

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you are having a good New Year so far. And the Chinese New Year is upon us as well. I am finding that my year has been hectic, with little chance of slowing down. The dogs have not been outdoors much, are bored, and we have to play chase inside now.

The bad weather has also meant driving my mother to the store, appointments, and social events. I am ready for Spring, but unfortunately Phil and his buddies saw their shadows. And now tax time is upon us. On the bright side, February is Early Music Month in Cincinnati. Lots of concerts around town of late medieval and renaissance music.

Recently I was reading a note from the International Rhino Foundation. Dire news about my beloved Sumatran Rhinos. The last female in Malaysia is critically ill. She and her mate are the last pair known on the Malaysian mainland.

I got to thinking about other endangered or threatened species I collect wild cats, manatees, red pandas, kiwi, most newts, as well as many of the medicinal plants. Thankfully my hedgehogs are safe for now. How many of the animals or plants that you collect are in fact endangered? Food for thought.

Stay warm and safe until next time.

Laurie



SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CORNER

NEW MEMBERS

We have no new members to report for the past quarter. The Biology Unit, like many other such groups, suffers from attrition (see below) and if we cannot keep our ranks filled by obtaining new members, then anyone can predict what the long-term results will be. 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. You can find all the forms and information on the Unit website: www.biophilately.org/.



MEMBERS TO BE DROPPED

The year is well underway and if you have not paid your membership dues, you should do it now. The following members are being dropped for non-payment: **Bratlie, Burch, Miguelgorry, Norman, Vassuer, Mahaffey, Moravec, and Holland, Jr.**

You will find renewal forms at the Unit website: www.biophilately.org/. Send your payment to the Secretary-Treasurer, Chris Dahle, 1401 Linmar Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW

Our parent organization, the American Topical Association (ATA), will hold its annual National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) in a joint co-hosted event with the American Philatelic Society (APS) National Summer Convention (StampShow) on 9–12 August 2018, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. The NTSS is an APS sponsored World Series of Philately (WSP) national-level exhibition. The show hotel is the Crowne Plaza Downtown. The special show room rate is \$135 plus taxes.

The ATA will hold its annual Board meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday before the show. Planning is underway for tours and other events. The show is seeking exhibits. There is one exhibition, but all exhibits handled thematically will be in the ATA section, and the NTSS will have its own awards. Find the exhibit prospectus and entry forms on the APS website: <https://stamps.org/SS-Exhibitors>.