

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CORNER

DUES

The Biology Unit Board of Directors has determined to increase the annual membership dues. This topic was discussed at the Unit meeting held at the joint APS-ATA show in Columbus, Ohio, in August.

For each of the past three years, the Unit has been operating at a deficit. As mentioned in the last edition of the journal, and after discussion, the Unit Board of Directors has decided that we must increase the membership dues in order to keep up with our expenses. This will be the first increase in dues since 2001.

The dues for the electronic/website version will remain the same at \$15 per year. The dues for receiving the print edition will increase to \$25 for US subscribers, \$30 for Canadian subscribers, and \$45 for worldwide subscribers.



We have included a Membership Renewal form as a separate page with this edition. Those of you who receive only the electronic version, please go to the Unit website (www.biophilately.org) and download an electronically fillable version of the form. Fill it out and email the completed form to the Secretary (chris-dahle@biophilately.org).

It is important that **everyone** fill out and return this form whether or not you are paying your dues now, or even if you are a Life member. We need the up-to-date address information and your indications for granting permission to publish your contact address information in our public membership listing.

Also, please consider including a donation with your dues payment. These donations are tax-deductible for US members. We use the money from these donations to fund our Biology Unit awards and to help sponsor publication of handbooks written by our Unit members. We also help sponsor functions at the National Topical Stamp Show.

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:

1890	Victor Wasilov, Alpharetta, Georgia	fish (5), insects (7)
1891	Peter Voice, Kalamazoo, Michigan	prehistoric life/dinosaurs (0), minerals, geology
1892	Robert Odum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	mushrooms (2), birds (5), primates (8)

Vera Felts, the Executive Director of the American Topical Association, when she sends out new member packets for those who join the ATA, includes business cards for study units that relate to the topics they collect. She reports that between 50–60 percent of the cards are for the Biology Unit, more by far than any of the other 50 units.

Check with your local club members at the next meeting to see who collects a biological topic and get them signed up. Membership forms and instructions are on our website (www.biophilately.org/membership.html).

LETTERS

[Ed. note: Excerpts from a letter from Peter Wilson received 18 September 2018.]

“For me, I would gladly pay \$25 or more for a printed copy of *Biophilately*. Two reasons for that: (1) I’m basically a Luddite.... (2) A bigger reason is that it would end up costing me more. I have collections in nearly every category of listings. It is so much easier to get the Scott number in *Biophilately* than digging through back issues of *Scott’s Monthly*....

“The second point that struck me is a bit of disappointment in the level of medal won at NTSS-StampShow. Again, this just my opinion: I’m very happy with *Biophilately* as it is. Frankly, the level of medal should be secondary. I’d hate to see the listings go away. While I enjoy the articles, I [pore] over the listings to add Scott numbers to what I have, and see what I’ve missed.

“You are doing a great job, and I look forward to each issue. Thank you for listening to my opinions.”