

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Firstly, I must apologize yet again for the lateness of a Biophilately issue. Since we had planned on driving out to Oregon for the show and then back again to Aurora, practically the whole of June just disappeared. Luckily, all the associate editors had sent in their columns so I was able to start work quickly and get issue number 2 assembled. Hopefully, we will catch up with number 3!

Our journey from Aurora, Ontario out to Portland for the National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS – 2008) was relatively uneventful, as we were lucky enough to escape the storms and flooding in Iowa, some of which we observed as we passed through and much worse to come afterwards. We traveled on some roads which we had not negotiated on other trips and that made the journey more interesting. I had thought that Nevada had one of the longest straight roads in the United States with Highway 50, but south-eastern Oregon runs that a close second. One highlight was Smith's Rock State Park in Bend, Oregon, where there were a number of vertical rock faces and several intrepid climbers doing what is known I believe as "free-climbing". It looked pretty hairy to me and not something I would ever have attempted! Two busloads of school students were observing the climbers while they traveled up to the top of the rocks by rough path and stairs. Before we reached Portland, we drove over some high forested country with plenty of snow in evidence and areas of relatively thick fog. Two large trucks following me took quite a lot of attention to stay ahead of!

There are several reports on the show: the Biology Unit meeting report by Chris Dahle, a report on the exhibits of biological interest by your editor and a mention of the show in the President's letter. The President's Reception and Banquet were both very good and our chief judge, Ken Martin kept the awards presentations moving along so that we were able to go and look at the exhibits afterwards.

This issue has lots of information on birds, with 18 pages of new issues from Glenn Mertz and 10 pages of 'New Birds in the Aviary' from Chuck Braun. Chuck sends his copy by e-mail and then the illustrations arrive by regular mail in the form of colored images tacked on to the pages in family order. Then I mount these on a separate sheet and scan them into a file, which is then used to move each illustration to the correct location within the text. This gives me the option of resizing to the original dimensions and changing the contrast to improve the look of the image. This then gets a black and white copy to include with the m/s sent to Fran for mailing. Then I make up a running set of all the sections to e-mail as attachments to Chris Dahle for placing on the website. It does sound like a lot of work and the problem is that some of us do not have the time or the inclination to keep up with every facet of computer wizardry. In other words, it is hard to teach old dogs new tricks! The files that are just lists are much easier to deal with of course and luckily, that forms the majority of the journal contents

Until next time - Alan J. Hanks

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