

ACROSS THE FENCE



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<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

Thoughts on a Hoard

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

To keep a stack of donated boxes and bags of stamps off the floor of my garage – where they might have been in danger of damage from melting slush and snow – I assembled two steel shelving units. They now stand against the back wall, and on them are stacked 25 big boxes and eight black plastic trash bags filled with stamps.

These boxes and bags represent less than half of a hoard of stamps given to the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs by a Milwaukee-area collector who left the state. It was a generous and intriguing gesture.

For him, it was an opportunity to do some good with the leftovers from his years of collecting and (if he wanted) to gain a bit of benefit himself.

For the Federation and the collectors we serve, it was an opportunity to use the donated materials to fan the flames of the hobby.

When the collector first contacted me late last summer, he was looking for an idea of what he could do with the boxes of stamps that he had spent long hours searching through for treasures he could add to his collections. He had enough boxes of stamps and other trappings of philately that it would take a small van to haul it, he told me.

Almost on a whim, I suggested the Federation. I thought we might find a use for the stamps as giveaways in our youth outreach programs, for example. Also, it occurred to me that the collector could take a tax write-off for the value of a donation to the Federation, which the Internal Revenue Service recognizes as a nonprofit, educational organization. Other potential recipients, such as individuals or clubs, might not benefit from that designation.

He agreed to the idea, and when my wife and I planned trips to Milwaukee during the next couple of months, we made arrangements to stop at his house to pick up a load of boxes. It required four trips with the car trunk and back seat jam-packed with stamp stuff.

Most of it landed in my garage. The accumulation included the equivalent of 60 copy paper boxes and 15 black plastic trash bags filled with stamps. Mostly, they are picked-over, on-paper United States definitives since the 1940s, but include some off paper and some commemoratives and a few foreign stamps. Some of the boxes contain off-paper used stamps, organized in glassines, bags, and envelopes by Scott number or type. I know these go back at least to the Prexies and include some Washington-Franklins. It will take some reorganizing to try to put them in accessible numerical order.

There are a couple of shoe boxes of covers from the 1800s to modern. Some seem to have postal history value, and a collector with some knowledge of that is looking them over. There are a few first-day covers also.

Finally, the hoard included a selection of philatelic literature and miscellaneous — two old and partially used albums; a classy unused

Lighthouse U.S. album with pages through 1986; other used albums, stockbooks, binders and supplements; older Scott catalogs; a few Linn's Yearbooks; a shoebox of used glassines; and other material.

My purpose in letting you know about this development is two-fold. First, I'd like to encourage you to consider the Federation if there are parts of your collection of which you'd like to dispose. We can use the material in furthering our outreach programs, and you may be able to offset your income taxes somewhat.

Second, I'd welcome your ideas on the best ways to use such donations.

We already have given some of this hoard to help support young collectors, and more would be available for that purpose. But much of the material is just not suited for a youth give-away. For example, the many boxes of regular-issue stamps may contain some tagging, perforation and paper varieties, but identifying them requires a sophistication most beginners have not developed.

I think our best bet is to sell some of it and put the income into a segregated fund that the Federation can use for outreach. We could conduct a mail sale of some sort through the Federation website, for example.

We could look ahead to Wiscopex in Appleton and do a sale, auction or raffle of some of the better items. Maybe we could use sizable packets as rewards or incentives for service to the hobby.

Some WFSC board members have offered suggestions, but I'm still looking for ideas on how we might best serve clubs and collectors?

Now that the hoard seems safe from the threat of melting snow, we have time to consider all ideas. But eventually we'll have to get those boxes and bags out of my garage.

Please share your knowledge
with your fellow WFSC members

Write a feature for
Across the Fence Post today!

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Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

"Attendance has not been good," according to the newsletter from the **Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club**, Rhinelander. "It would be nice if more of you could make the meeting."

The issue of attendance is a concern to every club that wants to stay vital. The solutions are challenging on one hand and simple on the other. How do you pull people away from a cozy fire and television set in the winter, or from fun or chores outdoors in the summer?

A greater number of members on the club roster could lead to better attendance, so a strong recruiting effort might pay off handsomely in filling chairs at meetings and also providing potential help in other activities of the club. Growth is important, and each present member should be encouraged to find collectors who might become new members. Perhaps part of their first-year dues could be returned to the recruiter as an incentive.

Providing stimulating and worthwhile programs at meetings would also encourage the membership to come out.

Some clubs encourage attendance by paying members. If the name of a member at one meeting is drawn at the **Wauwatosa Philatelic Society**, for example, and if he or she had attended the previous meeting also, that collector could get a prize. Or the club may award to all in attendance "stamp bucks" that can be used in a year-ending auction.

And there are the obvious points to consider: Is the meeting site and the time convenient? If older people are concerned about night driving, could the club arrange a car pool – or even advertise in the member's church bulletin for someone who could provide taxi service once a month? You might even find a new member that way.

Program ideas

The **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club** enjoyed an impromptu program when a guest showed how he keeps track of his coin collection. He keeps the hardware in a safe deposit box but has "very clean, crisp, detailed stored photos of his prizes filed on his laptop" computer. The visitor talked on his

collection of half-dollar Cap Bust, Draped Bust and Flowing Hair coins.

KMC&SC members also got a look at two one-page exhibits — one showing 1932 Washington Bicentennial issues and another on a Nursing theme.

What others are doing

The bulletin of the **Northwoods Philatelic Society** of Iron Mountain, Mich., regularly mentions stamp events in Michigan (such as stamp shows and the first-day ceremonies for the Gerald Ford commemorative stamp in Grand Rapids, Mich., and the Jimmy Stewart stamp in Marquette) outside of the WFSC geographic area, as well as those closer to home. Featuring such attractions as stamp shows promotes members' involvement while creating a vibrant newsletter.

"Our stamp year started with a BANG," the **Outagamie Philatelic Society**, Appleton, trumpeted in its *The Valley Philatelist* bulletin. Those who sold items at a silent auction during the club's first meeting of the fall experienced a boost in energy, the editor explained. "For the rest of us, it was a little quiet." Such a write-up reminds members about club activities. In this case, it's also a way to promote the next auction, planned for the February meeting.

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

Advertising payment notice

If you are advertising in *Across the Fence Post* (either as a dealer 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).

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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.



Daily Mail article suggests stamp collectors are more successful adults

An interesting article in a recent edition of England's *Daily Mail* newspaper suggests that those who collect stamps are more likely to succeed in life than those who do not.

"They may not be seen as the coolest kids in the playground," the article began, "but youngsters who develop an interest in stamp collecting tend to be more successful in their adult lives than the rest of the population, a study suggests."

An unnamed study stated that

researchers found that 74% of philatelists (or at least those in Britain) are university educated, compared with only 20% of the general public. Nearly half, it was reported, earn more than £30,000 a year — nearly £7,000 more than the national average. This compares with roughly \$60,000 and \$14,000 in American dollars.

Other statistics found in the study suggest that three out of four stamp collectors live in homes with

more than three bedrooms, compared with one in three of the rest of the population. One in seven owns a second home, a luxury enjoyed by just one in a hundred of the general British population.

The survey by Royal Mail also reveals that 62% of stamp collectors take at least two holidays every year. But the hobby remains a male-dominated pastime, with just one in 10 women among the country's 2.5 million stamp enthusiasts.

A child behavior expert, Eileen Hayes, told the *Daily Mail* she was not surprised to learn that young collectors tend to make a success of their lives.

"Stamp collecting develops several key skills such as persistence, attention to detail and patience," said Hayes, "all of which contribute largely to the ability of people to succeed academically, in their careers and, ultimately, in their lives."

Free stamps to a good home

Wayne L. Youngblood (with information from reporter Ray Routhier)

A Dec. 17, 2007, article in the *Portland Press Herald* (Maine) told of 68-year-old George Neavoll's search for a 10-year-old version of himself. Why? So that he can give the child his stamp collection.

This novel approach is designed to find a young collector who is serious about the hobby.

"I don't know if kids are even collecting stamps any more, they're so into iPods and DVD players," Neavoll told reporter Ray Routhier. "But I'm hoping I can find someone between 10 and 15, because that's when I became impassioned with stamp collecting."

Neavoll, like most collectors, discovered stamps at that wonderful age of discovery between childhood and adolescence. This interest, like many, was spurred on by the desire to try to enter the world of adults.

To find a 10-year-old version of himself (or someone as close as possible) — and perhaps taking a clue from Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Neavoll decided to run a contest, only one that required an essay, rather than simply finding a golden ticket. He placed an ad in the *Portland Press Herald*, announcing his contest. Neavoll spent more than 30 years working for newspapers.

In his ad, Neavoll asked for young collectors, ages 10-15, to explain in 300 words or fewer, why they would like to own his collection, which he began around 1948. The winner gets the collection. It was that simple.

Neavoll's is a general collection, with stamps from a number

of collecting sources over the years. As for quantity, he says that when he piles his two main albums and several boxes, the pile measures about 3 feet high and 2 1/2 half feet wide.

One of Neavoll's focuses was on those stamps released prior to 1938, the year of his birth.

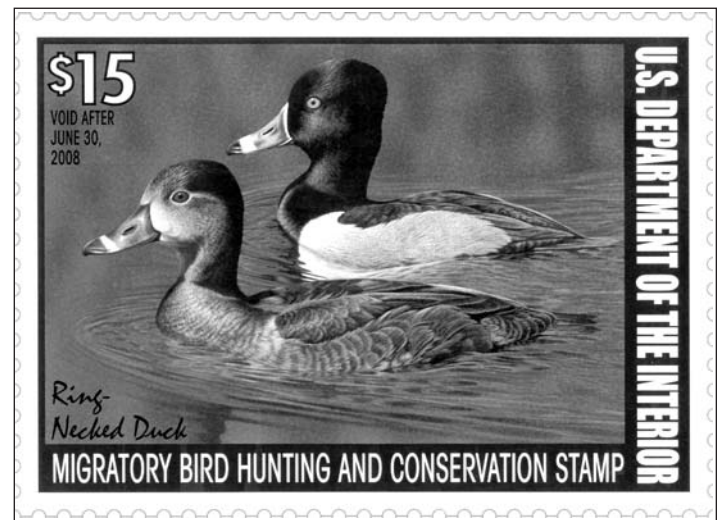
Echoing the views of thousands of middle-aged and older collectors, Neavoll said that "stamps used to be little works of art, little engravings. The ones today are gaudy. They're just mailing labels, I think."

Much of Neavoll's collection was formed early in life, while growing up in Lebanon, Ore. He got many of his stamps from incoming mail to his home, and from his older sister, who worked for the Oregon highway department. He also collected while he was in the Peace Corps in India in the 1960s.

"It was such a learning hobby. I learned the presidents from the 1938 Presidential Series," said Neavoll. Like many of us, he was able to recite the presidents in order, based on their denominations from that series. But he also had a larger curiosity. "When I would mount stamps in my album," Neavoll stated, "it would make me curious about where they came from, what those countries were like, what products they made."

The reporter seemed a bit in awe of Neavoll's continued passion for stamps, but, again, his story is like most of ours. If he is mailing something and wants the recipient

Stamps contest contd. on page 4



The self-adhesive variety of the 2007-2008 Federal Duck stamp is apparently phosphor tagged. This is likely an error, although the entire press run may be affected. Since duck stamps aren't created for postal use, there is no need for tagging. See story below for more.

Tagged Duck stamps?

Wayne L. Youngblood

Apparently at least one version of the 2007-2008 Federal Duck stamp, picturing Richard Clifton's painting of two swimming ring-necked ducks, is phosphor tagged.

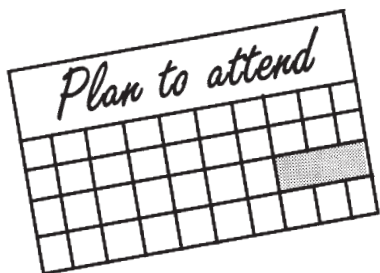
Although I have not yet seen an example of the stamp, several collectors have reported that the self-adhesive automatic teller machine (ATM) version of the \$15 revenue stamp has phosphor tagging, visible only under shortwave ultraviolet light. The self-adhesive version is already considered a separate and distinct variety from the traditional sheet version, so the tagging is not a determiner of type. What is unknown at the moment, however, is whether all examples of this stamp are tagged.

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

Phosphor tagging on stamps is a coating of (usually) zinc-orthosilicate, a mineralogical derivative that is suspended in lacquer, printing ink or paper coatings that makes stamps glow under shortwave UV light. The primary purpose of tagging is so that automated facing and canceling machines 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.

Additional reports of this variety would be welcomed.



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.

Feb. 10, 2008

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

Feb. 17, 2008

**CENWISPEX '08
Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**
JADECO Stamp and Hobby
North Point Mall, 200 Division St.
Contact: J.D. Manville, P.O. Box 845,
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715)-341-5555, jadeco@charter.net

March 1-2, 2008

**STAMPFEST '08
Milwaukee Philatelic Society**
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis
Contact: Carol Schutta, 10250 W.
Sharon Ln., #5, Milwaukee, WI 53225 -
(414)-464-6994,
www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

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2008

Stevens Point Stamp Bourses
Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 22, 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

5.08

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

April 12, 2008

**Wiscopex '08
hosted by the Outagamie Philatelic
Society**
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

**26th Annual Show and Bourse
Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club**
James Williams Middle School, 915
Acacia Ln., Rhinelander, 9 a.m. to 4 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

Collection Contest, from Page 3

enjoy the stamp, he'll take the item to the Portland post office and ask for a hand cancellation, so as not to obliterate the stamp.

But with all this lifelong interest, the Portland reporter asked the obvious question: "Why does Neavoll want to unload his collection now?"

"I'm 68 and eventually something is going to happen to this collection," said Neavoll, "and I'd really like to see it go to someone who appreciates it." Finding a young collector as passionate about collecting as he has been would no doubt scratch the itch.

This isn't the first time Neavoll decided on a contest to place some of his prized possessions in a new home. He did something similar recently with what he calls his "small library" of 3,000 books. He eventually gave them to a group starting a new library in the tiny Aroostook County town of St. Agatha.

As for his stamps, Neavoll didn't have any response by his initial Dec. 15 deadline. He's in no hurry,

however. His goal is really to find his collection a good home, so he told the reporter he'll wait if he has to.

Neavoll's ad reads as follows:

STAMPS IN NEED OF GOOD HOME

"George Neavoll of Portland is holding an essay contest, for ages 10 to 15, as a way to give away his personal stamp collection to someone who will appreciate it. Of the essays, Neavoll says "Young collectors should tell why they would like this general collection, give some background of their own interest in philately, and say why stamp collecting appeals to them.

"Word limit: 300 words or less.

"Essays should be sent as soon as possible to : George Neavoll, 151 North St., No. 204, Portland, ME, 04101-2794 E-mail: gneavoll@maine.rr.com.

I suspect that since Neavoll's goal is to find the best home for his stamp collection as possible, he wouldn't mind hearing from young collectors in Wisconsin or other states.

Croatia protests Italian stamp that claims former city, Fiume "used to be Italian"

Italy was set to release a 65c (euro) stamp Dec. 10 depicting the city of Fiume, but apparently has held back, due to Croatia protest. The stamp, shown with this story, shows the coastal city of Fiume. Above the design, a caption reads "The eastern land that used to be

Italian." Yugoslavia annexed the city from Italian control in 1945.

The Croatian Interior and European Integration Ministry informed Italy that the "content was unacceptable." Italy stated that it would not immediately



issue the stamp following receipt of the protest letter, but would wait for a more "opportune time."

The protest note states that move was inappropriate and goes against the spirit of good neighborly relations and friendship.

The Italian Foreign Ministry was asked to once again inform the Italian government of Croatia's views and to undertake adequate measures to "prevent further distribution of the stamp."

The stamp may or may not be released in the future.