

POSTAL NEWS

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National contact: Leisha Palmore-Drummond leisha.i.palmore-drummond@usps.gov

> Local contact: Tim Norman timothy.j.norman@usps.gov usps.com/news



Fly by Night: Catch a Luna Moth Near You

U.S. Postal Service issues stamp for irregularly sized cards and invitations

SCHAUMBURG, IL — Today, the U.S. Postal Service issued Luna Moth, a nondenominated stamp priced at the non-machineable surcharge rate, at the Great American Stamp Show here.

A pale green luna moth graces the new release, which is designed for use on irregularly sized envelopes such as square greeting cards, invitations or announcements.

Noted for their lovely green coloring and larger-than-average size, luna moths (*Actias luna*) are among the most beautiful moths in the United States.

The stamps come in panes of 20 and are available at Post Office locations nationwide and online at usps.com/shopstamps.

Stamp design

Luna Moth was designed by Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, using an existing image by artist Joseph Scheer.

The stamp features an image of a pale green luna moth with darker edges and eyespots on all four wings. The moth has a white and yellow body with feathery brown antennae between its forewings.

Scheer created the image using a high-resolution scanner with extended focus, which allowed him to program in a variety of depths of field at exact points above the scanner glass. As many as 32 layers were scanned individually to ensure that all parts of the preserved moth would appear in sharp focus. These layers were stitched together to create the final image.

Near the bottom of the stamp, the words "NON-MACHINEABLE SURCHARGE" appear in uppercase letters directly below the word "USA," which is printed in brown type. Like a Forever stamp, it will always be valid for the rate printed on it.

Postal products

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the <u>Postal Store</u> at <u>usps.com/shopstamps</u>, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through <u>USA Philatelic</u> or at Post Office locations nationwide. For officially licensed stamp products, shop the <u>USPS Officially Licensed Collection on Amazon</u>. Additional information on stamps, first-day-of-issue ceremonies and stamp-inspired products can be found at <u>StampsForever.com</u>.

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Please Note: The United States Postal Service is an independent federal establishment, mandated to be self-financing and to serve every American community through the affordable, reliable and secure delivery of mail and packages to nearly 169 million addresses six and often seven days a week. Overseen by a bipartisan Board of Governors, the Postal Service is implementing a 10-year transformation plan, *Delivering for America*, to modernize the postal network, restore long-term financial sustainability, dramatically improve service across all mail and shipping categories, and maintain the organization as one of America's most valued and trusted brands.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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