

## 2007 NJ Duck Stamp Print

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee is proud to announce its 24th Edition Waterfowl Stamp painted by wildlife artist Michael Braun. Michael's father, Ed O. Braun Jr., carved the green winged teal decoy depicted in the painting. This edition is the first time a father and son have been selected to create a New Jersey waterfowl print and is the fifth and final print in the Retriever Puppy series.

The 2007 stamp and print features a chocolate Labrador retriever puppy. The breed descended from former dogs of Newfoundland, Canada and comes in three coat colors: black, chocolate and yellow. The Lab is a versatile sporting dog and considered one of the best retrievers on both land and water. A weather-resistant topcoat easily sheds burrs and brambles, while the dense undercoat is nearly impervious to water. The tail, often referred to as an otter tail, assists the dog while swimming in strong currents. This breed is not only an excellent choice for hunting pursuits, but will also provide countless hours of companionship.

### About the Carver



Ed O. Braun Jr. is an avid hunter and fly fisherman who began carving in 1970. A former tool and die maker by trade, those skills eminently appear in the craftsmanship of his decoys. He is the owner of DD Decoys and sells his high quality carvings to waterfowlers nationwide. Although each hand-made, hand-painted decoy is actually crafted for field use, many are sought and prized by collectors. Famous for his cork black duck sleeper, one of his earliest designs, he continues to carve a variety of waterfowl species and songbirds. Mr. Braun is the former chairman of Ducks Unlimited and past president of Trout Unlimited and has donated many carvings to support the conservation of wildlife and wetlands. His work is annually displayed at the Ocean County Gunning and Decoy Show in Tuckerton, New Jersey.

### About the Artist



Michael Braun became interested in art at a very early age. His father Ed's talent for duck decoy carving helped inspire him to carve and draw well before he started grade school. Young Braun learned to pay close attention to his wildlife subjects, especially their detail, habitat and surroundings while accompanying his father and two older brothers on frequent hunting trips. His earliest works were completed in watercolors and pastels until becoming interested in oils and acrylics, which would prove the preferred medium for his future paintings. In 2002, he graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in fine arts.

Braun's list of accolades begins at the age of nine when he took first place and best of show in the Toms River Junior Decoy Contest, and was first to win the New Jersey Junior Duck Stamp Contest – a title he held four out of five years upon entering. In 2002, he won the Albert E. Gold Drawing Award for the illustration department of his college alma mater. He was also selected to design that year's senior thesis invitation postcard. In 2004, Braun placed third in Delaware's and second in Louisiana's state duck stamp contests, and continues to compete in other state competitions.

### The Program

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife administers the New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Program for the purpose of purchasing wetlands for waterfowl habitat. Proceeds from the sale of New Jersey's Duck Stamps and Prints total over \$4,168,000 to date, all to acquire wetlands for waterfowl habitat and public use. The New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee has committed to the purchase of over 13,000 acres of waterfowl habitat. The committee has also been and will continue to be involved with the enhancement of thousands of additional acres for the benefit of wildlife.

**Limited edition, signed and numbered prints of the 24th New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp may be purchased directly from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. You may visit us on the web at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) to see our other products.**