

## SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CORNER

### MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Appended to this edition of the *Biophilately* journal is a table listing the names and address information for all of the current Unit members.

### ELECTIONS

As some of you may have already discovered when you attended the Biology Unit meeting at the APS Stamp Show in Portland, 4–8 August, the Unit should have had an election last year. This is entirely the fault of the Secretary who did nothing about it. Our last election was in 2013, and we are supposed to have elections every two years. So please accept my apologies for letting the Unit down. Unless I hear a request from the membership for an election, we will continue until 2017, and have another election at that time.

### NEW MEMBERS

The Biology topic is immensely popular. It is likely that someone in your local club is a collector of something related to zoology or botany. Sign them up. The Biology Unit welcomes the following new members:

1880	John Uicker, Severn, Maryland (joined during NY 2016)	flora & fauna, rabbits (1)
1881	Dan Weber, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	fish and their habitats in the lands of the Bible (6)

## NEWS OF NOTE

### ATA WEBSITES

The American Topical Association maintains a significant web presence. Here is a list of their websites and the information you can find at each one. The last two sites require member login.

#### [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org)

The standard go-to-website for ATA members and for the general public. It has about 700 pages of information. Here you will find the listing of ATA checklists and handbooks, information about the National Topical Stamp Show and 400+ youth pages.

#### [www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org](http://www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org)

A members-only website. Here you will find the electronic issues of *Topical Time* from 2013 to present. Also where you can renew your membership electronically.

#### [www.TopicalsOnLine.org](http://www.TopicalsOnLine.org)

Stamp sales site where ATA members can post stamps for sale free of charge, and where members who buy receive a discount.

### ATA ELECTIONS

The American Topical Association, our parent organization, held elections for its officers and Board of Directors earlier this year. The new officers and board members were installed during a meeting at the World Stamp Show-NY 2016 in the Javits Convention Center on Friday, 3 June.

The Biology Unit is extremely well represented as members of this leadership group. Nine of the thirteen officers and board members are also members of the Biology Unit.

The new President is Unit member Dale Smith from Kansas City, Missouri. He previously filled the position of First Vice President. He is a retired pharmacist, who, with his wife Andrea, operates Stamp Smith, a topical dealership.

Dawn Hamman of Venice, Florida, was elected First Vice President. She chairs the publicity committee and is a member of the fundraising committee. She is also a Unit member and an award-winning exhibitor.



Dale Smith



Dawn Hamman

The new Second Vice President is Jack Congrove of Fort Lewis, Washington. In addition to being the editor of *Biophilately*, he also edits *The Federated Philatelist*, the newsletter of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, and *Air Mail Northwest*, the newsletter of the Northwest Chapter of the American Air Mail Society.

Unit member Laurie Ryan of Cincinnati, Ohio was reelected Secretary, a position she has held since 2008. Dennis Dengel of Poughkeepsie, New York, was elected Treasurer. He previously served as Second Vice President and is the only officer on the board who is not a Biology Unit member.

Other board members are immediate Past President Jack André Denys of Somerville, New Jersey; Beth Collins of Cottonwood, Minnesota; Larry Davidson of Stratford, Ontario; Jeffrey Hayward of Staten Island, New York; Robert E. Lamb of State College, Pennsylvania; Amanda Morgenstern of Pinckneyville, Illinois; and Dick Roman of St. Louis, Missouri.

Collins, Davidson, Hayward, and Roman are all members of the Biology Unit. Davidson currently serves as the Unit Vice President and Roman is the *Biophilately* Publisher and new Herpetology Editor. In addition our Unit Secretary, Chris Dahle, was just appointed to fill a vacancy that arose after the New York meeting.



Laurie Ryan

The participation by so many Unit members in the leadership of the ATA is evidence of the vitality and involvement of our study unit in the world of philately in general, and of topical collection in particular.

### **BIOLOGY UNIT MEETING**

The Biology Unit held a meeting at the APS StampShow in Portland on Saturday morning, 6 August. Attending were five Unit members: Larry Davidson (Ontario), Jack Congrove (Washington), Bea Vogel (Montana), Cathie Stumpenhous (Oregon), and Susan Setterberg (Washington) and one guest: William Slaninko (California).

Mr Slaninko is a microbiologist and your editor tried to convince him to join and provide a Microbiology column for *Biophilately*, but without success.

Jack Congrove presented a report on the actions of the ATA Board at their World Stamp Show meeting and the results of 2016 membership survey. Also included was a report on the financial and membership status provided by the Unit Secretary. Congrove mentioned some aspects of the new Manual of Judging including new award levels and exhibiting classes. There was some limited discussion. The members indicated they were generally pleased with the *Biophilately* journal.

### **BIOPHILATELY EARNS LITERATURE AWARD**

Your editor entered Volume 64 of *Biophilately* in the Literature exhibition at the APS StampShow held in Portland. The Unit journal received a Silver-Bronze award. The jury was composed of Daniel Warren (chief), Alan Warren, and James Graue.

The judges noted that the journal is useful for topicalists, especially the new listings. They recommended adding some illustrations to the listings to break up the monotony.

They found the layout and readability to be fine, but the balance was poor due to the predominance of the new issue listings.

Increasing the quantity of news and more substantive articles has been one of the goals that the editor has been working on. The addition of illustrations in the listings, however, is not a workable suggestion. Perhaps if the publication were solely via electronic media, this could be accomplished. But as a print publication, the quantity of pages in each volume is already near the economic limit.

You as a member can help improve the journal by submitting an article on a favorite item in your collection, or on any philatelic topic that relates to biology. Let us inspire our readers to want to collect our topic. Send your articles to the editor, [jackcongrove@comcast.net](mailto:jackcongrove@comcast.net).

