

# ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXXIII No. 2

February 2011

www.WFSCstamps.org

## Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

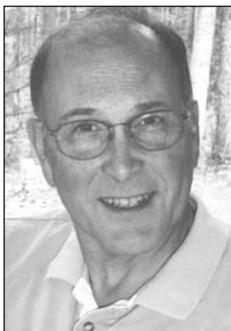
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

### President's corner

#### Send a Note

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

A popular inspirational book for the 2010 Christmas season was *365 Thank Yous*, an account of how the author turned his life around with written expressions of gratitude.



As John Kralik, the author, explained the genesis of the book in radio interviews, his life had crashed.

In the dead of winter, a dangerous time for those who are struggling emotionally, Kralik, then 53 years old, was definitely struggling. He was 40 pounds overweight. He was fighting to cope with a second divorce and trying to maintain relationships with his children. His little law firm was failing. He was living in a small apartment. His latest girlfriend

#### Call for Exhibits: Wiscopex 2011

The annual Wisconsin Philatelic Exhibition encourages competitive and non-competitive exhibits, and Wiscopex 2011 is no exception. Please share your knowledge of a particular area of interest and your love of the hobby by exhibiting at Wiscopex 2011, which will be held April 2-3 at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center.

For information and an application form, contact P. Sudevan, Wiscopex 2011 Exhibition Chairman, 1408 Strongs Ave., Apt. 403, Stevens Point WI 54481, by email at: [drpeter@Charter.net](mailto:drpeter@Charter.net), or phone (715) 342-1921.

The exhibition prospectus and applications also may be found at the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs website, [www.WFSCstamps.org](http://www.WFSCstamps.org).

More information on this upcoming show will appear in next month's *Across the Fence Post*. Watch for it!



had broken up with him. Overall, it seemed his dreams were beyond his reach.

Then, while taking a walk to relax on New Year's Day, he had an epiphany. He was inspired, Kralik said, by a simple note his ex-girlfriend sent to thank him for his Christmas gift, and he thought that, instead of feeling sorry for himself and his miserable lot, his life might become tolerable if he found some way to be grateful for what he did have.

Kralik set a goal of writing a thank-you note every day of the year.

He started with a note to one of his sons, who responded with a visit and a determination to repay a loan that Kralik had made to him some time before.

He thanked coffee shop clerks who recognized him every day and made his coffee the way he liked it.

Soon "I realized I didn't have such a bad life," Kralik said.

He sent hand-written notes to his friends, to his doctor, to people he had lost touch with. "They are very close to me now," he said. He wrote to coworkers, past business associates, current foes, college friends, store clerks, handymen, neighbors and anyone who had done him a good turn, however large or small.

Right from the start, significant and surprising benefits began to come Kralik's way – from financial gain to true friendship, from weight loss to inner peace.

He accomplished his goal and, yes, wrote a book about it. He continues to write thank-you notes. "I tried to stop," he told one interviewer, "but that didn't work out for me."

The appearance of mysterious benefits after

establishing an attitude of gratitude is a staple in the self-improvement field. Time after time, generosity makes a difference in peoples' lives. Tithing, the casting of bread upon the waters, surprisingly comes back to the donor in multiples.

So I was not surprised by Kralik's story. Furthermore, if you'll permit a crass observation, his plan could help us stamp collectors. Those 365 pieces of mail that Kralik sent would contribute \$160.60 to the Postal Service's bottom line at today's 44c first-class postage price. If all the stamp collectors in Wisconsin emulated him, they might use \$100,000 in stamps – just in Wisconsin.

Just think how this little social nicety might improve our outlook. Think how all those stamp-bearing envelopes in the mail stream would interest and intrigue others. They might influence others to start or return to the hobby of stamp collecting.

So, while we were concentrating on the good things in life, we'd be boosting our hobby, casting our stamps upon the waters – and who knows what positive results might result.

I think Kralik might have hit upon something really valuable there.

#### Editor email address change

Effective immediately, please send all email correspondence (letters, features and other communication) to the editor to the following address: [wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com). All other contact information remains the same as that published on Page 2.

#### Inside this issue:

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## Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Several clubs within the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs feature stamp auctions for members, and some even open the events up to the public, using a portion of the proceeds to help finance their activities.

The **Outagamie Philatelic Society**, Appleton, for example, promoted a regular auction last fall: "You may bring your extra stock to sell at auction every meeting date." President Gene Clark ended his brief announcement with these words: "So let the fun begin."

That's the key. Members of every club have items in their stamp collections that they would like to clear out and pass on to other collectors, and a low-stakes club auction is a perfect way to do it.

The **Wauwatosa Philatelic Society** is examining its public auction, held every spring. Last

year's event was smaller than expected, but sales were good, the club said. The membership has decided that the auction was held as a service for members, rather than to make money.

The **Waukesha County Philatelic Society** holds major club auctions in spring and fall, with up to 10 items with a minimum value of \$5 from each member.

The **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**, Plover and Wisconsin Rapids, holds auctions with material selected from boxes of miscellany purchased from a dealer or at a major auction. Proceeds from the auctions usually exceed the cost of the batch of philatelic items.

The **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** holds mini-auctions at each meeting, but also inaugurated a major auction last fall with items that had a minimum catalog value of \$5. Also, last year the club solicited donated items for a silent auction at Milcopex to benefit the show.

\* \* \*

### Program ideas

A member of the **Waukesha County Philatelic Society** who brought three hard-to-identify stamps to a club meeting reported back a few months later on what he found out after further study. Members were urged to share their own identification stories.

The **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, had a program on members' other collections – such as baseball cards, old pens and pencils, Monopoly memorabilia, and plates, banks and trains.

Also, Vern Witt, a regional vice president of the WFSC, gave a brief presentation at a Kettle

Moraine meeting on his collection of lead foil tobacco revenue stamps from 1869-83.

Members of the revived **North Shore Philatelic Society**, Fox Point, shared their collections of first-day covers. The club also welcomed two new members.

Owney, the stray dog who became the Post Office Department rail mail mascot, was the subject of a program at **ATA Chapter 5**. Members were urged to provide items from their collections on Owney or dogs in general.

\* \* \*

### What others are doing

A way to get mail from St. Patrick was included in *The Valley Philatelist*, newsletter of the **Outagamie Philatelic Society**, Appleton, last year. To get a card in an envelope with a shamrock cachet, send the recipient's address plus \$1 per card (or 50c for a postcard) to Shrine of St. Patrick, Box 34, St. Patrick MO 63466.

Things you might not know if you didn't read the newsletter from **American Topical Association Chapter 5**, Waukesha: The world's oldest postal services were established in China about 4,000 BC and in Egypt and Assyria by 3,000 BC... Cats were used to deliver bundles of letters to villages within 18.6 miles of Liege, Belgium, in 1879.

\* \* \*

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

## Across the Fence Post Ad Rates (revised 1/06)

Type Size	Commercial Rate	Club Rate
A Full page (7 1/4"x 9 1/2")	\$42.00	\$33.75
B Half page (7 1/4" x 4 3/4")	\$26.25	\$21.00
C Large 1/4 page (4 3/4"x 6")	\$20.50	\$16.50
D Medium 1/4 page (4 3/4" x 3 3/4")	\$14.75	\$11.75
E 1/8 page (2 1/4" x 3 3/4")	\$7.50	\$6.00
F Econo Ad (2 1/4" x 2 3/4")	\$3.75	\$3.00
G Reduced Business Card (2 1/4" x 1 1/4")	\$2.75	\$2.25
H Back page (7 1/4" x 9 1/2")	\$57.75	N/A

Please make checks payable to :W.F.S.C.

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Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club (Rhineland)  
Wisconsin Valley Phil. Soc.

**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 and all other editorial matter and listings, should be sent to: Wayne L. Youngblood, Editor AFTP, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia WI 54977-0111. (wystamps@gmail.com) 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.

# New collecting challenges can be inexpensive

Wayne L. Youngblood

Now that the first of the year has rolled around and you have a great deal of time on your hands (yeah, right), you are no doubt looking to explore new areas to collect that will provide you with the challenge you crave.

As a collector I'm really not happy unless I'm challenged. If natural challenges don't exist in areas I wish to collect, I tend to create them.

Collecting classic-era United States stamps comes with its own set of natural challenges. Paper types, plate varieties and secret marks, for example, lend automatic challenge to the stamp identification process. Adding other variables such as plating by position, cancels, condition, centering and others makes the area as complex as one could ever hope for. And then, of course, there's cost – a huge challenge that's out of your control.

Modern stamps, for the most part, do not offer the same challenges for the one-of-each collector. Most stamps since the 1930s are easy to identify and the majority don't have significant varieties or types to chase.

Certainly, simply trying to obtain one of each of the more than 100 face-different commemorative stamps released by the U.S. Postal Service each year is a challenge, but it's not particularly complex and can be more frustrating than not if you don't have access to large enough quantities of stamps to find them, particularly now that many sources of used stamps have dried up completely.

Many collectors have dealt with this problem by choosing to collect modern postal history, rather than stamps. Rates, uses, postmarks and auxiliary markings all add complexity and become the focus of the collection.

But what if you just want to collect stamps? Countless opportunities still exist for challenging yourself, giving you the perpetual thrill of the hunt – and the satisfaction of the find.

One of the easiest ways to add a bit of challenge is to search for stamps by format – an approach that is not unfamiliar to European stamp collectors.

For example, the three \$10.75 Express Mail stamps shown in Figure 1 (Scott 2122) represent each of the three possible positions available for that stamp. The stamp at right, from the outside of the pane, has three naturally occurring adjacent straight edges. Both of the others have only two, but the



Figure 1. The three stamps shown above represent all three possible collectible positions for the \$10.75 Express Mail booklet stamp.

stamp at left also includes the binding stub from the booklet it came from. It was the hardest to locate of the three.

Similarly, the eight stamps and label shown in Figure 2 comprise a mini pane of the 1995 Midnight Angel stamp, Scott 3012. Because the die-cut self adhesive stamp was released in panes of 15 and 20 (each with a label in the lower-right corner), it is possible to collect single copies with straight edges at top, bottom, each side and three corner positions with two adjacent straight edges. By mounting a fully perforated stamp in the center and the label (also from an envelope) it is possible to construct an attractive mini pane of stamps.

This same approach can be applied to virtually any booklet or sheet stamp issue. Even



Figure 2. By collecting all possible positions of self-adhesive pane stamps with straight edges (as well as the non-stamp label and a fully perforated example), attractive mini-panes of many issues can be assembled over time.

fully perforated sheet stamps with selvage can be assembled in this manner, giving you thousands of new inexpensive stamps to search for that are relatively easy to find with some diligence.

Another approach is to collect all regularly issued types of stamps, including Bureau precancels. I specify Bureaus because these are stamps with precancels applied at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, not local post offices.

Because Bureau precancels were applied at



Figure 3. Attempting to collect all possible Bureau precancels for each appropriate issue can be an extremely enjoyable challenge. There are 129 different types for the 6.3c stamp shown here.

the BEP, and because their application utilized a color station on a printing press used to produce stamps, they are by nature a major variety of a stamp and, technically, each city is a major type.

In some cases there are only one or two different precancel types or cities on certain stamps, but in others there are many, and some are quite hard to find.

Figure 3 shows 10 different Bureau precancels on the 6.3c Liberty Bell issue of 1974 (Scott 1518). A complete collection would include 129 different types from 117 different cities, as well as the non-precanceled collector version. Finding one of each would be extremely challenging, but not particularly expensive.

If this is an area that appeals to you, you can easily find how many different Bureau precancels exist for each issue under listings for each definitive stamp in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue Of United States Stamps*, even though the stamps aren't valued separately.

Other fun challenges include collecting used booklet panes, used coil line pairs, used blocks of sheet stamps and many others. Large lots of inexpensive definitive stamps are always available from dealers, auction houses or online auctions that will give you the raw material for these searches.

Putting them together is your challenge...

— © 2011, Youngblood Ink

# Exhibiting 101: Thematic Exhibiting

Robert R. Henak

Having gone about as far as I can for now with general exhibiting concepts, it is time to dig into the nitty-gritty of putting together a particular type of exhibit. I decided to start with thematic exhibits, because most people I know on the verge of taking the plunge into exhibiting are topical collectors. Also, the American Topical Association's National Topical Stamp Show will be held in Milwaukee (actually, Brookfield) June 24-26, 2011, making the subject a timely one.

## What is a Thematic Exhibit?

The American Philatelic Society's *Manual of Philatelic Judging*, available for free download at [www.stamps.org/directories/JudgingManual.pdf](http://www.stamps.org/directories/JudgingManual.pdf), states that "a thematic exhibit develops a non-philatelic subject by illustrating it with a wide variety of philatelic material."

While every exhibit must tell a story, a thematic exhibit focuses on something other than the development of stamps, rates, routes and usages. Examples would be exhibits about clowns, mermaids, owls or a particular person.

Unlike most other types of exhibits, the thematic exhibit focuses primarily on the subject matter of the philatelic material exhibited. Thus, the 3¢ U.S. pictorial issue of 1869 (Scott 114) would be important in a railway thematic

exhibit because it shows a steam engine, not because it paid the first-class letter rate at the time for up to ½ ounce, because it was printed by the National Bank Note Company or because it might be on a cover between two discontinued post offices in Indiana.

The same holds true for a cover. The cancel could fit into a thematic exhibit because the date or post office name illustrates some aspect of the theme, or the stamp could do so. As I will explain in a future article, this does not mean that other non-thematic aspects of the material are irrelevant. It merely means that the central focus is on how it illustrates and furthers the thematic development of the exhibit.

## Thematic versus Topical

Although often used interchangeably, there is a difference between a thematic exhibit and a topical exhibit. As explained in the *Manual of Philatelic Judging*, a topical collection or exhibit is limited to philatelic material directly related to the subject. Thus, a topical collection of horses generally will be limited to stamps, postal stationery, cancellations and the like that portray horses.

A thematic exhibit, on the other hand, should tell a well-developed story by illustrating relevant points related to the theme or subject of the exhibit. Accordingly, a thematic exhibit about

John F. Kennedy likely would touch upon World War II, the Democratic and Republican Parties of the 1950s, Richard Nixon, Cuba, the Civil Rights Movement and the like, as well as Kennedy's family and direct personal experiences and influences.

Straight topical exhibits tend to be frowned upon any more – at least for adults. While most thematic exhibitors will start with a topical collection, judges will expect them to expand into related areas so they can tell a more complete story in their exhibits.

My *Horsing Around* exhibit, for instance, suffers from the fact that it is necessarily a topical exhibit with thematic aspects. It basically illustrates a number of different non-equine horses divided into general categories, such as plants, animals, people and actions, with many examples shown thematically, but with little overall thematic story development. The exhibit suffers accordingly when it comes to national-level judging.

For excellent examples of thematic exhibits, see Bob Mather's *Donkey in Man's World*, Fred Zieman's *Wolf*, and Roland Essig's *Man Beneath the Sea*. Also, be sure to attend the National Topical Stamp Show in June and view the many fine thematic exhibits there. I will be paying particularly close attention to them as I have taken the plunge into national-level judging and will be an Apprentice Judge at the show.

# Wisconsin Youth Winners in TPA Contest

MaryAnn Bowman

Wisconsin youth were big winners in the 22nd annual Youth Holiday Design Contest sponsored by the Texas Philatelic Association. There were 94 entries, and three of the top prize-winning entries in each age group were from our state. To the best of my knowledge, there are only three youth clubs in our state. Interestingly, each of the three known youth clubs produced one winner. Pictured are the Wisconsin entries. Seven-year-old Thomas Devine won first prize for his age group and is a member of the Janesville youth club.

Lower left: Thomas Devine, Below: Grace Zinkgraf, Lower right: Alex Gill.  
[www.texasphilatelic.org](http://www.texasphilatelic.org)

Congratulations to the winners and to their club leaders, who continue to offer interesting activities and make stamp collecting fun for their members.

If you would like to show your support for youth philately, donations can be sent to the WFSC Youth Vice-President, MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187.



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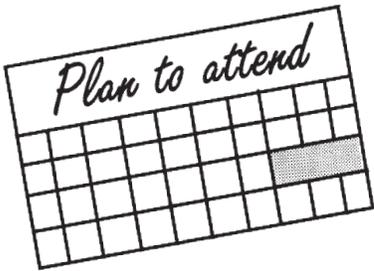


Grace Zinkgraf took first place in the nine-year-old category and is a member of the ATA #5 youth group in Milwaukee. Sixteen-year-old Alex Gill, a member of the Ben Franklin Stamp Club in West Bend was a second place winner. Alex has competed in previous years and has had his winning entries featured on the cover of *The Texas Philatelist*.

Across the Fence Post



February 2011



# 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.

## 2010-2011 WFSC show schedule\*

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

### Feb. 13, 2011

**Annual Exhibition and Bourse  
 Janesville Stamp Club**  
 Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Pl.  
 Janesville  
**Contact:** Gary Wentworth - 608-756-1380, [wnstamps@aol.com](mailto:wnstamps@aol.com)

### March 19, 2011

**Baypex '11**  
**Green Bay Philatelic Society**  
 St. Matthew Catholic Church,  
 Multipurpose Rm., 2575 So. Webster  
 Ave. (parking in rear), Green Bay  
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Contact:** Ray D. Perry, 920-469-8925,  
[fiveperrys@athenet.net](mailto:fiveperrys@athenet.net)

### May 14, 2011

**Outapex '11**  
**Outagamie Philatelic Society**  
 VFW Post, 501 N. Richmond St.,  
 Appleton, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Contact:** Al Marcus, 920-725-0798  
[allan.marym@hotmail.com](mailto:allan.marym@hotmail.com)

**Other major  
 non-WFSC shows  
 near Wisconsin  
 (below):**

### March 5-6, 2011

**Stampfest '11**  
**Milwaukee Philatelic Society**  
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall  
 1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis  
 Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Contact:** Carol Schutta, 10250 W.  
 Sharon Ln., #5, Milwaukee, WI 53225  
 414-464-6994  
[harryncarolschutta@gmail.com](mailto:harryncarolschutta@gmail.com)

### April 2-3, 2011

**Wiscopex '11**  
**(Annual Convention and Philatelic  
 Exhibition of the WFSC), hosted by:  
 Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**  
 Holiday Inn Stevens Point, 1001 Amber  
 Ave., Stevens Point  
**Contact:** Larry Glenzer - 715-341-6767,  
[mcdillauto@att.net](mailto:mcdillauto@att.net)

### April 17, 2011

**Danepex '11**  
**Badger Stamp Club**  
 Crowne Plaza Hotel  
 4402 E. Washington Ave. (across from  
 East Towne Mall), Madison  
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Contact:** Bob Voss, P.O. Box 35,  
 McFarland, WI 53558 - 608-838-1033  
[lestamps@charter.net](mailto:lestamps@charter.net)

### March 12-13, 2011

**Lombard, Ill.  
 Rockford '11**  
 Rockford Stamp Club, Forest Hills  
 Lodge, 9500 Forest Hills Rd.



**Roger H. Oswald**  
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 ments for Regency-  
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## Nature themes appealed to the Finns

The Finns have chosen Fjeld Landscape (shown below) as the most beautiful stamp of Finland for 2010. It was released in November 2010, along with other Christmas stamps. The stamp, designed by Tommi Vallisto, depicts snowy mountains, the magical twilight and Santa Claus riding his reindeer-powered sleigh through the sky.

The winner received 5,445 votes, equal to more than 12% of the total of 45,063 votes cast. The voting took place through the *Postia Sinulle* customer magazine and the Postis (postal administration) website.

Voters clearly liked nature themes, since the themes of the runners-up also were related to nature. The Torrionsuo National Park stamp, designed by Teemu Ollikainen, received 5,105 votes, enough for second place.

Third place was shared between Pussy Toes (3,534 votes) and the Reindeer Christmas stamp (3,531 votes).

Among the 65 stamps released in 2010, the following also performed well in the voting: Autumn, mallard-themed stamp by Asser Jaaro and Wings, a butterfly-themed stamp with a spring atmosphere, designed by Ari Lakaniemi and Susanna Rumpu.



### I collect the Wisconsin Statehood issue ...and I need your help

**Wanted:** FDCs, first-day ephemera, USPOD Announcements, errors, color varieties, usages, event covers or anything else that might enhance an exhibit.



**John Pare**  
 405 Perimeter St.  
 Mt. Horeb WI 53572 [pare16@mhtc.net](mailto:pare16@mhtc.net)

**METROPOLITAN STAMP COMPANY**  
 Of Chicago, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 657 Park Ridge, IL 60068-0657

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[www.metropolitanstamps.com](http://www.metropolitanstamps.com)

**The Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc**

*Presents*



## **STAMPFEST 2011**

at

**St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall  
1435 S. 92nd Street  
West Allis, Wisconsin**

**Saturday, March 5, 2011-10 AM—5 PM  
Sunday, March 6, 2011- 10 AM—4PM**

**Free Admission & Parking**

**USPS Philatelic Retail Sales**

**Very interesting Youth Section**



For information Contact:  
Carol Schutta, Publicity Chair  
10250 W Sharon Ln #5  
Milwaukee, WI 53225  
414-464-6994  
harryncarolschutta@gmail.com

[Www.milwaukeephilatelic.org](http://www.milwaukeephilatelic.org)  
Dealers are to contact  
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