

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is over and winter is here! With the colder weather, I am moving indoors. Watching the beautiful trees all in color and the squirrels gathering nuts is better viewed from indoors with a big mug of hot tea. I love to watch the birds at the feeders, so many amazing colors and personalities.

I recently attended a local fish auction. Now I am rearranging fish tanks to find room for my new acquisitions. As well, I have to find space for new babies. The adults are breeding like crazy. These fry are important, as their species are listed as highly endangered. They are more or less extinct in the wild.

Recently a new initiative was created to protect endangered or threatened fish throughout the world. Aquarium hobbyists worldwide are encouraged to maintain a colony of a listed species and ensure a healthy line. The hope is that one day these fish can be reintroduced to their habitat when conditions are better. I keep two such species, one from China and one from Mexico. They are both extinct in the wild because of extreme pollution to lakes and rivers. One wonders just how many biological species are threatened because of wars, pollution, and invasive species. As philatelists, we need to help preserve the flora and fauna that we so lovingly collect.

Looking at my *Linn's* magazine, I noticed all the wonderful flora stamps to be issued in 2020. There will be numerous flowers, and although they are paintings, some yummy looking fruits and vegetables. I especially love the garden set. They remind us how beautiful nature is.

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Laurie Ryan

