

AFDCS Has Georgia On Its Mind for Americover, August 3-5 in Atlanta

The American First Day Cover Society brings Americover 2018, its annual show and convention, to the Atlanta area this year. It is the AFDCS' first time ever in Georgia, and its first time south of the Washington, D.C., area in almost a quarter of a century.

The show is being held August 3-5 at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Peachtree Corners, GA 30092, just 20 miles from downtown Atlanta. Admission and parking are free. The bourse hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There also is a cachetmakers bourse Saturday evening from 3:30 to 7 p.m., followed by a special Cachetmakers Moonlight Meal, open to cachetmakers, collectors and friends.

There is a special Americover room rate of \$99 at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast, which includes Wednesday and Sunday nights.

Among the highlights during the show are a dedication ceremony for the Frozen Treats stamps; the largest collection at any one venue all year of first day cover dealers; stamp dealers; the largest cachetmakers (new issue FDC producers) bourse of the year; a World Series of Philately national-level exhibition of rare and unusual first day covers; and the announcement of the winners of the annual AFDCS Cachet Contest, complete with visual displays.

The annual meetings of the AFDCS, the American Ceremony Program Society, Cachet Makers Association (Chapter #65), the 7-1-71 Affair (Chapter #50), the Maximum Card Study Unit (Chapter #67) and the Art Cover Exchange (Chapter #79) will be held during Americover 2018.

The Frozen Treats dedication ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday in the hotel's Medlock Auditorium.

There are also two fund-raising auctions, which will include unique items produced especially for the AFDCS and bulk lots. There are hospitality suites each evening.

There is a special cachet for Americover 2018, and a different pictorial postmark for each day of the show, designed by Dani Levis, an American Philatelic Society Young Philatelic Leadership Fellow in the Design Track, and a cachetmaker herself.



As a WSP show, the winner of the Grand Award at Americover 2018 will be part of the Champion of Champions competition at StampShow 2019. The jury is chaired by Tim Bartsche, includes Bill Schultz, Steve McGill, Douglas Clark and William Fort. For the ninth year, the Claude C. Ries (Southern California) chapter of the AFDCS is providing the Grand award, a crystal pyramid. Last year's version is shown in the photograph.

The Americover Youth Table should be something special this year, because it is being run by the same crew that operates the popular Southeastern Stamp Expo booth. In addition, there will be unserviced line-drawing cacheted envelopes for the Dragons stamps being issued the following week. Kids at the show can color and address them; AFDCS youth chair Mary Ann Bowman will take care of servicing them. The American Topical Association is participating in the project, and the artwork is being designed by cartoonist Dave Bennett.

The day before the show, many of those attending Americover 2017 will spend the day touring sites in downtown Atlanta. The Americover bus will drop off participants at a location that is close to everything from Fish to Football: It is within two blocks of the College Football Hall of Fame, the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coca Cola, the Center for Civil and Human Rights museum, and CNN World Headquarters. Participants will be able to choose any of the nearby venues, or even spend time in Centennial Olympic Park.

After the show closes on Sunday, many of the participants will go to dinner at The Crossing, a steakhouse in the former train station of Norcross, Ga.

As is customary, those attending the Americover tour and food events receive special cover souvenirs designed by leading cachetmakers.

More information on Americover 2018 is available on the AFDCS Web site, www.afdcs.org, by e-mail from showinfo@afdcs.org or if time allows by regular mail from the AFDCS, PO Box 16277, Tucson, AZ 85732.