

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This has been a busy philatelic spring. The 24th annual John D. Arn Stamp Symposium was in April followed immediately by my local stamp club spring show. A quick trip to WESTPEX was next. Then representing the ATA at PIPEX in Portland and of course preparing for the upcoming National Topical Stamp Show scheduled for 27–29 June at the Renaissance Airport Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

In between all of that, I have been busy with helping plan the SEAPEX show set for 12–14 September in Seattle. We will be celebrating the bicentennial of “The Star Spangled Banner,” which happens to fall on the exact date of our show, and we have big plans for the event. I would like to invite all of you to come and enjoy the philatelic events and exhibits, discover items for your collection, and experience the wonderful nature of The Great Northwest. Please check out our website at <http://www.seapexshow.org>, or at Facebook: *Seapex: Seattle Philatelic Exhibition*.

This edition should arrive to you before the NTSS. As usual, the Biology Unit will hold its annual meeting on Saturday at 10:00 AM at this show. This meeting traditionally is devoted to a social gathering to exchange ideas and meet other Unit members. We will set aside a brief time to elect a new member to take the place of Lois Herrmann, who is retiring from the Board of Directors. Lois has been a member of the Unit since 1991 and a Director since 2010. She is a devoted bird watcher and avid collector of birds on stamps. She is also the author of ATA Handbook 151 on John James Audubon. The Board of Directors is grateful for her support of the Unit and wishes her well in her future endeavors.

I invite all of our Unit members to come to the NTSS and to our annual meeting. I can guarantee you will find some interesting activities at the show and I look forward to meeting all of you there.

We have a double helping of Mammals in this issue because the listing for the previous edition arrived too late for inclusion. But we are without our Marine Invertebrates column. A whole flock of new birds has arrived and you can see what they look like starting on page 113.

On page 92, you will find a report on the Pacific International Philatelic Exhibition (PIPEX). If you have information about a show in your area, especially if it includes philatelic exhibits with biology themes, please send the details to me to include in future editions.

Our featured article this quarter is about Charles Darwin and his relationship with botany by Patrick Mauney, which starts on page 75. Our cover also relates to Darwin and is similar to a clever t-shirt design created by the Cedar Rapids Stamp Club. If you would like one of these t-shirts, see the ad below.

Jack Congrove

**For Sale:** CERAPEX 2012 “Evolve into stamp collecting” t-shirts. Most sizes available, \$10 post-paid in the U.S. Send your check payable to Cedar Rapids Stamp Club to Chris Dahle, 1401 Linmar Dr NE, Cedar Rapids IA 52402.

#### DUES RATES (US\$)

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Overseas membership	\$25
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#### ADVERTISING RATES

Full page insertion	\$20
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Please see the Biology Unit website ([www.biophilately.org](http://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