Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Alabama Conservation and Natural Resources Foundation, Morrell Manufacturing, Knight and Hale Game Calls, Summit Treestands, Carry-Lite Decoys, Pradco Outdoor Brands, the Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officers Association and the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

For additional information about the Archery in the Schools Program call 800-245-2740. 



MITCHELL MARKS

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Assistant Chief David Hayden and Nancy Ray, Health and Physical Education Curriculum Specialist with the Alabama Department of Education, pose with the high scorers of the Archery in the Schools State Championship. Stephanie Whisenant of Ashville Middle School was the female high scorer and Joshua Clarke of Alma Bryant High School was the male high scorer.



BILLY POPE

Stephanie Whisenant of Ashville Middle School poses with her “Robin Hood” shot.