

ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXX No. 5

May-June 2008

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

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

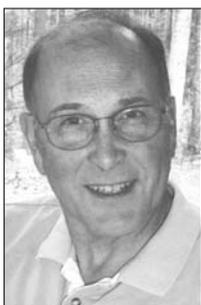
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

President's corner

State of the Hobby

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Contrary to the gloomy outlook that some stamp collectors vocalize about their hobby, I think philately remains strong and may get stronger. The question of the viability of philately is constantly before us, and it's natural to have doubts, I guess, as we see the hair on our fellow stamp club members showing more grey with every meeting.



It was a question in the late 1990s when I was editor of *Stamp Collector*, and surveys showed our average subscriber was in his 60s – as was the audience of *Linn's Stamp News*.

But at the big national shows I would see a lot of younger collectors, too. I still do, and I know that in Wisconsin, specifically, we have a lot of enthusiastic, knowledgeable younger collectors among our number.

Stamp collecting dates to the introduction of the Penny Black in Great Britain in 1840 – but without new designs and new rates, commemorative issues, special stamps of all kinds and the parade of other collectibles in the postal field, the dominant area of the hobby might be postal history today.

Think about it: If stamps were strictly utilitarian, each nation, over the intervening 168

years, would have needed relatively fewer postage stamps. Their designs might have been more basic, conceivably just large numerals to indicate the rate – or maybe, to be a bit more charitable, pictures of important people in different colors to indicate the rates, such as the United States Washington-Franklin series or the Prexies, or the Great Britain Machin heads of Queen Elizabeth.

Postal services, however, have catered to collectors, enticing them with new issues and varieties — planned and unplanned. Collectors responded by gathering them up, and businesses emerged to encourage this great hobby and lead its participants.

Some suggest that in this country the golden age of stamp collecting occurred two or three generations ago, when we all were younger, we had an active stamp collector as president, an eager stamp entrepreneur as postmaster general, and it seemed there was a stamp store on every downtown block.

Admittedly, things have changed.

But I was entranced by the comments of Donald Sundman, president of Mystic Stamp Co., that appeared recently in *Linn's*. Sundman, a son of the company's founder, is perhaps the most visible proponent of stamp collecting today. Advertisements for Mystic's offerings appear in many general-interest magazines and direct mail, not just the philatelic publications.

Sundman observed that the most active collectors today are 50 years old and older, people typically in their peak earning years or retired with a stable income. From his considerable experience, they "continue to add to their col-

lection through thick and thin," Sundman said, adding that collectors are buying this year at the same rate as last year, but in the current economic slowdown their average purchase is for a bit less.

Still, he said, "The high-end market is as active as I've seen it in 30 years."

Sundman, of course, is the guy who traded his company trademark, the 1-cent Z Grill 1868 Benjamin Franklin stamp for a \$2.97 million plate block of the 1918 Jenny Invert.

Just this spring, an 1869 U.S. 24c Declaration of Independence Invert sold for \$1.27 million at auction, making it the most expensive single U.S. stamp ever. In addition, four philatelic items brought nearly \$6 million total at an auction in Switzerland in early April.

So we can see Sundman's point.

In the interview, he enumerated four trends in the hobby:

- 1.) There are more active collectors at the high end seeking a small number of stamps and covers.
- 2.) Stamps have lagged behind other col-

President's Corner continued on Page 3

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Last call for WFSC trip to APS!



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

Many clubs shut down for the summer months, when balmy evenings and vacation plans can interfere with any ambitious stamp club plans. Before you flick the switch to “inactive” mode, consider one more meeting to make plans to restart in the fall.

How about laying out a program schedule – at least a tentative one – for the entire year? Pencil in possible topics and speakers. Take a look at slide shows available from the American Philatelic Society. Consider programs available through the speakers bureau of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs or neighboring stamp collectors or dealers you may know.

Schedule occasional auctions or sales during some meetings. Nothing stirs the blood of a stamp collector like a new source of stamps. Buy box lots from remote dealers for this purpose or let nearby dealers bring in a supply of his wares for sale after a short business meeting. Members themselves can bring items for sale, or trade, with fellow members. Some clubs schedule a special auction at which members can use scrip they earned for participation in club activities.

And while you're at it, plan to get as many people as possible involved in your club during the year. It's easy, on one hand, to let someone else make all the effort. It's even easier, on the other hand, to think that you are the only one with the knowledge or skills to keep a club running. But both mind-sets are self-defeating in the long run, and you'll find it healthier in many ways to share the burdens.

With a little planning you'll be ready to get going again when the days grow shorter.

Program ideas

Members of the **ATA Chapter 5** did some “Armchair Traveling” during one of the colder months. They were asked to bring a one-page exhibit of stamps and covers to a meeting to illustrate places they would like to travel. Prizes were given for most unusual destination, most creative exhibit, favorite exhibit and most informative text.

Love was in the air at the Feb. 14 meeting of the **Waukesha County Philatelic Society**, which had a show-and-tell program on love stamps, covers and programs. The club's Feb. 28 program included a show-and-tell featuring mail pieces with three or more stamps on them. These are two simple ideas that require little setup but can be shared by every collector present.

The **Green Bay Philatelic Society** heard a slide program on the imperforate 1853-64 triangle stamps from the Cape of Good Hope.

The **Kenosha Stamp and Cover Club** also heard an APS slide program — “Life Through the Ages” about fossils on stamps.

What others are doing

ATA Chapter 5, in the southeastern Wisconsin area, learned that the fund drive to establish a section of the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pa., in honor of Mary Ann Owens reached \$11,250. The American Topical Association contributed \$4,300 of that total, and several Wisconsin clubs (as well as the WFSC itself) also contributed generously. The library

area will be dedicated June 22, and many Wisconsin collectors will attend.

The **Wauwatosa Philatelic Society** was unable to hold its children's stamp workshop because of a heavy employee work load at the library. The workshop had become an annual event for the club.

When the **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich., learned that a stamp collector was planning to speak during a hobby program at the nearby Stephenson (Mich.) branch library, a member called and invited him to join the club.

Two newsletters recently included interesting general interest information:

Tim Wait, in the *Rockford Stamp Notes*, newsletter of the **Rockford (Ill.) Stamp Club**, analyzed whopping results of three rare 1869 stamps at auction. The stamps, bought in 1974 for \$100,000, brought \$2,276,950 this year. “That may sound like a lot,” Wait noted, “but it is only a 9.6% annual return.”

Judy Essig, in *The Mint Issue* of the **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, Wis., included two bits of information from the National Topical Stamp Show. Organization leaders are trying to get the USPS to use a different adhesive that might allow stamps to release from an envelope after soaking. Also, Display Class exhibits, those with less than 30% of the material non-philatelic, is finding favor because it makes first-time exhibiting easier and can make exhibits more interesting for observers.

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

Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs officers

PRESIDENT

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

NE REGION VP

Al Marcus (maram@tds.net)
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Northwoods Phil. Soc. (Iron Mountain)
Outagamie Phil. Soc.
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SOUTH CENTRAL REGION VP

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

SE REGION VP

Art Schmitz
pescador@execpc.com
Am. Top. Assn. (Chap. 5)
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Club
Polish American Stamp Club
Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.

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(Billy Mitchell Chapter)
Germany Phil. Soc.
(Chap. 18)
Italian American Stamp Club
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CENTRAL REGION VP

Gregg Greenwald
bluebird@tznnet.com
Central Wisc. Stamp Club
Chippewa Valley Stamp Club
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, 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.



Last Call: WFSC Road Trip is great opportunity

MaryAnn Bowman

Plan to join fellow stamp collectors June 19-22 (Thursday through Sunday) for a road trip to the home of the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte, Pa. Bus pick-ups are scheduled for the Milwaukee and Chicago areas.

You will have the opportunity to tour APS headquarters, spend time in the sales division and research library. You also will be able to participate in Scopex, an area show held by the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society at APS head-

quarters on Saturday, as well as attend two dedication ceremonies: the Mary Ann Owens Thematic

Reasons to Go:

- 1.) Fun and friendship
- 2.) Honor a great philatelist
- 3.) Visit APS headquarters
- 4.) Thousands of sales books
- 5.) Check out the library
- 6.) Go to a show (Scopex)

Reference section of the APRL and the new Headsville Post Office. Trip application forms and a full itinerary are available on the WFSC Web site (wfscstamps.org),

or by mail from MaryAnn Bowman, Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187. The fees include all

Reasons to Stay:

transportation costs, housing and some meals. The cost 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 you to stretch your 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.

The deadline for reservations has been extended through May, or until all reservation spots have been filled!

Different postmarks from Headsville

At least three different styles of postmarks are available at the Headsville post office in Bellefonte, Pa., at APS headquarters. From left is a four-bar black killer, large double-ring parcel cancel (used with both red and black ink) and a red double-ring dating device that can cancel mail or be used on forms. The post office opened March 3, but will be dedicated June 21, while Wisconsin collectors are visiting.



President's Corner from Page 1

lectible fields for some years. (I would suggest that this trend has shown itself since the speculative bubble burst in the early 1980s.) So stamps are cheap compared to other collectibles, and that attracts those people looking for values.

3.) The excitement of rising prices attracts new collectors.

4.) The Euro and the British Pound have increased in value compared with the U.S. dollar, making the U.S. market more attractive to collectors overseas.

Those of us who aren't in stamp collecting's upper crust need low-level collectors to keep the hobby alive, and this is where you come in.

I'd say the U.S. Postal Service is doing its part to entice new people to the hobby. Mystic and other mass-market advertisers are helping by promoting their businesses and the hobby. Maybe you won't find as many stamp stores in your community, but you can find a vast array of stamps for sale on the computer in your home.

It's up to us to do more. Promote the hobby. Encourage younger collectors and other new collectors whom you meet. Keep them coming to your club, and help them learn about the hobby through your programs.

It is a vibrant hobby, and you can help make it even better.

Czech Days Stamp Cancellation



Advertisement

To receive a color cachet envelope with the special Czech Days Station cancellation, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SASE) #10 size and \$1.50 for each cancellation wanted to: Janice Loyd, Postmaster, Tabor Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 21, Tabor, SD 57063. Visit our web site: www.taborczechdays.com.

Amy Petrik of Yankton, S.D., created the 2008 60th Annual Czech Days design.

**THE MILWAUKEE
PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC**

presents

MILCOPEX 2008

at
Bergstrom Hall - Mount Mary College
2900 N. Menomonee River Parkway
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**SKINFLINT PHILATELY
& STATE POSTAL HISTORY**

September 12-14, 2008

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P.O. Box 170832
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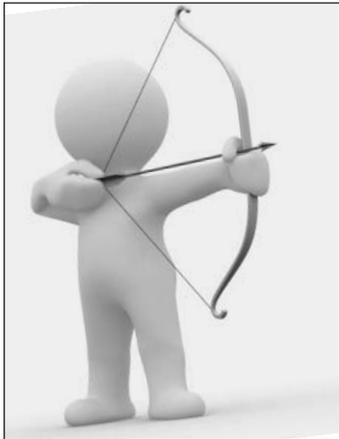
www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

Oshkosh Tops Website Poll; Green Bay Closing the Gap

Steve Kluskens, WFSC
Webmaster

Responses to my report at the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs annual meeting on the rising popularity of club pages on our Website (wfcstamps.org, also wisconsinstamps.org and wisconsinstamps.com) prompted a more complete look at the numbers.

In 2007, pages on the Website were viewed 30,415 times. That's actual pairs of eyes looking at a



Understanding Web lingo when speaking of site traffic is very important. "Page views" is a far more targeted and specific term than "hits."

Web page. "Hits" would be a much larger number, but less meaningful. Also excluded are bots, spiders and worms crawling the Web (you didn't know they had computers, did you?). It's real people.

The Oshkosh Philatelic Society's

page was the most popular among the club pages in 2007, with 347 views. However, as reported at the

annual meeting, the Green Bay Philatelic Society is leading in 2008 with 191 pages viewed already. Both clubs have good information on their Web pages, but I suspect Green Bay's surge is due to monthly updates from their newsletter. That keeps members coming back to the page, since the material is fresh, and it draws search engines like philatelists to a zeppelin. Search engines bring people who didn't know you were there, i.e. new members.

Let's focus on 2007, though. There's enough speculation in the news on how 2008 will end. Green Bay came in second in 2007, with 304 pages viewed. Northwoods Philatelic followed closely with 290, then Rockford Stamp Club with 275, and Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp with 267 views. These last two are especially instructive. Neither Rockford nor Kettle Moraine have but the barest content on their pages. People are going to those pages probably because of the clubs' locations; I have a few geographic terms describing each club page, so search engines have more than an address to work from. However, think of the missed opportunities!

All those eyes looking at your page. Mightn't they be interested in what happens at your meetings, or in buying a cover?

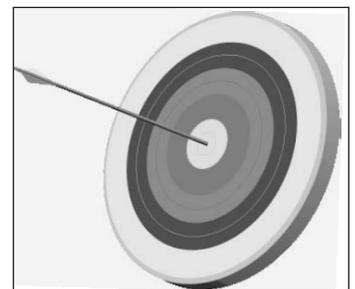
Looking down the list a little further, Central Wisconsin, Badger and Sheboygan Stamp Clubs and the Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Society all topped 200 pages viewed in 2007. Every other club had at least 100 pages viewed. This is the nature of the Web: people browse, even stamp collectors.

Your club isn't confined to one page, either. Badger Stamp Club's 2006-2007 flyer was downloaded 30 times, and the Wisconsin Postal History Society's sampling of documents online drew 134 downloads, besides the 369 times their main page was looked at. Being a statewide group, I didn't rank them in the club contest, but they have the breadth of information on their page that Web surfers are looking for.

Clubs get exposure on the WFSC Website via the show calendar, as well. As you might guess, that's our most popular page after the home page. Besides listing your show, I'm happy to post a related graphic to make it stand out. A great example is Danepex's commemorative cover, which really spruced up that page this last month. In the interest of keeping

our Website fast and information-focused, the graphics are rigorously specific to the content. Commemorative covers fit that bill perfectly, and look great online!

Of course, the way to post material to the WFSC Website is to send it to me. If you can email it, that saves me a little typing. Send it to: webmaster@wfcstamps.org. I can read any type of file you might have. I'm happy to get USPS mail, too: Steve Kluskens, N21531 Chapman Road, Niagara, WI 54151. If you send me covers, I'll carefully scan them for posting, and send them back. If you have any questions about the Website or the



The more fresh content you feature on your Web page, the more you attract specific searches and desired visitors.

traffic count, write to either address.

Finally, the Milwaukee Philatelic Society runs its own Website, so I didn't include the group in this contest. I have no doubt that their solid content drew a lot of traffic as well.

Wisconsin 2008 Exhibiting Awards

Gold

Roland Essig *Under the Big Top*
also: Champion of Champions and People's Choice

Larry Nix *A Tale of Two Library Stamps*

Open competition

Fred Ziemann *Towards A Common Tongue* — Best of Show

Single Frame

Silver

Roland Essig *Michael, Gabriel and Associates*

Bronze

Milt Wirth *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Post Office*

Silver, single-frame display

Judy Essig *Chapeaux Rouge* also: Husak Award

Youth Gold and Footloose Philatelist Award

Emma Sorenson *Dogs*

WFSC Club with the most exhibits was Kettle Moraine Stamp and Coin Club

All 1942 One-Pagers Won a Special Award Ribbon and the Best in Category represented
Karen Weigt *And the Winner is ...* Best Use of U. S. Stamps

Milt Wirth *1942 Christmas Seal* Best Use of Cinderellas

Robert Mather *Selected Stamps* Best Creative Use of Stamps

With A Value of 42

Art Gaffney *FDCs of 1942* Best Use of FDCs

Tom Meyers *Win the War* Most Philatelic

and Vermont Commemorative

George Strieter *Win the War* Best Representation of Social History

Spencer Schreiner *1942: U.S. Fights Back* Most Colorful

Verna Shackleton *Rationing Hits Everyone* Best Use of Revenues and Best of Show

MaryAnn Bowman *1942 Stamp Issues* Best Use of Foreign Stamps

of Finland

Robert Mather *1942 Australian* Best Use of Pacific Area Stamps

Independence

R. Ulatt *1942 Brazil Stamps,* Best Use of Air Mail Stamps

Covers, and Vichy Issue

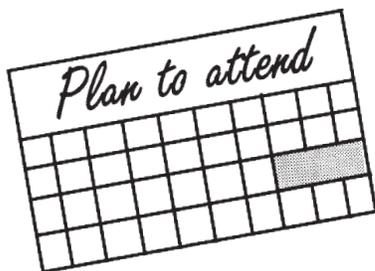
Verna Shackleton *Canadian Propaganda* Best WWII Material

Covers - 1942

Richard A. Kern *1942 WWII Era* Best Cachet

Judging this year were WFSC judges Jack Green, Brian Liedtke and Art Schmitz.

During the awards ceremony WFSC President Maurice Wozniak introduced the Class of '08 Hall of Fame inductee Wayne Youngblood, editor of the *ATFP*. Honored as WFSC Dealer of the Year was Bob Voss, Lake Edge Stamps from Madison. Congratulations to all of you for your participation and the promotion of Wisconsin philately.



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.

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

May 17, 2008

Migratory Bird Day
Milwaukee Philatelic Society (In conjunction with Milwaukee County Zoo)
 Milwaukee County Zoo, Peck Building,
 10001 W. Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee
 Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: MPS, P.O. Box 13245,
 Wauwatosa WI 53213
 www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

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

Sept. 12-14, 2008

Milcopex '08
Milwaukee Philatelic Society
 Bergstrom Hall, Mount Mary College,
 2900 N. Menomonee River Parkway,
 Milwaukee, WI
Contact: Robert Henak, MPS, P.O. Box
 170832, Milwaukee WI 53217
 (414) 351-1519 henak@execpc.com
 www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

Sept. 27, 2008

WaUSApeX '08
Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Society
 Wausau Labor Temple, Stewart and 3rd
 Aves., Wausau 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: WVPS, P.O. Box 71, Wausau WI
 54402-0071 melsonjm@yahoo.com

Oct. 4, 2008

Monroe Stamp & Postcard Show
Monroe Stamp & Postcard Club
 Monroe Public Library, 925 16th Ave.,
 Monroe WI, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact: Earl Button, 1214 Second St,
 Monroe WI 53566
 (608) 328-2827 ebutton@tds.net

Oct. 25-26, 2008

Tosapex '08
Wauwatosa Philatelic Society
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 S. 92nd
 St., West Allis WI
Contact: John Fagan, P.O. Box 13102,
 Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0102
 faganfalls@aol.com

Nov. 22, 2008

Oshkosh Stamp Bourse
Oshkosh Philatelic Society
 Elk's Club, 175 Fernau St., Oshkosh WI
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus (920) 725-0798
 allan.mary@hotmail.com

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

Nov. 21-23, 2008

Arlington Heights, IL

Chicagopex '08
Chicago Philatelic Society
 Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 W.
 Euclid, Arlington Heights, IL

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

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

WFSC Hall of Fame Committee Seeks Nominations

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs Hall of Fame Committee is seeking nominations for the 2009 Hall of Fame award, which will be announced at Wiscopex '09. Nominations can be sent to:

Art Schmitz, Chairman
 3615 N. 47th St.
 Milwaukee, WI 53216-2902
 or at: pescador@milwpc.com

With the name of your nominee, please include a report of the accomplishments and the contributions he or she has made to the WFSC to deserve the Hall of Fame award.

Thank you, Hall of Fame Committee...

Verna Shackleton
 Karen Weigt
 Art Schmitz, Chairman

Here...

Remember to patronize *Across the Fence Post* advertisers. They help support our hobby!

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

5.08

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

5.08

Lake Edge Stamp Service (L.E.S.S.) 

Robert T. Voss
 5333 Kevins Way
 Madison, WI 53714

lestamps@charter.net
 (608) 221-2311

Lots of Worldwide Stamps
 Bought and Sold 

03.09 

Roger H. Oswald
 R.H.O. Postal History and Stamps

Buy, Sell, & Trade
 Civil War Artifacts
 Postcards & Stamps
 Paper Americana

2514 Sheridan Pl.
 Manitowoc, WI 54220
 (920) 682-6793
 rhpostalhistory@att.net



03.09

**North Shore Philatelic Society
American Topical Association, Chap. 5**

present

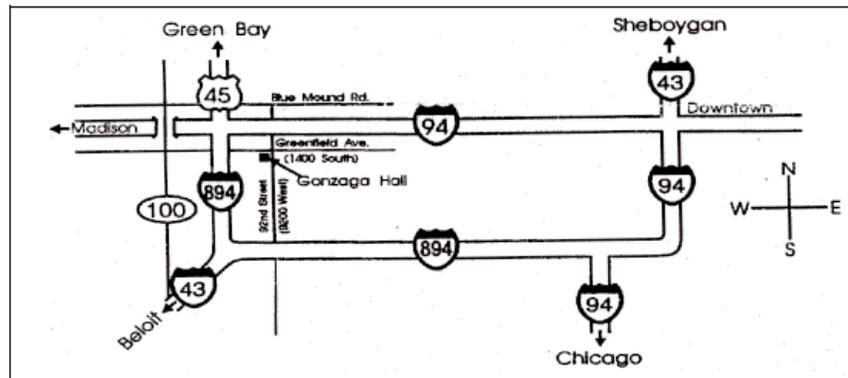
TRIPEX STAMP FAIR 2008

at

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

Saturday, June 28, 2008 10 AM - 5 PM
Sunday, June 29, 2008 10 AM - 4 PM

Free Admission and Parking



For Information or bourse application
Rob Henak
(414) 351-1519
henak8010@sbcglobal.net
www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org