

# ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXX No. 4

April 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

#### Shameless Bribe

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

The annual Wiscopex stamp show is intended, in part, to be a convention of representatives of the clubs that make up the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. Those representatives gather to hear reports from WFSC officers and committee heads on activities of the Federation. At the same time, representatives have an opportunity to make suggestions and ask questions in person. Then they are expected to make reports to their clubs on what they found at the convention.

It's a system that has served us – and the hobby of philately in Wisconsin – well over the last 75 years of our existence.

Lately, however, we've noticed that the number of official delegates has declined markedly, so this year we're offering a bribe.

The members of the Outagamie Philatelic Society have planned a one-day Wiscopex '08 for April 12 at Fox Valley Lutheran High School, 5300 N. Meade St, Appleton, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This will be the second straight year for an abbreviated Wiscopex. Last year's event seemed to work well, and we'd be interested to hear, via conversation, letter or electronic mes-

sage what you think of it.

For me, a springtime show like this, after a winter of hibernating with stamps, is a perfect way to get out and renew acquaintances and enthusiasm. Perhaps this year, after so much snow built up on the edges of my yard and on my deck, that aspect will be even more marked.

Wiscopex '08 has everything you'd expect from a longer show, such as a variety of dealers, stamp exhibits, a post office station, cacheted show covers and cancel celebrating the show theme of 66 years of the Outagamie Philatelic Society, a youth table and more. You'll find door prizes and lunchtime food and snacks.

The Wisconsin Postal History Society plans to hold its traditional yearly meeting at 9 a.m., just prior to the show's opening.

Besides the traditional competitive stamp exhibits, the show will feature one-page exhibits with variations of the year 1942, the year that the OPS was founded. These one-pagers can be fun for a neophyte exhibitor like me as well as for the viewer.

Convention meeting for delegates is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. That's when representatives can sign up for their bribes. We're talking bags full of stamps here – off paper, on paper, maybe covers, maybe other philatelic stuff. You'll be able to go back to your stamp club with a bagful of loot slung over your shoulder. Your members can sort through it for passed-over treasures, and when everyone has had a shot at it you'll still have a pile of stamps to give away to a youth program or some other use. I'll make sure to have enough bribe bags for every delegate. But you have to be a delegate.

After we finish the meeting, and I'll try to finish by 3 p.m., you can pick up your bribe.

Finally, after the show closes, there will be a brief, informal awards program. The judges will announce the exhibit winners, and I'll introduce the WFSC's Hall of Fame inductee and our Dealer of the Year.

And then the show organizers have planned an informal pizza and soft drink party. You were supposed to have paid \$7 for that.

That's a lot to squeeze into one day.

We hope the show schedule is enough to bring you to Appleton. But if you need more encouragement, please remember the bribe. And if you're not a delegate, just come to have fun.

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Remember our four-day bus trip to the American Philatelic Society headquarters in Bellefonte, Pa., June 19-22, for the dedication of the Mary Ann Owens section of the American Philatelic Research Library. You can get details in this issue of *Across the Fence Post*. Please don't wait until the reservation deadline of May 1. We hope that by that time we'll be sold out.

#### Inside this issue:

- 1...President's Corner
- 2...Clubs are Trump
- 3...WFSC Road Trip
- 3...USPS/HBO letter-writing campaign

## 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 3**

## Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

MaryAnn Bowman, in an e-mail message, elaborated on a recent **American Topical Association Chapter 5** program related to the Chinese New Year. It was so filled with interesting details that I thought it would be a dandy primer on what can be done to produce an interesting stamp club meeting. Ahead of the meeting, members were urged to bring stamps from China and other Asian countries and also other stamps that show celebrations and symbols related to the Chinese New Year, such as dragons, lanterns and fireworks.

She wrote: "In addition to showing our Chinese/Asian stamps, I took along a simplified version of the traits of the various Chinese lunar characters, and we determined what animal we were (under what sign we were born) and the personal characteristics attributed to that sign. We briefly talked about whether we agreed with those attributes and/or how they related to us as stamp collectors.

"I also had enough paper tangram puzzles for everyone. [A tangram is a Chinese puzzle made by cutting a square into seven smaller pieces - five triangles, a square and a rhomboid. The challenge is to reassemble them into the square or to form other representative shapes.]

"The seven pieces were already cut up, and members were challenged to create a design using all seven pieces with no pieces overlapping but each piece touching another piece. Once the design was created, they glued it down onto a blank worksheet with stamp perforations — in essence creating a stamp design.

"They were asked to give it a title and denomination. Color could be added. Adults had a harder time with this than the kids. (There are books and web sites devoted to showing examples of tangram solutions.)

"We finished with Chinese Fortune cookies." You don't have to be a topical collector to enjoy fun and games, and you don't have to be an elementary school teacher to be able to plan activities such as MaryAnn describes — but it sure helps. There was something for everyone at this meeting: A bit of philately to kick things off, two different activities to get young and old members talking and acting and a snack.

### Program ideas

**Badger Stamp Club**, Madison, is leading up to a "dumb stamp question" program. Members may place an anonymous (if needed) question into a box at meetings, and no question relating to our hobby will be deemed too small or too irrelevant. The box will be opened in May.

In the midst of the snowiest season ever, the **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, had a winter-themed meeting. Members brought in stamps, a book of snowflakes, a collection of Monopoly game pieces (used during those snowy days and nights), a silver dollar minted in December 1921, a Christmas card and postcard collection, a first-day ceremony program from the 1999 Christmas stamp, and a ski and boot. Even Mother Nature joined in with another snowfall during the meeting.

To toast the new philatelic year, **Waukesha County Philatelic Society** members hauled out

their mugs and other drinking vessels with a philatelic-inspired theme. The club plans a year of similar programs highlighting pins, posters, puzzles, T-shirts and other items with a stamp-collecting theme.

Milt Wirth, a member of the **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich., showed off a collection of Emily Bissell covers. She produced the first Christmas seal as a fundraiser in 1907.

### What others are doing

**The Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, is looking for scrapbook-type mementos as well as recollections and records to formally update the club's history.

**ATA Chapter 5** made a good point in its reminder on club dues of \$2: "This probably is needed more by the club than by the individual members." **The Milwaukee Philatelic Society** advertised some of the benefits for its \$10 dues: newsletters, shows, bus trips and "even homemade cookies in this deal. Yum." It behooves each club to make itself important in the lives of its members.

\*\*\*

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

*Please...*  
Use stamps whenever possible  
on mail to collectors!

## Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs officers

### PRESIDENT

**Maurice D. Wozniak**  
1010 Berlin St.  
Waupaca, WI 54981  
715-258-2025  
berliners2@sbcglobal.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Jim Stollenwerk (VP)**  
1020 Hazelwood Court  
West Bend WI, 53095  
Home: 262-306-0829  
Cell: 262-305-1483  
JSASTOLLEN@charter.net

### SECRETARY

**Pat Loehr**  
2603 Wauwatosa Ave, Apt. 2  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
(414)476-0530

### TREASURER

**Paul T. Schroeder**  
1750 W. 5th Ave., Apt. F  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
920-426-2059

### VP YOUTH DIVISION

**MaryAnn Bowman**  
P.O. Box 1451  
Waukesha, WI 53187

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**Al Marcus (maram@tds.net)**  
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Outagamie Phil. Soc.  
Wisc. Postal Hist. Soc.

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**Art Gaffney**  
stehlee@aol.com  
Waukesha County Phil. Soc.

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pescador@execpc.com  
Am. Top. Assn. (Chap. 5)  
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Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.

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Germany Phil. Soc.  
(Chap. 18)  
Italian American Stamp Club  
Milwaukee Phil Soc.

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bluebird@tznnet.com  
Central Wisc. Stamp Club  
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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. (dcarney@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.



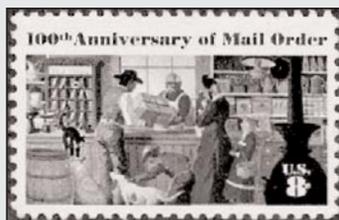
# WFSC Road Trip is great opportunity for you to visit APS, find stamps, stamps, stamps and meet other collectors!

MaryAnn Bowman

Plan now to join fellow stamp collectors on a road trip to Bellefonte, Pa., home of the American Philatelic Society. The trip will take place June 19-22 (Thursday through Sunday), with bus pick-ups scheduled for the Milwaukee and Chicago areas.

Collectors will have the opportunity to tour APS headquarters on Friday June 20 and spend time in the sales division and research library. The sales division presents a unique opportunity to look at thousands of books of material, and the answer to virtually every philatelic question you may have can be found in the American Philatelic Research Library.

Attendees also will be able to



**The Headsville, W.V., post office, shown on this 1971 commemorative, has been set up at APS headquarters and will be dedicated during the WFSC visit in June.**

participate in Scopex, an area show held by the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society at APS headquarters on Saturday, as well as attending two dedication ceremonies: the Mary Ann Owen Thematic Reference section of the

APRL and the new Headsville Post Office. The Headsville (W.V.) post office is the one pictured on the 8c Mail Order commemorative of 1971, and was housed for a number of years in the Smithsonian Institution.

Most likely, several APS officers and board members will also be attending the dedication ceremonies. This will be an opportunity for you to meet some of our hobby's "movers and shakers." Since the following week will be the start of the annual APS Summer Seminar on Philately, there will be a lot going on at APS.

Trip application forms and a full itinerary will be available on the WFSC web site, at Wiscopex, or by mail from MaryAnn Bowman,

Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187. The fees include transportation costs and some meals.

The 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.

Immerse yourself in an affordable and fun philatelic get-away. Join other Wisconsin collectors for a weekend of hobby fun and fellowship. We'd love to have you join us!!

## USPS/HBO John Adams letter-writing campaign includes free note card and postage-paid envelope

Wayne L. Youngblood

As closely as letters are related to our hobby, they seem to be a shrinking commodity in the modern world. With email, instant messaging and the overwhelming presence of cell phones, few people think about the importance of written communication. Yet, much of what we know about day-to-day life in the past comes from the contents of letters.

John Adams and his wife, Abigail, exchanged more than 1,100 letters during their lifetime together – and they weren't just short notes. These letters contained significant content. The United States Postal Service has long been aware of this love story through letters and has referred to Adams and his love of letters several times over the years at first-day ceremonies and other events. Adams also wrote hundreds of letters to others, including many of the founders of our country.

"In his prolific correspondence," according to information on the USPS Website, "John Adams left us a remarkable first-person account of the birth of our nation, as well as a candid portrait of his life and personal relationships. John and his wife Abigail's letters offer a window to our past; we can be inspired to revive this tradition, to return to the enduring power of the written word, and leave a legacy for future generations."

In a relatively unknown promotion tied in with the HBO miniseries, *John Adams*, USPS

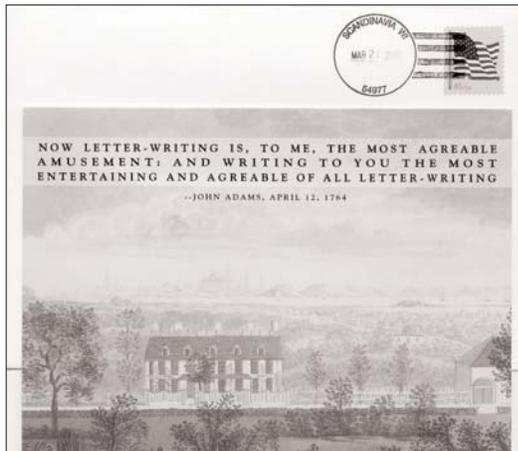


**A recent USPS promotion tied to the HBO miniseries, John Adams, allowed customers to customize a special greeting card and receive it — along with a stamped envelope — so that a handwritten note could be added and mailed to a friend or a loved one. It is unknown how many of these collectibles were created during the promotion. The author customized his card (right) with an engraving of John Adams from the Library of Congress.**

offered not only a free custom-printed greeting card, but the postage to mail it as well. This also tied in to the special John Adams cancellation in use during February and March. These unusual collectibles will likely be in demand at some point in the future.

By going to the special "Power of the Letter" Website (through the end of March), one could choose one of a half-dozen pre-printed designs, then customize it with a photo, image or message and have it printed.

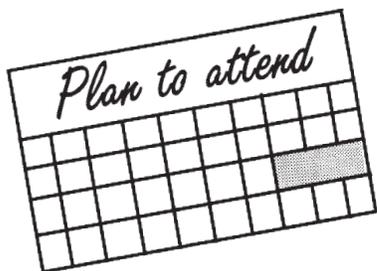
The card, with promotional printing on the back (USPS, HBO and Cardstore.com), was then forwarded in a penalty envelope that



included the card and a stamped envelope to send it to a friend or a loved one.

In my case, I downloaded an engraved image of Adams from the Library of Congress (above left) and had it printed on the inside of one of the card designs offered. The exterior of the finished card and the postmarked cover are shown above right. The entire process took about 10 minutes and delivery of the finished card was accomplished in about a week.

I don't know how many people took advantage of this promotion, but as a bit of ephemera these cards and covers have a great place in collections tied to Adams or letter writing.



# 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.

### 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

### 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@exccpc.com,  
 www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

Visit a stamp show  
 near you soon.  
 Get out and enjoy your  
 hobby!

### Migratory Bird Day

May 17, 2008  
 Special cancel and cachet  
**Milwaukee County Zoo**  
**Peck Building**  
 Sponsored in conjunction with  
 the Milwaukee County Zoo  
 & Milwaukee Philatelic Soc.  
 P.O. Box 13245  
 Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0245  
 www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

### 2008 Stevens Point Stamp Bourses

April 19 & May 17  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 JADECO Stamp & Hobby  
 200 Division St.  
 Stevens Point WI  
 (715) 341-5555  
 jadeco@charter.net

### Other major non-WFSC shows near Wisconsin:

### May 23-25, 2008

#### Prospect Heights, IL

**Complex '08**  
**Chicago Area Philatelic Societies**  
 Forest View Educational Center,  
 2121 S. Goebbert Rd.  
 Prospect Heights IL

### July 18-19, 2008

#### Crystal, MN

**Minnesota Stamp Expo**  
**Maplewood Stamp Club, Twin City**  
**Philatelic Soc., Lake Minnetonka Stamp**  
**Club, Minn. Stamp Dealers Association**  
 Crystal Community Center,  
 4800 N. Douglas Dr.  
 Crystal, MN

For maximum attendance, make sure your show's listing gets included in *Across the Fence Post!*

DANEPEX STATION

**DANEPEX '08**  
 New Location! Sunday, April 20  
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Crowne Plaza Hotel - Madison, WI**  
 4402 E. Washington Ave. (across from East Towne Mall)

- Judged Philatelic Exhibits featuring a statewide single-frame championship competition
- 16 Dealers
- U.S. Postal Service Station
- Door Prizes
- Free Stamp Collection Appraisals
- Three 45-min. Workshops  
 1 p.m. - Beginning Stamp Collecting for Youth  
 2 p.m. - Stamp Collecting as a Family Activity  
 3 p.m. - Beginning Stamp Collecting for Adults
- Free Admission/Parking
- Handicap Accessible
- Show Cover & Cancel celebrating stamp collecting

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 For more information call 608-221-2311; e-mail lestamps@charter.net

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