

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well, here we are three months into 1905 already and the Christmas and New Year's festivities probably a distant memory. On the principal of "better late than never", I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season.

I am afraid this month's issue is quite a bit "thinner" than normal, as our bird sub-editors, Chuck Braun and Randy Shore are in the process of producing longer lists for the second issue. I hope all the bird fanciers will bear with us.

My wife and I were down in Atlanta in February at the APS AmeriStampExpo and it was nice to meet up with friends from some of the societies that attended. One of these was the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa, for which I have the honour of serving as President, and there were several members involved in discussions about the society. One thing that came up was the fact that age is beginning to play a part in these activities, with the treasurer hinting that he would like to be replaced in the fairly near future. This of course parallels our own case where our treasurer of many years has been replaced. In addition to this, I have recently written in the "*Philatelic Aurelian*" about the problems that a similar group in Germany had with the near foundering of their society, saved at the last minute by volunteers to take over some of the duties of producing a journal. Naturally, without a journal or newsletter of some kind, most societies would be hard put to it to keep going. Hopefully some of our younger members will think about this!

Chris Dahle, our Botany Editor, Webmaster and Secretary, received an e-mail from Roberta Walsh in which she said; "I went back to take another look at the December Biophilately today and I still can't get over how great it looks and how easy it is to navigate and print selections. Just had to tell someone. I thought this was really great and a tribute to how hard Chris has worked to get the website up and running and easily usable. Thanks Chris!

The annual NTSS show in Milwaukee is only two and a half months away - just nice time to book at the hotel and for the tours. It will be good to revisit Milwaukee, as we had a really great time in 1999 - they sure are a hard-working group and their annual Milcopex show has been going for a long time. I Hope that Fran, Chris and I will see quite a few Biology Unit members at the show. The exhibits are starting to pile up and there is a good list of dealers that will be in attendance.

The snow has started to disappear from southern Ontario with the advent of some warmer temperatures and we saw Grackles in the trees at the back of our house the other morning. There are Robins back also and the Blue Jays are active (no, not the baseball version!). Snowdrops are also evident in the garden - roll on Spring!

Until next time.

Alan J. Hanks

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