

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

On the preceding page you may note that we have a new Publicity Director. William Cochrane from Castlemaine in Victoria, Australia, operates the Philatelic Database web site (<http://www.philatelicdatabase.com>) and a philatelic news site (<http://philatelynews.com>). He has been promoting the Biology Unit and *Biophilately* on his sites and on Facebook. It has been 20 years since the Unit had an official Publicity Director, but as the Biology Unit, like so many other organizations these days, has been seeing a decline in membership, the Board has been discussing ways to publicize the Unit and acquire new members. Because he has already become involved in this effort on his own, the Board asked Mr. Cochrane to formally take on the job and he agreed. So, welcome aboard. If any members have ideas or suggestions regarding publicity, please contact William at the addresses shown.

On the last pages of this edition, you will find a proposed revision of the Unit Constitution and By-Laws. The last time the Unit updated these documents was in 2000. Even some of our officers were unaware of how long it has been since we have reviewed them. The proposed changes reflect the way the Unit business has been operating and clarify some of the procedures to make them more specific and assign responsibility. The strikethrough text portions are deletions from the current documents and the underlined portions are proposed additions or insertions. There is a mail-in ballot included. Members with access to the Unit web site can e-mail their vote to the Secretary, Chris Dahle. Please return all ballots to the Secretary no later than 31 October 2013.

In looking at the last membership roster, I notice that several members have not made any indication of their collecting interests. This concerns me because one of the purposes of this Unit is to foster communications and exchange of information among the membership. For example, I have been seeking someone to become the Associate Editor for Herpetology for two years, but I may have overlooked a member with that topical interest because they did not indicate what their interests are. As no one has come forward, I put together a column of my own, which you will find starting on page 208. I ask all members to provide the Secretary with an update of their topical (and other) collecting interests so that we can publish them with the next membership listing.

The Associate Editors and I are continually looking for input and feedback from our readers. You will undoubtedly note many instances in the new issue listings indicating unknown, or partially identified subjects. I am certain that some of our members can provide further information about these entries. And even if you are not absolutely positive of your identification, your feedback can provide insight, or spark discussion. Regarding feedback, you will find some letters and commentary on page 149.

I am also seeking lists to publish in the journal. I bet that one of you has a list of extinct birds on stamps and I bet that someone else has a list of fir trees on stamps, or crickets, or rattlesnakes, or microbiologists. I want to put these in the journal. Maybe you are the only one who collects crickets on stamps, but your list might inspire someone else to take up this topic. I do not care if your list is by country, or in taxonomic order, or some other esoteric system that appeals to you. Just send it in. You can e-mail it or snail-mail it (see addresses inside the cover). Either way works for me. Please do it now before you get distracted by all those crickets.

I am looking for a membership roster from 1984. It was included as an enclosure to Volume 33, Number 4. If anyone has this listing, please send me a copy. I will reimburse you for the copying and mailing costs.

Jack Congrove

DUES RATES (US\$)

Regular membership (US & Canada)	\$20
Overseas membership	\$25
Overseas airmail (add)	\$10
On-line membership	\$15

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page insertion	\$20
Half page insertion	\$10
Quarter page insertion	\$5

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 Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402