

## SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CORNER

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Biology Unit will hold its annual meeting at the joint APS StampShow-National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) in Omaha, Nebraska, at 11:00 AM on Saturday, 3 August 2019. Ordinarily this is a social meeting and we do not discuss detailed business matters. The StampShow-NTSS show runs 1–4 August at the CHI Health Center Omaha. Admission is free.



### NEW MEMBERS

There were no new members during this quarter. 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 Secretary did send complimentary issues of *Biophilately* to new ATA members who listed a biology topic in Topical Time, inviting them to join the Unit.

## NEWS OF NOTE

### NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW

Our parent organization, the American Topical Association (ATA), is again taking advantage of a wonderful opportunity to partner with the American Philatelic Society (APS) to hold its annual National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) on 1–4 August 2019, at the CHI Health Center convention center in Omaha, Nebraska. The NTSS is an APS sponsored World Series of Philately (WSP) national-level exhibition.

The APS is handling arrangements for the show, except for the ATA President's Reception, the ATA after-show tour, and volunteers to work at the ATA booth. Those desiring to attend must submit forms and pay associated fees to the APS.

To view the latest show information, go to the APS website (<https://stamps.org/stampshow>). Check the website frequently for updates.

1. The show page gives dates, hours, show location, and hotel information as well as links to various forms.
2. **Hotel Reservations:** Click on the link *Make your show reservations online with the Hilton Omaha*.
3. **Pre-Registration:** *Pre-Registration ends on 10 July 2019*. Completing this form will generate a name badge to be picked up at the Registration Desk. The badge will include both your APS and ATA membership years. By completing this form online, you help reduce administrative time and the possibility of spelling errors. The PDF version of the form includes options to purchase event tickets.
4. **Exhibitor Information:** Entries were due by 15 May.
5. **Dealer Information:** A showroom floor plan is at this link: <https://stamps.org/Portals/0/Show%20Floor.pdf>.
6. **Purchase Tickets:** The following events are included: APS/ATA Celebration Banquet. On-the-Road Course(s), and Boy Scout Merit Badge Workshop. Tickets for the ATA President's Reception and Monday tour are available on the ATA website.
7. **Society Booth Information:** The Biology Unit will hold their annual general meeting at 11:00 AM on Saturday, 3 August 2019, in room 212.
8. **Volunteer Information:** All ATA members are encouraged to volunteer with the APS. Click on the Volunteer Task Descriptions" link to read about various volunteer options. If you volunteer for a total of eight hours at the show, you are eligible to receive a free ticket to the Celebration Banquet (a \$60 value). The ATA booth also needs volunteers and since the Biology Unit is helping to sponsor this booth, we share the responsibility for operating it. Check the ATA website (<http://americantopicalassn.org>) or contact Vera Felts to sign up.

### ATA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIRING

Vera Felts, long-time Executive Director and the face of the ATA, has submitted her notice that she will be retiring this year. Many of our members are personally acquainted with Vera and I know we will miss her helpful and knowledgeable efforts at running the day-to-day operation of the Association.

Vera recently celebrated her tenth anniversary as the Executive Director. During her tenure, she began the ATA Ambassador Program that has recruited more than 1,000 members for the ATA. She also developed the popular "Taste of Topicals" packets to entice new and casual collectors to the organization. She has also improved the quality of the ATA publications.

Most members do not realize the amount of work involved in operating the Association. In addition to responding to all member needs and inquiries, the Executive Director maintains membership records, prepares promotional materials and mailings, processes applications and renewals, and coordinates Ambassador support for shows.

On the financial side, the ED maintains financial records, collects dues and other payments, prepares and manages the budget, files taxes, and oversees fundraising. In the publications area, the ED provides input and a column for each issue of *Topical Time*, coordinates the development of ATA handbooks, prepares printed materials for various activities, oversees the work of the checklist coordinators, and provides checklists requested by members.

The ED maintains the ATA office, promotes the organization to increase and retain membership, maintains an inventory of all ATA materials, and assists the coordinators of ATA chapters, study units, committees, and other volunteers.

The ATA is now seeking applicants for Executive Director, which is a full-time position. Send inquiries to the ATA Headquarters, P.O. Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008. Email: [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com).

### DISTINGUISHED TOPICAL PHILATELIST

The 2019 Distinguished Topical Philatelist, the highest award given by the American Topical Association, is being awarded to Aimée Devine of Janesville, Wisconsin. Aimée is the talented author of nearly 500 pages of youth activities on the ATA website, which are available free and can be downloaded to share with youth and beginning collectors. Her features on topics, including Mexico, France, the circus, fun foods, dragons and many more, are beautifully designed and can be appreciated by collectors of all ages.

Her popular "Topical Tidbits" pages, featured on the ATA website since 2012, were inspired by Jean Stout during a presentation on attracting children to topicals at NTSS 2011 in Milwaukee. She was encouraged by ATA youth coordinator MaryAnn Bowman, who continues to collaborate with her on many projects.

Recently, Aimée wrote and designed *The Magical World of Stamp Collecting*, a colorful Disney-themed booklet, which won a first award (with *Topical Time*) in the 2018 International Philatelic Literature competition sponsored by Auction House Christoph Gärtner.

In 2016, she was extensively involved in creating materials for the youth area at the World Stamp Show in New York City. Those materials are now available free at the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs' website ([www.wfscstamps.org](http://www.wfscstamps.org)) in the youth section.

Aimée was introduced to philately as a child by her grandmother, who gave her an envelope of stamps that had belonged to Aimée's great-grandfather. "I loved looking through the stamps and imagining what kind of man he was," she said. "That Christmas my parents gave me a stamp album, and I was hooked!" Currently, Aimée collects children's literature, fruits, vegetables, ethnic costumes, and clipper ships on stamps.

The list of activities this busy philatelist and mother pursues seems almost endless. She is secretary of the Janesville Stamp Club and is a member of the Badger Stamp Club, Rockford Stamp Club, and ATA Chapter Five (Milwaukee).

The award will be presented at the Celebration Banquet at StampShow-NTSS in Omaha on Saturday, 3 August.

## ATA ELECTIONS

The American Topical Association, our parent organization, held elections for its officers and Board of Directors via its “Because You Belong” website with voting cutoff on 31 May. The terms for the officers and board members are staggered so that about one-third of the positions are voted on each year. The nominees, who were all running unopposed, were:

President: Dawn R Hamman, Venice, Florida  
 1st Vice President: Jeffrey A Hayward, Staten Island, New York  
 2nd Vice President: Jack R. Congrove, Fort Lewis, Washington  
 Director: Dale E. Smith, Kansas City, Missouri  
 Director: Christopher E. Dahle, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The newly elected officers and board members will be installed during a meeting at the National Topical Stamp Show in Omaha, Nebraska, on Tuesday, 30 July 2019.

## ATA CACHET OFFERING

At the St. Louis Stamp Expo on 29 March 2019, the US Postal Service held a first day ceremony to issue its Coral Reef postcard stamps. These colorful stamps are available from the American Topical Association in a collectible four-piece first day cover (FDC) set.

Each cachet with coordinating enclosure card showcases one coil and one sheet stamp of the same design with the official USPS FDC cancel. The cachets were designed by Jane Eastwood Schemonia, who is the administrative assistant to the ATA Executive Director at the ATA headquarters.

Only 50 sets (with individual stuffer cards for each stamp) were made, so Biology Unit members should order as soon as they can. Please send a SASE to ATA, P.O. Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008 along with a check for \$11 for all four covers, or purchase individually for \$3 each. If paying by PayPal to [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com), enclose an extra dollar for return postage. If purchasing individual cachets, please specify coral choice: brain, elkhorn, pillar, or staghorn. This is a limited time offer; when they sell out, they sell out!



## ATA CHECKLISTS

The ATA is the world’s leading supplier of topical stamp checklists. Checklists are available only to ATA members and are one of its best member services. The source for these checklists is a dATABase containing more than 418,885 stamps and 735,445 topical listings. There are currently 1,349 different standard checklists. Members who have purchased ATA checklists from the dATABase (since May 2014) can receive free updates once a year upon request.

The April 2019 checklist updates have been completed and the coordinators have added an additional 1,164 items. The checklist dATABase now has a total 735,445 items.

Checklists should be ordered directly from the ATA Office, by emailing [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com), or calling 618-985-5100, or mailing your order. For convenience, you may use a PDF order form available on the Because You Belong website ([www.ata-becauseyoubelong.org/index.php/resources/checklists](http://www.ata-becauseyoubelong.org/index.php/resources/checklists)).

## FROG FOREVER STAMPS

On 9 July 2019, in Boise, Idaho, the U.S. Postal Service plans to release four new stamps in a booklet of 20, featuring digital illustrations of four North American frogs.

The species depicted are: the Pacific Tree Frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), the Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*), the American Green Tree Frog (*Hyla cinerea*), and the Squirrel Tree Frog (*Hyla squirella*).

Working with a primarily green color palette and touches of brown, artist Nancy Stahl captured the essence of each animal with enough important defining features to make each recognizable. USPS art director William J. Gicker designed the stamps. The printer has not been announced.



Stahl has designed more than 20 different stamps for the USPS including these with biological themes: the 37c Snowy Egret (2003), 26c Florida Panther (2007), 17c Bighorn Sheep (2007), 62c Dragonfly (2008), 28c Polar Bear (2009), 64c Dolphin (2009), Semi-postal Save Vanishing Species (2011), Forever Bobcat (2012), and Forever Hummingbird (2013).

## WINTER BERRIES FOREVER STAMPS

Another set of stamps the U.S. Postal Service plans to release later this year depicts highly detailed botanical illustrations of Winter Berries. The four designs will be issued in a booklet of 20.

The bright designs highlight the bold colors and rich textures of the berries and feature the following plants: the Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), the Juniper Berry (*Juniperus communis*), the Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), and the Soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*).

Artist Steve Buchanan worked with art director Antonio Alcalá to create these four new stamps. The printer has not been announced.

Buchanan, who specializes in botanical and entomological subjects, has also designed several other stamps for the USPS including these with biological themes: 33c Insects and Spiders (1999), 33c Tropical Flowers (1999), 34c Carnivorous Plants (2001), 37c Reptiles and Amphibians (2003), 39c Crops of the Americas (2006), and 41c Pollination (2007).



An interesting collection could be assembled based on each artist who created the designs.