

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CORNER

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:

1884 Janice Erbach; Bowling Green, Kentucky insects (7), European robins (5), tortoises (4), stained glass
 1885 Lucy Moynihan; Urbana, Illinois birds (5), history of natural history
 1886 Joel Cohen; Rockville, Maryland

NEWS OF NOTE

EXHIBIT WINNER

Unit member Dawn R. Hamman won the National Stamp Dealers Association Most Popular Award at the American Philatelic Society's StampShow 2017 in Richmond, Virginia, for her display exhibit, "Backyard Chickens." This exhibit also received a Gold medal and the Award of Merit for the best Display type exhibit. Dawn also serves as the First Vice President of the American Topical Association.

BIOLOGY UNIT MEETING

The Biology Unit held its annual meeting at the National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at 10:00 AM on Saturday, 24 June 2017. Chris Dahle called the meeting to order. These meetings are informal and have no specific agenda.

At this meeting, we reminded everyone to vote in the election of officers. Chris reported on the membership status and the most recent new members.

Your editor reported on the status of the *Biophilately* journal. There was a discussion about publishing the print version in full color. Currently, only the cover page is printed in color. The web version is full color and can be downloaded by members.

There is a project to scan all the back issues to make them available as PDF files. Volumes 1 through 28 are complete. Volumes 52 through 65 are currently available on the Unit website.

The ATA has appointed a new checklist coordinator. They are soliciting updates and corrections to the "dATABase" that contains all the topical listings. Forms for submitting new lists are available on the ATA website at: <http://www.americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml>.

The ATA policy is that if you have ordered and paid for any of their checklists, you are entitled to free updates once per year as long as you maintain your ATA membership. Contact the ATA office americantopical@msn.com.

EVENT CALENDAR

At the annual Unit meeting, there was a suggestion to publish a calendar of future events. Here is a start.

Event	Dates	Location
UN Expo 17	27–28 October 2017	Bellefonte, PA
CHICAGOPEX	17–19 November 2017	Itasca, IL
APS AmeriStamp Expo	23–25 February 2018	Birmingham, AL
WESTPEX	27–29 April 2018	Burlingame, CA
Royal 2018 Royale	22–24 June 2018	St. Catherines, ON
NTSS-APS StampShow 2018	9–12 August 2018	Columbus, OH

JOINT APS-ATA STAMP SHOW

The American Philatelic Society (APS) and the American Topical Association (ATA) will co-host next summer's large national philatelic show scheduled for Columbus, Ohio, on 9–12 August 2018. Leaders of the APS and ATA made that announcement Friday, 23 June at the ATA National Topical Stamp Show in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

“The 2018 show in Columbus just got even more exciting,” said Scott English, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, “The partnership between the APS and the ATA gets stronger every day and together we’re going to have a ‘can’t miss’ stamp show.”

“This highly anticipated event is a real sign that philatelic organizations have begun a new era of cooperation for great benefit to our hobby,” said ATA President Dale Smith about the joint show. “This is a wonderful project to combine resources to create one of the best shows to attract a great number of collectors.”

This will be the first time the APS, founded in 1886, and the ATA, founded in 1949, have combined their large annual national shows. The ATA four times has held its national show during a U.S.-based international, most recently in 2016 at World Stamp Show-NY 2016.



APS Executive Director, Scott English, and ATA President, Dale Smith, sign the agreement for the Joint APS-ATA stamp show to be held in August 2018, as ATA Secretary Laurie J. Ryan looks on.

“This should be a sign of things to come for the hobby,” added English, “The only way we're going to grow is by working together. I'd like to thank the Board of the ATA for being first to join us in this new vision.”

Next year will be the 132nd show and convention for the APS and the 68th annual National Topical Stamp Show. Both shows usually change locations from year to year.

The APS—the world's largest association devoted to philately with about 30,000 members worldwide—every summer hosts StampShow, the country's largest annual philatelic show, which includes world-class philatelic exhibits, scores of dealers and postal agencies, society and study group meetings, special presentations and guest speakers, youth areas, and a banquet. The ATA, devoted to topical stamp collecting, often presents a similar lineup, though often over three days rather than the four presented by StampShow.



Greater Columbus Convention Center

The ATA show features an all-thematic philatelic exhibition. These tend to be creative exhibits that make for enjoyable reading and viewing.

The ATA, with members in 60 countries, has compiled more than 1,200 checklists (from the common—horses and roses on stamps, to the more unusual, such as hairstyles, banjos, and yellow fever) containing more than 650,000 stamps.

“We find that traditional philatelists often collect a topic or two, and topical collectors often collect a country or other specialty area,” Smith said. “This show will enable them to pursue their full range of philatelic interests.”

The American Philatelic Society will handle all management and logistics for the combined 2018 show. A certain number of exhibit frames will be set aside for topical/thematic philatelic exhibits. The ATA needs volunteers.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Each year the American Philatelic Society (APS) recognizes the outstanding efforts of volunteers at national and local levels as well as contributions by younger members whose outstanding leadership is crucial to the future of philately. The awards are named in memory of Nicholas G. Carter who helped to establish them. He felt it was important to recognize persons who contribute their talents, time, and energies to benefit stamp collecting.

There are four award categories: National Promotion/Service, Local Promotion/Service, Outstanding Young Adult Philatelist (ages 25–40), and Outstanding Young Philatelist (ages 15–24). Each award except for the Youth award requires at least five years of service.



The National Promotion/Service award is for outstanding service and innovation to the hobby on the national level. The Outstanding Young Adult Philatelist award is for outstanding service and leadership by an individual between the ages of 25 and 40.

This year two members of the Biology Unit and another member of the American Topical Association (ATA) were recipients of these awards. The awards, which include a handsome pin and certificate, were presented at the ATA General Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by the APS Executive Director, Scott English.

Dawn Hamman received the National Promotion/Service award. She is the First Vice President of the ATA and has staffed an ATA booth at many shows. She assists with the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition and is secretary, co-editor of the newsletter, and the ATA representative for the Venice (Florida) Stamp Club. She has offered a Stamp Collecting 101 Course for the public through the public library and has several award-winning exhibits, including “Backyard Chickens,” “Candy,” and “How to Grow Tomatoes.”



Dawn Hamman receives her award from Scott English



Jack Congrove receives his award from Scott English

Jack Congrove received the National Promotion/Service award. He has been an ATA member since 1985. He currently serves as editor of the *Biophilately* and *The Federated Philatelist* journals, is Second Vice President of the ATA, and show chair for SEAPEX, a World Series of Philately show. He also exhibits “Alexander Hamilton: Soldier, Financier, Statesman, Founder.”

Amanda Morgenstern received the Outstanding Young Adult Philatelist award. She promotes the hobby and assists the Southern Illinois Stamp Club with shows, youth, group leadership, local roadshow events, and website suggestions. She serves as the ATA webmaster and supervises much of the ATA social media activities. She is a member of the ATA Board of Directors and the Graphics Philately Association and edited its quarterly journal from 2014 to 2016.



Amanda Morgenstern receives her award from Scott English

BIOLOGY UNIT ELECTION

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Biology Unit. Mail-in ballots were distributed with the last edition of the journal with a voting cut-off of 15 July. Based on the ballots received, Laurie J. Ryan was elected as the new President, Glenn G. Mertz was elected Vice President, and Christopher E. Dahle was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

Their official terms in office begin on 1 January. However, in accordance with the Unit Constitution, and due to vacancies in two positions, the Unit Board of Directors voted that Ryan and Mertz will be appointed effective immediately to fill out the remaining terms of these offices.

Laurie J. Ryan has been a member of the Biology Unit since 1999, and was the Unit Treasurer from 2004 until 2010. She is a Director on the Board of the American Topical Association (ATA). She collects the following topics: hedgehogs, ermine, fish, and endangered species.

Glenn G. Mertz has been a member of the Biology Unit since 1987. He is currently the Associate Editor for Ornithology, a position he has held since 2006. He collects the following topics: birds and insects.

Christopher E. Dahle has been a member of the Biology Unit since 1982 and was the Unit Secretary from 1998 to 2010. In 2010, he took over the combined position of Secretary-Treasurer and has served in that role since then. He is currently the Associate Editor for Botany, a position he has held since 1995. He is also a Director on the Board of the ATA. He is the author of the ATA handbook *Plants on Stamps* (HB163). He collects botanical topics.

BIOLOGY UNIT EXHIBIT

Dawn Hamman reports that at the recent National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS), retiring ATA Board member Bob Lamb took to teasingly asking questions....

To Laurie Ryan, “What do hedgehogs do in their spare time?”

To Jean Stout, “All those penguins, what do they do in their spare time?”

You are undoubtedly getting the idea that Bob was suggesting that every topic—especially biological ones—has some spare time. The hedgehogs might weave baskets with any quills that drop away. Butterflies might march in parades. And, of course, penguins need to make sure their tuxedos are ready for the next formal event. And this is not limited to animals. Tomatoes might sunbathe on the beach.

Thus, was born the idea to create one-page (8½×11) “mini exhibits” to fill a Biology Unit frame at the combined NTSS/StampShow next year in Columbus, Ohio (9–12 August). This is meant to be a whimsical display, so why don’t you brainstorm some spare-time activities for your topic, and join in the fun—the more outrageous the better!

This challenge is short on rules. Include the title and illustrate your page with stamps and other items (mostly philatelic). Please email Jack Congrove at jackcongrove@comcast.net to let him know you plan to participate, the sooner the better. The first 15 people to declare will be included and we already have four. Then do some creative thinking and put your page together. Bring it to the show, or arrange to give or mail it to Jack Congrove, who has agreed to consolidate the pages (see address on inside front cover).

APS Executive Director Scott English, who is an ATA member, often says, “Topical collectors have more fun!” Let us show that Biology Unit members lead the pack.

BIOPHILATELY BACK ISSUES

Responding to a recent appeal for copies of society journals and newsletters from the American Philatelic Research Library, you editor contacted Tara Murray, the APRL Librarian. She informed us that the library was missing several editions of *Biophilately* and its forerunner publications and had others that were in damaged condition.

We were able to provide replacement copies from our own library and received a very nice acknowledgement that will be published in an upcoming edition of *The Philatelic Literature Review*, the official publication of the APRL.