

Palm Beach Stamp Club

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NEWSLETTER

February 2026



Palm Beach Stamp Club
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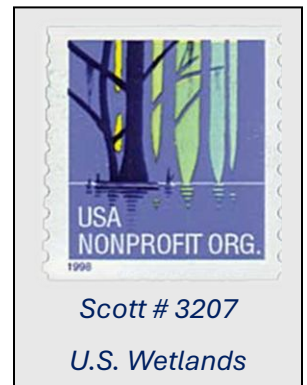


American Philatelic Society
Chapter Affiliate #923
Membership Affiliate #81338

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it's always rich with philatelic discoveries. As winter settles in, collectors everywhere find themselves turning to their albums, reorganizing pages, chasing down new issues, and rediscovering the stories tucked inside long-forgotten covers. It's a perfect moment to slow down, warm up, and enjoy the hobby that connects us across time and distance.

As always, thank you for being part of our community. Your enthusiasm, questions, and shared knowledge keep our club vibrant. This is a month for good company, good stories, and good stamps – share your joy at one of our club meetings!

Stamp of the Month - On February 2, 1971, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Waterfowl was signed in Ramsar, Iran. Concern was first raised in the early 1960s about continued destruction of wetlands and their irreversible effect on people, animals and waterbirds. Wetlands play an important role in nature and are an important habitat for several species of wildlife. Wetlands are an efficient natural system that filters pollutants from the water, absorbs excess nutrients, and reduces flooding.



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The U.S. Postal Service implemented new procedures for dating mail on Dec. 24, 2025, postmarking letters and packages with the date they are processed at a postal facility rather than when they are dropped off in a mailbox — a shift that could affect whether time-sensitive mail is considered on time. This action could create real challenges for consumers dealing with deadline-driven mail matters this tax season and beyond.



We have changed our monthly meeting days to the second and fourth Thursdays and we held our first meeting on January 8th. Fritz Angst provided an in-depth review of Canadian “Bottled-in-Bond” liquor stamps, including actual revenues, forgeries, and fakes. Club members also voted for their favorite 2025 Palm Beach Stamp Club newsletter article at this meeting.

Keith Lichtman wins gold with his article *Wilkins-Ellsworth Expedition*. Juan L. Riera won Silver with *Arturo Pratt, Hero of the War of the Pacific* and Pat Hensley won Bronze for *Model T Ford*. Awards were presented at the club’s annual luncheon on January 22nd.

Two of our club members were recipients of awards at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, January 16-18. Dan Maddalino received the Large Silver award for his single-frame display on *Errors, Freaks and Oddities from Jamaica Locally Applied War Stamp Overprints*. Juan L. Riera received two Silver/Bronze awards for literature submissions: *Arturo Prat, Hero of the War of the Pacific*; and *The SS Ancon & the Opening of the Panama Canal*. Congratulations!

Our next library outreach presentation is set for the Mandel Public Library, 411 Clematis Street, West Palm Beach on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 12 Noon.

Plans for our Spring stamp show on March 21st at the Embassy Suites Hotel are ongoing.



February 7, Central Florida Stamp Club Winter Stamp Show, Maitland Civic Center, 641 Maitland Ave., Maitland, 32751, Saturday, 10-3:30

February 8, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show at the Azan Shrine Center, Sunday 9:30-3:00, Melbourne, 32935.

February 21, Jacksonville Stamp Show, Hendricks Baptist Church, 4001 Hendricks Rd., Jacksonville, 32207, Saturday, 9:30-4.

February 28, BAYPEX Stamp & Coin Show, Hampton Inn, 4017 Tampa Rd., Oldsmar, 33677, Saturday 9:30-3.

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Candy Hearts

Pat Hensley

Candy hearts have a surprisingly rich—and very quirky—history. They weren't originally invented for romance at all, and their journey from medicinal lozenges to Valentine's icons spans more than 175 years.

Candy hearts — the little pastel sweets with messages like “Be Mine” or “Kiss Me” — have been around for a very long time. Boston pharmacist Oliver Chase invented a machine in the 1860s that eventually helped make the candy. His brother, Daniel Chase, later figured out how to print short sayings directly on the candies, which became known as “candy hearts” or “conversation hearts.” The heart shape became popular around 1901, and these sweets have been associated with Valentine's Day ever since.



The 2004, 37¢ Love Series: Candy Hearts postage stamp (Scott #3833) was made by the United States Postal Service and first sold on January 14, 2004. The stamp shows two colorful candy hearts that spell out “I love you.” It was designed by Michael Osborne and printed by Avery Dennison using a process called gravure. The stamp was part of the popular Love Series, which has been used for Valentine's Day and other sweet messages. Over 750 million of these stamps were made to help people send love through the mail.

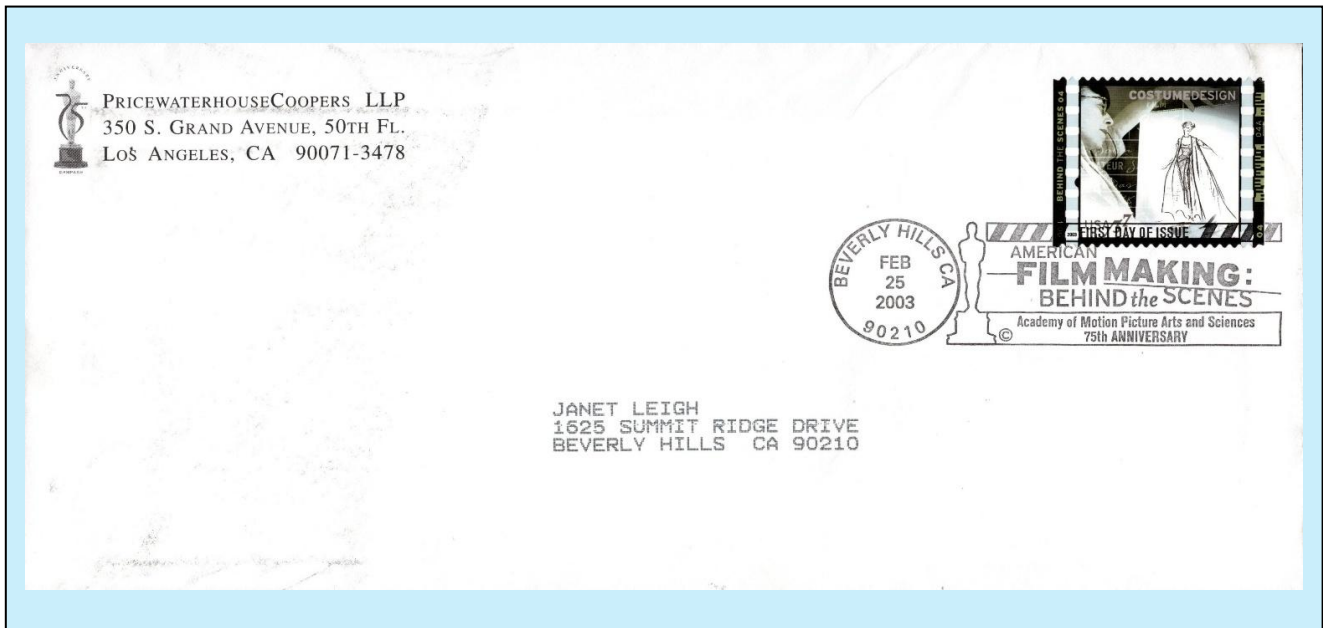
Decorating with Candy Day is a fun celebration that happens every February 1st. On this day, people are encouraged to use candy to decorate food, pictures, tables, or even rooms to make things bright and tasty. It comes between Christmas and Valentine's Day, when candy is already a big part of holiday fun. I like to make Valentine cards and glue the candy with the words that replace my writing. Whether you add candy sprinkles to cookies or make candy pictures, this day is all about enjoying sweets and being creative with them!

References:

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Behind the Scenes

Keith Lichtman



In 2003, I was working on Wall Street. My job allowed me to meet and / or work with some famous people. One of the stockbrokers I had worked with was Robert Brandt who was married to actress Janet Leigh. Janet Leigh amassed many screen and stage credits over her five-decade career. She received nominations for an Academy Award and was the recipient of the Golden Globe Award.

The Academy Awards, commonly known as the Oscars, are awards for artistic and technical merit in film. They are presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science in recognition of excellence in cinematic achievements, as assessed by the Academy's voting membership. The Oscars are widely considered to be the most prestigious awards in the film industry. Janet Leigh was a voting member of the Academy.

Janet's husband, Bob Brandt, knew I was a stamp collector and sent me the 2003 cover (above) that Janet received from the Academy. It is franked with Scott #3772c, the Costume Design postage stamp from the American Filmmaking: Behind the Scenes sheet, which honors the 75th anniversary of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science. What a great surprise!

Sadly, for collectors, mail ballots are no longer used as the Academy has switched to online voting. The 75th Academy Awards ceremony took place at the Kodak Theater on March 23, 2003, in Hollywood, California. The ceremony was hosted by Steve Martin and "Chicago" won six awards, including best picture.



October 9, 2002 - New Postage Stamps Honoring Filmmaking (Scott #3772) unveiled In Beverly Hills.



Accountants from PricewaterhouseCoopers counted, sorted and numbered ballots before massive mailing.



Passing ballots into the Postal Service truck.

COME TO FLORIDA HEALTH & WEALTH

Michael Swope



In the early 1920s, Florida wasn't just a destination — it was a promise. Advertisements from Miami to Palm Beach urged Americans to “Come to Florida for Health and Wealth,” a slogan that distilled the hopes of a nation eager for sunshine, prosperity, and a fresh start after World War I. What followed was a dramatic real-estate boom.

Long before air-conditioning, Florida's greatest selling point was its winter warmth. Doctors in northern cities routinely recommended “sunshine therapy” for respiratory ailments, arthritis, and the vague but fashionable “nervous exhaustion.” Resorts and hotels promoted sea-bathing, fresh air, and outdoor recreation as restorative treatments. For many families from Detroit, Chicago, and New York, a Florida winter became not just a luxury but a prescription. Railroads and newspapers amplified the messages.

If the climate promised health, the land promised riches. The 1920s Florida Land Boom transformed the state into a national obsession. Developers advertised new communities with glamorous illustrations and claims. Speculation became a pastime.

The boom collapsed almost as quickly as it rose. Hurricanes in 1926 and 1928 devastated South Florida. For collectors, the era produced a fascinating trail of postal history: land-boom promotional covers, hotel stationery, and winter-season postmarks from towns that barely existed a decade earlier. Each piece is a small artifact of a time when Florida sold the nation a dream — and the nation eagerly bought it.

Shown above is a 1922 Curt Teich Company (Chicago) folder postcard containing nineteen Florida pictures. It is franked with the 1¢ green, Washington postage stamp, Scott #543. It was cancelled at Altamonte Springs, Florida on January 29, 1924.

Ref: Postcard from Author's collection; Wikipedia.com