

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Ontario! Well, another ATA show has come and gone and, as usual, it was most enjoyable. Since I no longer fly, I drove down to St. Louis, deciding to take two days, as trips in the car seem to get shorter with advancing years. Detroit is a good crossing point to reach Highway 75 heading south, and as I drove through the Ontario countryside, I was struck by the enormous quantity of wind turbines for the electrical grid that could be seen, but only on the south side of the highway until I was close to the border. In my view, they are an ugly addition to the scenery, but they seem to be universal! I ran into a huge thunderstorm south of Toledo and had thoughts on the recent reports of tornados, but the storm cleared after a while. On the following day, Highway 70 was relatively clear all the way to St. Louis. The show hotel was very close to the airport, but was quite comfortable with large rooms and I spent some time helping put up exhibits, which I try to do at every show.

Friday was spent helping out at the ATA table, meeting and greeting old friends and answering questions about ATA. Vera Felts does a superb job as Executive Director and spends most of her time at the show helping potential new members. I took down a large quantity of stamps on and off paper that I had accumulated over the past year to donate to the youth programme and they were happy to get them. Saturday of course brought the Biology Unit meeting at 10 AM and there was a pretty good turnout this year, which you can read about in Chris Dahle's report. There were quite a number of exhibits with a biological connection: "The African Coelacanth," by Susan B. Jones; "A Celebration of the Cockroach," by Jean C. Stout; "Exploring the Evolution of Plants," by Chris Dahle; "The Olive," by Vincent de Luca" and "The Donkey," by Bob Mather. There were also four biology related single frames.

The President's Reception on Friday and the Banquet on Saturday were well attended and most enjoyable. Strangely, the judges "Feedback Forum" on Saturday was not very well attended—most unusual! For those members that have never attended an ATA show, I can heartily recommend putting it on your calendar for 2015 and I hope to see many of you there!

Until next time...

Alan J. Hanks