

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The National Topical Stamp Show, a World Series of Philately exhibition put on by our parent organization the American Topical Association, will be held 23-25 June in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Biology Unit will be meeting there on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the show.

President Alan Hanks has decided he will step down from his office and with the vacancy in the Vice President position, it is essential that we hold an election of officers as soon as possible. You will find a ballot with the printed copy of this edition. Please fill it out and return it to the Secretary no later than 15 July 2017.

For those of you who receive the electronic edition of the journal, you can download a copy of the ballot at the Unit website.

The Treasurer's Report on page 93 shows that our expenses continue to outpace our income. Obviously, this is a condition that cannot continue if we want to remain a viable organization. The major portion of our expenses involve the production and distribution of this journal. It is possible to reduce this expense by reducing the size of the journal, or by converting print subscribers to electronic subscribers.

However, reduction in the quantity of pages would adversely affect the quality of the publication that we have tried so hard to achieve. And this would not reduce the printing and mailing costs by an adequate amount anyway. Converting delivery to electronic editions would further reduce our income because of the lower dues rate. Another factor affecting our income is that we have 27 Life Members on our rolls who do not pay annual dues. I encourage them to consider making a donation to the Unit to help defray our expenses.

We greatly appreciate our members who have kept up their dues and those who have also added donations to their payments. As the Treasurer notes, if you are in arrears, you need to get your payment in as soon as possible. We cannot afford to print and send out "gratis" copies to you.

I expect that, absent donations and income from other sources, the Unit Board will be considering an increase in the annual dues rate sometime this year. If any members have comments or suggestions on ways to address this issue, please write to me.

I continue to look for an Associate Editor to take over the Ichthyology column. You will notice that I included that column in this edition. Frankly, however, it is not an area I collect and I do not have time to give it the attention it ought to have. I know we have fish collectors out there. Time for one of you to step up.

Also, as I mentioned in the last issue, we are looking to expand our columns to more subjects. One area that is most absent is Microbiology. Please contact me if you have any listings pertaining to this topic. In addition, we would like to add a column on "New Mammals" making their philatelic debut and similar columns for other biota.

I hope all of you have a terrific summer, but be careful out there.

Jack R. Congrove



DUES RATES (US\$)		ADVERTISING RATES	
Regular membership (US & Canada)	\$20	Full page insertion	\$20
Overseas membership	\$25	Half page insertion	\$10
Overseas airmail (add)	\$10	Quarter page insertion	\$5
On-line membership	\$15		

Please see the Biology Unit website (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