

ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXX No. 3

March 2008

<http://www.WFSCstamps.org/>

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

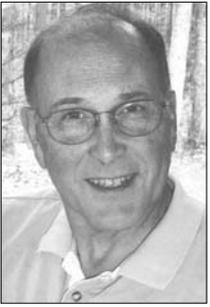
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

President's corner

Wisconsinites on stamps

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

At least two stamps in this year's offerings from the United States Postal Service honor people with solid ties to Wisconsin. Both are in the American Scientists commemoratives issue, which is scheduled for a March release.



As I write this column, a month ahead of the issue date, I don't know if any club is planning to take advantage of the Wisconsin connection –

with a souvenir cover, for example, or even a special cancel – but it would be an opportunity.

One of the two scientists, John Bardeen, was born in Madison in 1908, and 48 years later shared the Nobel Prize in physics for "investigations on semiconductors and the discovery of the transistor effect."

Bardeen graduated from Madison Central High School before enrolling at the University of Wisconsin, where he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1928. He remained at UW for two years as a graduate assistant and then moved with one of his instructors who took a job in industry. He got a Ph.D. in physics from Princeton University in 1936.

He worked on ground-breaking projects with Gulf Research Laboratories and Bell Telephone Laboratories (where he did his

Nobel work) and was on the teaching staffs at the University of Minnesota and the University of Illinois the rest of his career.

Bardeen died in 1991.

The other scientist with Wisconsin connections, Edwin Hubble, was just passing through, but after he got his start here – literally – the sky was the limit.

Earlier, the challenge for Hubble was to decide which of his many talents to use. Born in Missouri in 1889, Hubble graduated from the University of Chicago with degrees in astronomy and mathematics. He also played basketball and boxed. Hubble was granted a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University, where he picked up a British accent and studied law, Spanish and literature.

Back in the Midwest, Hubble opened a law office in Louisville, Ky., and also taught Spanish and coached basketball in a high school there.

But his eyes remained on the stars. A year later, he entered the Chicago University graduate program in astronomy at Yerkes Observatory on the shores of Geneva Lake at Williams Bay, Wis. In 1917 he got his doctorate.

Yerkes, which had a 40-inch telescope, at one time was a state-of-the-art observatory, and it allowed Hubble to begin his studies on interstellar nebulae. He continued the study with the 60-inch telescope at California's Mount Wilson Observatory, starting in 1919.

Eventually, Hubble established that galaxies besides our own Milky Way existed, and that the entire universe was expanding. His findings provided the foundation for the "Big Bang" theory and earned him his honorary title as the

Father of Cosmology, the study of the origin and structure of the universe. He died in 1953.

The Hubble stamp seems to be the most obvious choice if a collector wanted to put together a combination cover of related stamps or a small exhibit. Consider these possibilities:

The Hubble Space Telescope Images from 2000, five stamps featuring nebulae photographed from the orbiting telescope that bears his name.

The Palomar Mountain Observatory issue of 1948, showing the 200-inch reflecting telescope, at which (in 1949) Hubble took the first celestial photographic exposure.

The opportunity for philatelic promotion is there if you look for it.

When I first heard of the USPS lineup for 2008, I thought there was no Wisconsin connection, but a little bit of research turned up these two significant entries. There may be others and, in fact, the USPS may yet reveal other new stamps for this year.

A little bit of promotion can make a difference in letting other people know about our enjoyable hobby and in letting other collectors know that your club exists.

Inside this issue:

- 1...President's Corner
- 2...Clubs are Trump
- 3...In Praise of Flowers
- 5...WFSC Road Trip
- 5...Wiscopex pizza dinner reservation
- 5...Ducks & Darth tagging issues

WFSC is going to Pennsylvania!!



WFSC is sponsoring a bus trip to APS Headquarters in Bellefonte, Pa., June 19 - 22, 2008. There will be much to see and do on this fun road trip...

Space is limited, so please make your plans soon!

More details appear on Page 5

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Stamp collectors and stamp clubs are incensed over the decision by the United States Postal Service to allow the printing of stamps on paper that won't allow for soaking to remove envelope paper without damage to the stamps.

Tim Wait, in the *Rockford Stamp Notes* of the **Rockford (Ill.) Stamp Club** predicted the move could sound the death knell of new-issue used U.S. stamp collecting, unless collectors adapt and collect stamps on paper.

Wait noted that the American Philatelic Society has protested to the USPS that seeing used stamps on daily mail can kindle an interest in philately.

The **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, in its newsletter called the USPS decision unfortunate.

"Anyone who has tried to soak the Speedboats, Ella Fitzgerald, Purple Heart or [James] Stewart stamps from last year will know what this is about," the editor of *The Mint Issue* said.

Program ideas

The **Outagamie Philatelic Society**, Appleton, has a Dealer's Night, during which dealer-members present their stock for perusal. Club members can request specific interest areas that the dealers try to match.

Gaylord Yost spoke to the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** on a topic dear to his heart – conservation – and related it to stamps. He said Great Britain, Netherlands and Russia have more stamps on conservation than the United States.

Club member Dave Hunsicker spoke on "World War II Remembered" at the **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**. He presented a variety of memorabilia, including ration tokens and stamp books for the purchase of war bonds. Other members brought things to take part in the discussion.

Bob Voss, a member of **Badger Stamp Club**, Madison, presented a program on his experiences as a stamp dealer.

The **Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club** held a "member trade and sell" opportunity. Members brought items they were willing to dispose of,

including at a "Dollar Table," where items were for sale at that price.

Three members of **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**, Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids, brought special stamp albums or covers to talk about at a meeting. The club's bulletin editor added, "We need to have more philatelic programs at our meetings." Indeed, it's good to remember the purpose of your club.

What others are doing

Gordy Lindner, current vice president of the **Green Bay Philatelic Society**, was voted to Lifetime Member status – and just in time, the newsletter editor observed, because dues have been raised to \$10.

The **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, took advantage of an offer by the West Bend Library to create a display in a glass case on the library's main floor. In conjunction with the display, the club also made club brochures available.

Badger Stamp Club, Madison, voted to allow the use of Badger's exhibit frames free at Wiscopex '08 in Appleton in April.

Darren Mueller was elected president of the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** for 2008. John Farkas is vice president, Kurt Albrecht treasurer and Carol Schutta secretary.

A charity auction at the **Rockford (Ill.) Stamp Club** raised \$115 for youth programs at a local community center.

Information for "Clubs Are Trump" is gathered from club newsletters. Please send newsletters to Maurice D. Wozniak, 1010 Berlin St., Waupaca WI 54981.

Advertising and payment notice

If you are advertising in *Across the Fence Post* (as a dealer, collector or club), please make sure your check is made out either to the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs or WFSC, and is sent to Advertising Manager Dave Carney, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (dcarney1@new.rr.com).

Advertising in this widely circulated and highly respected journal is extremely affordable, whether you are looking for an item, wanting to advertise your local show or if you are a dealer looking to reach several thousand collectors inexpensively.

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Across the Fence Post is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please contact the Central Office.

AFTP is published monthly September through April, and every other month May through August (10 issues per year). News of Wisconsin collectors, club news and gratis original philatelic features are welcomed. The editor accepts submissions in any format, but prefers email if possible. Editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to submitted copy.

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Submission deadlines for editorial and advertising materials are for the 1st of the month preceding month of publication (i.e. Jan. 1 for Feb. issue).

All show calendar information, along with all other editorial matter and listings, should be sent to: Wayne L. Youngblood, Editor AFTP, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia WI 54977-0111. (youngblood@tds.net) phone: 715-467-4416.

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, AFTP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (dcarney1@new.rr.com) phone: 920-687-9077. For a complete list of advertising rates and policies (display, classified and listings), request a copy from the advertising manager.



In Praise of Flowers; a wonderful tangent collection

James E. Byrne

Northwoods Philatelic Society

As I write this, winter is having a personality crisis. So far this month, the area in which I live has had minus-zero temperatures with biting wind chills, heavy snow, a thaw which cleared all the snow from the yard, rain, tornadoes and flooding. Remember when there were only four Horsemen of the Apocalypse? Fortunately for me, a bad knee, surgery to correct it and convalescence give me adequate excuses to stay in the house and play stamps.

In a rare moment of insight, I set aside my acquisitions from a recent club auction to keep me busy through the gray days and

working is a group of flower stamps. What more colorful and hopeful topical is there to putter with? I stocked up on mounting supplies during the thaw and gathered my catalogs, a gazetteer, tongs, magnifiers, stamps and supplies in one place near my computer and printer. Knowing that physical therapy would take longer than the processing of the auction lot, I added an inexpensive topical packet of flowers shamefully loaded with CTOs and illegal "stamps." I was – and still am – set for a prolonged adventure.

In an article in *Linn's Stamp News* (Jan. 14, 2008), Janet Klug referred to accumulations such as



Shown above is a partial set of CTO geranium stamps from Romania that were referred to by the author in the accompanying article.

studied, or back to subjects we studied and forgot about years ago. Even trying to figure out how to mount such an accumulation in a meaningful way can be an entertaining challenge.

For me, as it probably will be for many of you, the flowers have been a great tangent. I have no feelings of guilt about the cost of stamps to suppress, and I have hours of entertainment stacked on my desk. The mounting supplies cost much more than the stamps, but I am looking forward to having a small, colorful mounted collection to browse through next winter when the gray season sets in again.

Why flowers? They are colorful and many of the plants are intriguing. You don't have to be a botanist or gardener – and I am neither – to enjoy orchids or the exotic shapes of tropical blossoms. Thankfully, I have never outgrown what hooked me on stamp collecting in the year of the infamous "chicken stamp" (Scott 968, 1948). I like attractive stamps with

interesting stories behind the depictions on them. Where do these flowers grow? Are there folktales or myths associated with them? For what was the semi-postal surtax used?

With the flower stamps with which I am playing – and tangents are play, not work – the design principles are a study in themselves. That 1968 Romanian geranium (Scott 2023; CTO) probably would have received a low grade in a high school art class for being unimaginative and washed out, but the San Marino set issued in 1957 (Scott 394-403) with the crisply drawn flowers with mountain peaks in the background have depth and character. I am learning something from my play, an important bonus from a good tangent collection and another aspect of stamp collecting that brought me into the fold decades ago.

With the flower topical, there are also many options for mount-

Flowers, continued on Page 4

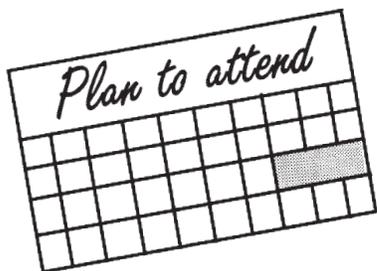


late storms that come at the rump-end of winter. Although Medicare has refused to recognize their medical and psychological value in diverting the mind from physical discomfort, auction lots are very effective pain killers. The insurance companies prefer to pay for pharmaceuticals, not philatelic, perhaps weighing the relative additive qualities of each and paying for the lesser evil.

The auction lot upon which I am

this as "tangent collections," mixtures of usually inexpensive and personally interesting material unrelated to the serious collections upon which we build our philatelic reputations. Unlike the serious collections, these tangents don't drain our budgets or frustrate us with the search for elusive items to fill a blank spot in an album or a page in an exhibit. At the same time, they can be mentally challenging, taking us into subjects we have never





Show Calendar and Registry

List your show, bourse, auction or other event here!
Calendar listings are free for one WFSC member-club event per year. Classified advertising rates apply for all non-members and other events appearing in this section.

2008 WFSC show schedule*

*Some dates and details may be subject to change, and there will likely be additional listings.

March 8-9, 2008

ROCKFORD '08
Rockford Stamp Club
 Forest Hills Lodge, 9500 Forest Hills Rd.,
 Rockford, IL
Contact: Tim Wait, 1718 Northrock Ct.,
 Rockford, IL 61103
 (815)-670-5869, t.wait@insightBB.com

March 15, 2008

BAYPEX '08
Green Bay Philatelic Society
 Best Western Midway Hotel, 780 Armed
 Forces Dr. (formerly known as Packer
 Dr.), Green Bay, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Ray D. Perry
 920-469-8925, fiveperrys@athenet.net

Here..

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Flowers, continued from Page 3

ing broken sets. To “leave no stamp behind” is a challenge with topical mixtures, but the “stray” flowers can be mounted by family, genus, species or common name to create colorful, meaningful pages on which both the range of flower structures and the stamp design principles become evident. Such mountings produce subtle study pages to be enjoyed visually and with lessons to be learned in the colorful grouping. Because I use my computer to make simple pages, the only limit to the mounting options for the “strays” is my creativity — or my laziness.

Sorting the stamps by Latin and



April 12, 2008

Wiscopex '08
 hosted by the **Outagamie Philatelic Soc.**
 Fox Valley Lutheran High School
 5300 N. Meade St., Appleton, WI
 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus —
 920-725-0798, or Verna Shackleton
 corosec@sbcglobal.net

April 20, 2008

DANEPEX '08
Badger Stamp Club
 Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington
 Ave. (across from East Towne Mall)
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Bob Voss, 5533 Kevins Way,
 Madison, WI 53714
 (608)-221-2311, lestamps@charter.net

May 10, 2008

Sheboygan Stamp and Coin Show
Sheboygan Stamp Club
 Municipal Building, 375 Buffalo St.,
 Sheboygan Falls
Contact: Barbara Stohl, P.O. Box 907,
 Sheboygan, WI 53082 (920)-458-4883



species, family) to identify groups of stamps, and copy-and-paste from Excel to word processing to make mounting pages with captions identifying the stamps. The pretty flowers from broken sets are thus clustered to form meaningful, attractive presentations on a mounting page.

The ease of cataloging in detail has also made flowers a great topical to work with and subject to

June 21, 2008

27th Annual Show and Bourse
Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club
 James Williams Middle School, 915
 Acacia Ln., Rhinelander, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Larry Marten, 3295 Hancock
 Lake Rd., Harshaw, WI 54529
 (715)-282-5636, lfmarten@yahoo.com
 or Bill Julian (715)-277-2692

June 28-29, 2008

TRI-PEX Stamp Fair
ATA Chapter 5
and North Shore Phil. Society
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So.
 92nd St., West Allis
Contact: Robert Henak, NSPS, P.O. Box
 170832, Milwaukee, WI 53217
 (414)-351-1519, henak@execpc.com,
 www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

Use stamps whenever
 possible
 on mail to collectors!

learn about. In addition to the obvious catalogs (Scott and Michel in my case), the American Topical Association has published four very useful reference works: *Plants on Stamps* handbooks 94 (1979), 112 (1988) and 137 (1999) – and *Orchids on Stamps*, handbook 118 (1991). If you want to go from tangent to serious collecting, the catalogs are there to support the move.

The Internet also provides a great resource to expand the dimensions of a tangent collection. I spent one evening on a tangent with the Czechoslovakian memorial stamps for the destruction of Lidice and Leziky (Scott 1118, 1119 and 1481) in World War II. I found historical information and photographs of the murdered civilians and the destruction of the villages. My mounting pages for these three stamps present a short history explaining the events



behind the use of the stylized flowers on these memorials to the victims of these atrocities.

Yes, many of the points mentioned here are true of other topicals, but flowers have a dimension that many other topics lack – colorful attractiveness with a hint of the warmth coming later in the year. In a season of depression induced by sunlight deficiency, it is hard to beat flowers for enervation. A topical collection focused on libraries, robots or Albert Schweitzer may have an intellectual appeal, but the seductive colors and shapes are missing. Flowers reach out to the mind and the soul. They reach out to that first childhood when stamp collections were started. If that does not recommend flowers on stamps as a tangent collection, then consider the trump card. Flowers are sexy. Sexy? Well, they are the reproductive structure of seed-bearing plants.

Ducks and Darth: Two interesting tagging questions

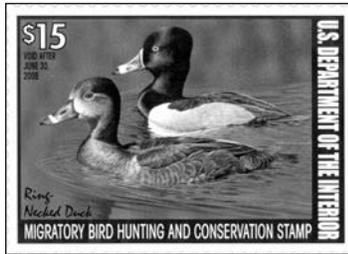
Wayne L. Youngblood

More information has come to light regarding the tagged version of 2007 Federal Duck stamps reported in the January issue of *Across the Fence Post*. Only one version of the 2007-2008 Federal Duck stamp (picturing Richard Clifton's painting of two swimming ring-necked ducks), is phosphor tagged, but it is apparently the entire press run. The stamp – both standard perforated and gummed, as well as the die-cut self-adhesive – was released June 22, 2007.

In December 2007, several collectors reported they had found tagged versions of the self-adhesive automatic teller machine (ATM) version of the popular \$15 revenue stamp (Scott RW74A). The coating, which makes the stamps glow a yellow-green color, is visible only under shortwave ultraviolet light.

Since the self-adhesive version is already considered a separate and distinct collectible variety from the traditional sheet version, the tagging is not a determiner of type or catalog number, but it is an interesting variety.

According to a spokesperson for the printer, Banknote Corporation of America, a subsidiary of Sennett Security Products, it's quite likely that all of this year's self-adhesive ducks are tagged – as are probably other self-adhesive duck stamps from previous years. All self-adhesive stamp production paper used by the firm is supposedly phosphor coat-



The self-adhesive 2007-2008 Federal Duck stamp is phosphor tagged. It, like previous issues, is printed on paper coated with a phosphorescent agent. Since duck stamps aren't created for postal use, there is no need for tagging.

ed prior to printing.

However, an additional coating of a UV-blocking agent is supposed to be applied over the surface of the paper to kill the glow. It is uncertain whether this additional coating is applied before or after printing, and probably varies on some stamp issues.

Initially it was speculated that this unusual duck stamp variety – the first of its kind in U.S. philatelic history – was the result of either a paper order error, or the time-honored tradition of grabbing whatever paper is available that meets broad specifications to finish a press run of stamps. Either way, Duck stamps aren't supposed to be tagged.

The primary purpose of phosphor tagging is so that automated facing and canceling machines, which are equipped with shortwave UV lights, can "find" a stamp and cancel it. Since Federal Duck stamps are not intended to travel through the mail, there is no reason for them to be tagged, but if they are produced on paper already containing the taggant, then printers may make no effort to coat the stamps additionally. Since their denomination is \$15, Duck stamps are a very low-risk for postage revenue loss. Additional reports of this variety, as well as how strongly they glow, would be welcomed.



The non-stamp areas on Star Wars sheetlets has a phosphorescent coating that probably should not be there.

Star Wars tagging

Additionally, there is an interesting and apparent anomaly (or at least a departure from USPS policy) on the 2007 41c Star Wars stamps.

Typically, when souvenir sheets or multi-stamp commemorative sheetlets are printed, any non-stamp area is intentionally not tagged. This is to prevent selvage from being used as postage stamps, since automated equipment sees only the glow from the tagging, not the stamp.

For stamp issues printed on phosphored paper, non-stamp areas are – by policy – coated with an additional UV-blocking lacquer to "kill" the glow, much as what should be done with low-denominations and Duck stamps. This step was apparently skipped on the Star Wars stamps, as the entire sheet – including large areas where there are no stamps – glows brightly under shortwave UV light. This means that any area of a Star Wars sheetlet could conceivably be used as a stamp without detection, unless manually spotted by a postal clerk. Of course, this is not a good idea, since such a use constitutes defrauding the USPS of postal revenue, but it is an issue long recognized and tracked by stamp collectors.

I would welcome reports of any Star Wars sheets that have the intended UV-blocking coating. So far I've seen none, leading me to believe the entire press run is fully tagged.

Plan to attend Wiscopex '08 April 12 in Appleton!

Details for the annual convention of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, held in Appleton this year, can be found on Page 6.

The evening awards ceremony will feature a pizza party. The reservation form is shown below. Photocopies of the form are acceptable.

WISCOPEX '08 PIZZA PARTY RESERVATIONS
 April 12, 2008 following awards ceremony.
 Fox Valley Lutheran High School
 5300 N. Meade St., Appleton, WI

All you can eat pizza, soda, and cookies.
 COST: \$7.50 Make check payable to: WISCOPEX 08.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone _____ Amt Enclosed _____

Enter number of Pizza Slices wanted:
 _____ Cheese, _____ Sausage, _____ Pepperoni, _____ Vegetarian

Circle Soda and amount: _____ RC, Dr Pepper
 _____ 7UP, Sunkist
 _____ Diet Rite
 _____ Bottled Water

MAIL to: Verna Shackleton, 425 N. Linwood Ave, #110
 Appleton, WI 54914
 Info: corosec@sbcglobal.net

WFSC Road Trip

Visit the APS headquarters in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania!

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs is sponsoring a bus trip to Bellefonte, Pa., home of the American Philatelic Society. Reserve the dates June 19-22 (Thursday through Sunday) for this fun trip!

Collectors will have an opportunity to tour the APS headquarters on Friday, and spend time in the sales division and research library. There are thousands of sales books covering all collecting areas, and you can definitely find an answer to most any question you have in the extensive research library.

Several presentations by APS staff are in the planning stages. Saturday will be devoted to attending Scopex, a local show held at APS.

In addition, the Mary Ann Owens Thematic Reference section of the APRL and the new Headsville Post Office will be dedicated.

Cost for the trip, which includes bus transportation, overnight motel stays and some meals is \$369 (double rate) and \$569 (single rate). The bus will leave the Milwaukee area

early on Thursday, June 19, and return to Wisconsin on Sunday evening. Travel in the comfort of a Badger Bus. Rest stops are planned every few hours to allow guests to stretch their legs.

Bellefonte is not your typical family vacation get-away. Wisconsin stamp collectors are being offered this unusual opportunity to enjoy the company of other philatelists in the world capital of philately. Treat yourself to a fun philatelic weekend. Spouses are invited to attend as well. Further details will be available soon.

Write to MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

Information will also be published on the WFSC web site, and brochures will be available at Wiscopex. A commitment will need to be made by May 1. Those wanting to attend but not having a partner should let MaryAnn know of their interest and an attempt will be made to find another interested collector to share a room.

The Outagamie Philatelic Society

presents

WISCOPEX 2008 - APRIL 12 - SATURDAY - 9:30-5:00
AT
APPLETON'S FOX VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL
5300 N. MEADE St, APPLETON

SHOW THEME - OPS CELEBRATING 66 YEARS -1942-2008

~ ~ Welcome exhibits ~ ~

TRADITIONAL AND ONE FRAME EXHIBITS

AND

ONE PAGE EXHIBITS USING
VARIATIONS OF 1942 YEAR STAMPS

WISCOPEX SHOW CANCEL AND CACHET

RESERVATIONS FOR PIZZA/SODA FOLLOWING 5:00 AWARDS:
Verna Shackleton, 425 N. Linwood Ave, #110 Appleton, WI 54914

DEALERS ARE INVITED TO CONTACT:
Al Marcus, P O Box 11, Appleton, WI 54912

~ ~ PLAN TO ATTEND ~ ~
WISCOPEX 08
CONVENTION & EXHIBITION AT
FOX VALLEY LUTHERAN H.S.
5300 N. MEADE ST.
APPLETON, WI
ONE DAY SHOW
APR. 12, 2008 9:30-5:00

DEALERS - EXHIBITS,
POST OFFICE - YOUTH TABLE
DOOR PRIZES
NOON FOOD AVAILABLE

9:00 WPHS MEETING
9:30 SHOW OPENS
12:45 DELEGATE CHECK-IN
1:00 WFSC CONVENTION MTG.
3:00 JUDGES CRITIQUE
5:00 CLOSING & EXHIBIT REMOVAL

FOLLOWING EXHIBIT REMOVAL
ATTEND THE AWARDS-FELLOWSHIP
PIZZA PARTY AT SHOW SITE!
PIZZA RESERVATIONS
PROSPECTUS AND ENTRY FORM
SHOW INFO FROM
corosec@sbcglobal.net

