

# Casting Around

photo: Art Michaels



## Competition

At first, a few visitors, judges and contestants engage in quiet conversation and sip coffee. In the middle of the room on several rows of tables, paintings arranged one next to another await inspection, like ranks of soldiers at attention. Another row of tables with paintings borders the room walls. Fish & Boat Commission staff members hone the completed setup, adjusting several paintings and re-arranging chairs. A visitor squints and massages his chin while eyeing the artwork. A contestant scans a row of paintings, assessing the competition. The judges emerge from a huddle and, clipboards in hand, begin inspecting each submission. The crowd quiets to whispers. For visitors the trout/salmon stamp artwork competition is a time of pleasant surprise to view so many magnificent paintings. For contestants it's a time of nervousness, reflection and hope. For the judges it's a time of thorough scrutiny and difficult choices.

The judges select eight finalists from a field of some 50 paintings submitted by a similar number of artists. These eight paintings are then displayed together, and from this group, first, second and third places are chosen.

On page 55 of this issue you can view this year's trout/salmon stamp artwork print and patch. The trout/salmon stamp painting was selected in competition last May.

The 2003 trout/salmon stamp will be chosen at this year's competition, on May 8, 2002, at the Commission's Harrisburg headquarters. The competition is open to the public. Attending the trout/salmon stamp artwork competition gives anglers a unique look at how the Commission chooses the trout/salmon stamp artwork. For complete details both on entering the competition and visiting the event, email [tiklinger@state.pa.us](mailto:tiklinger@state.pa.us), or on the World Wide Web go to [www.state.pa.us/Fish/trstam.htm](http://www.state.pa.us/Fish/trstam.htm).

In this issue on page 31 you'll also find the results of another competition, the Commission's 2001 Photography Contest. This year, from a field of 153 entries, judges chose first-place, second-place, third-place and honorable-mention winners, each in five categories. Special thanks go to Ted Walke, Ron Kuhn and Dan Martin for judging the contest, and to Sandy Patrick and Patti Copp for their assistance with the contest administration. The new Commission photography contest rules and entry form appear on page 34.—*Art Michaels, Editor.*