

FROM THE INTERIM EDITOR'S DESK

Chris Dahle, BU 1269

Happy 70th Birthday! The Biology Unit is one of the oldest Study Units of the American Topical Association. The ATA marked its 70th birthday in 2019 with celebrations at the joint show with the American Philatelic Society that Augusts. Now it's our turn. Maybe some of our members would like to organize a celebration for the Unit at the Great American Stamp Show which may be held in Chicago (at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont), August 12-15. Additional decisions about the show are expected by the end of March according to news releases from the American Philatelic Society and the American Topical Association. See more in the News of Note section on page 3.

Are there any collectors of Marine Invertebrates still in the Unit? If there are, would you be interested in becoming the Associate Editor for us? We have not had a column on Marine Invertebrates since Ian Hunter bowed out some time ago. While I am asking for volunteers, I would be happy to hand over the job of Editor to someone new.

If you can stand more time in front of your computer, there are wonderful opportunities for expanding your philatelic knowledge and interests with seminars from the APS and the ATA among others. In January, the ATA had a series called "Warm Up to Topicals." These lectures will be available to view after the fact if indeed you missed them. The APS is offering summer courses online rather than in person this year. These courses will have a fee associated with them, with a discount for APS members. A schedule of courses will be posted on the APS web site by March 1. And the APS Philatelic Library has been open to all collectors since the beginning of the pandemic.

As web master, I have been using Adobe Dreamweaver CS4 to edit and post *Biophilately* on the internet. The software makes it easy to make changes and post content. Unfortunately, in November I had to buy a new computer after my 10-year old one died. And the old software is not compatible with the operating system on the new computer. Adobe now sells the software by subscription, which we have bought at a discount. But it does involve a \$21 monthly fee, which was approved by the Board of Directors. To offset this loss in revenue, it looks like we will have to increase the dues for the digital version of *Biophilately* to \$20 per year. The Board of Directors has not been asked to address this proposition yet.

One of the advantages of the digital subscription is that you get the images in full color. With the new publisher we could also print the journal in color, but it would mean an increase in the cost. I do not know the numbers at this point to estimate the increase in dues for all members. Please send your comments to me at chris-dahle@biophilately.org.

DUES RATES (US\$)

US membership \$25

Canada membership \$30

Worldwide membership \$45

On-line membership \$15

Please see the Biology Unit web site (www.biophilately.org) for membership applications. Several payment options are available. Send applications and payments payable to the Biology Unit of ATA to Chris Dahle, 1401 Linmar Dr NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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