

PIPEX 2012

The PIPEX 2012 stamp show, sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs (NWFSC) was held in Portland, Oregon, over the weekend of 11–13 May 2012. In addition to NWFSC, the Women Exhibitors (WE) group, the Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceana (SAS/O), and the Poster Stamp Collectors Club also held their conventions at the event.

Perhaps due in part to the outstandingly beautiful spring weather in Portland, attendance was modest, but the show provided plenty of attractions, including a visit by some pirates! Thirty-six dealers were on hand to offer their material for purchase and I admit to spending a lot of time and some of my money at their tables.

Because this show is one of the official American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately events, it attracted a large number of high quality exhibits. The majority of these were traditional philatelic types, but there were several thematic exhibits as well, some with a biology topic. Anne Harris won a vermeil medal and the ATA 1st Place Award for her nine-frame exhibit titled, “The Horse in America During Its Golden Age.” This fascinating display exhibit used several unusual collateral items including horse hair, a horse hoof, and actual horse teeth. The exhibit even had a digitized version of an early 20th Century nickelodeon “movie” showing a horse drawn mail wagon making a delivery to a rural mailbox. Who says stamp collecting is not fun?

Tony Wawrukiewicz won a silver medal for his single frame exhibit titled, “Why There is Human Life on the Earth.” This thematic exhibit covered a period of a mere four billion years from the formation of the solar system to the appearance of the first hominid species. This would seem to be hard to do in a single frame, but a very intriguing exhibit and clearly relating to the biology topic.

There were two youth exhibits that employed biology themes. Geneva Varga (age 9) won a silver medal plus the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Youth Award and the ATA Youth Award for her exhibit titled, “Birds of the World,” showing birds grouped by scientific order. Joshua Maralt (age 8) won a bronze medal for his exhibit titled, “Don’t Save the Whales, Collect Them!” (a terrific title, if you ask me) that showed various whale species on stamps.

In addition to these strictly thematic exhibits, several others showed biological subjects as part of their material. Michael Jaffe’s waterfowl hunting stamp exhibit contained numerous examples of waterfowl. Several cover exhibits included beautiful hand-painted cachets featuring flowers, insects, and birds.

The ATA held a regional meeting on Saturday that was well attended. Cathie Osborne from Sequim, Washington, gave a very interesting presentation showing pages from her topical collection of bells on stamps describing the wide variety bell items.

Shown at right is Vera Felts, the ATA Executive Director, holding one of two display items donated to the ATA office at the meeting by Carol and Keith Edholm, also Biology Unit members.

These frames show various marine invertebrate specimens each with a postage stamp depicting the identical species.

