

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I am pleased to report that we have new officers to lead the Unit. See the news item on page 96. Also, I am delighted to announce that we have found a new Associate Editor for the Ichthyology column. Dale Shively from San Marcos, Texas, has agreed to take over this duty starting in the next edition. Please welcome him and our new officers to their new roles.

In organizations such as ours, it is often very difficult to find persons who are willing to commit their time and efforts to do the work needed to keep the organization on track and operating. Without doubt, such individuals are essential to the continuation of the organization. Without them there would be no journal, no social activities, or any other thing to keep the Unit together.

I am also happy to announce the inclusion of a new column starting in this issue. For some time now I have been advocating for articles like the "New Birds in the Philatelic Aviary" column by Chuck Braun dealing with other biological areas. Chris Dahle, our botanical expert and author of the ATA *Plants on Stamps* handbook (HB163), has provided such a column for Botany. You will find his "New Plants in the Philatelic Herbarium" column starting on page 117.

Now, I am hoping for columns describing new items in a Philatelic Aquarium, Herpetarium, Mammalarium, Insectarium, and any other sort of biological collection that someone can provide.

Keeping with our botanical theme, we have the first installment of an article about the meetings of the International Botanical Congress by Dr. John Gray of Great Britain that begins on page 105.

While I was at the National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) in Milwaukee (see the report starting on page 99), I attended an organizational meeting of a new ATA study Unit. Tentatively named the Gastronomy on Stamps Study Unit, it will be devoted to the collection and study of philatelic material related to food, gastronomy, cooking, food ingredients, and associated areas. This new unit seems closely related to the biological area. In fact, we have published several articles dealing especially with plants as food and seasoning sources.

Perhaps some of our Unit members will be interested in also joining this group. I have already become a member. If it will be anything like the Wine on Stamps Study Unit, I expect that we will encounter some seriously good eats at future ATA shows. Contact David Wolfersberger (dewolf2@swbell.net) if you are interested in joining.

The big news out of the NTSS is the announcement of a joint show with the American Topical Association and the American Philatelic Society next year in Columbus, Ohio. You humble editor was involved in some of these negotiations and I can promise you that a combined show with the two largest groups of stamp collectors in the United States is an event that you do not want to miss. See more details on page 94.

As a feature of this show, the Biology Unit will be preparing and displaying a special exhibit. We would like you to participate by contributing a page. See the explanation on page 96.

Jack R. Congrove



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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:
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