

**BIOLOGY UNIT MEETING - Friday, June 2, 2006**

The meeting was held at 1 p.m. in the Washington, DC Convention Centre, a very large facility covering a couple of city blocks with L street running through the center of it! In attendance were Alan J. Hanks (Editor), Barbara M. Hanks (proof-reader), Don Wright (Director and Entomology Editor), Fred C. Skvara (Director), Laurie J. Ryan (Treasurer), Jim Skaptason, Mildred Barylski, Sidney Schlein, Dorothy Spencer & guest and Michael P. Cohen. Those present spent some time getting acquainted and stating what their collecting interests were. I made a brief report on the journal and the fact that we were at a stage of potentially losing some of our stalwart people, but as you can see from the editorial, some methods of filling in the holes have been found. Don Wright told us that he was changing the classification system for butterflies and moths according to a more recent arrangement of families. It was observed that many collectors do not bother with science but just collect stamps! However, we do have to cater to our professional members and it is very easy to ignore the science if one wishes. Altogether a reasonable meeting, although we missed our President!

Alan Hanks

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**AN APPEAL FROM RAY CARTIER OF THE ATA**

As some of you may know, the ATA show next year is in Dallas and Ray and Karen Cartier are planning lots of interesting things for visitors. Ray has asked the Biology Unit for some volunteers to put together about 4 or 5 pages of birds found in Texas (on white pages) and also someone else to do about 5 to 6 pages of animals found in Texas. Ray will have live Texas critters on display and wants to back those up with a frame that includes insects, birds and animals found in the Lone Star State!

Animals could include kid favorites like the armadillo, alligator, porcupine, coyote, wolf, box turtle, toad, rattlesnake, Mexican Milk Snake, king snake, barred Tiger Salamander, ferret and prairie dogs. Birds could include cardinals, blue jays, robins, road runner (chapparal), red-tailed hawk, sparrow hawk, kingfisher, white winged dove, mourning dove, grackles, various woodpeckers and/or chickadees.

Ray expects to have the following at the show for an hour on Saturday:

Barred Tiger Salamander; Woodhouse's Toad; Ornate Box Turtle; Mexican Milk Snake; Speckled Kingsnake; Domestic Ferret; Black-tailed Prairie Dog and North American Porcupine.

Any help from the Biology Unit would be greatly appreciated.

Ray Cartier

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