

## NEWS OF NOTE

### FREE HOLIDAY CHECKLIST FROM ATA

The American Topical Association wants to put you in the mood for the holidays with a gift of a free checklist. This year's topic is Turkeys on stamps, and the list of 65 stamps is free to ATA members and nonmembers alike, through December 20. (The original cutoff was November 30, but we managed to ask for and receive an extension.)

The newly developed list was the project of checklist dATABase developer Karen Cartier, board member Jean Stout, and May Day Taylor, a member of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's Council of Philatelists. A free download is available at [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org). A printed copy of the Turkey checklist will be mailed if a stamped envelope is sent to ATA, P.O. Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008.

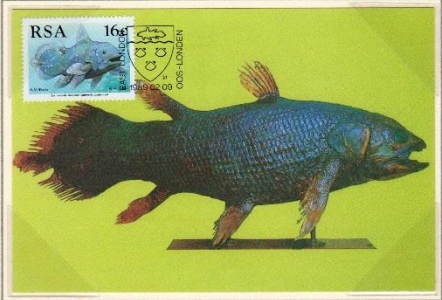
As with all ATA checklists, the Turkey list includes country, issue date, Scott number, denomination, and a description of each item. Various breeds are featured on the stamps, and naturally the list includes the 2009 US stamp depicting a turkey-shaped balloon in a Thanksgiving parade. Wild turkeys from Scott-listed state migratory waterfowl stamps are also included.

In recent months, the ATA's dATABase has been greatly expanded. It contains more than 610,000 records and about 1200 lists are currently available. Customized checklists are available for whatever topic you can imagine. Members may order lists for a small fee. Membership information is on the organization's website.

### BIOLOGICAL THEMED EXHIBITS ON WEBSITE


Our webmaster has begun posting images of exhibits with biological themes for viewing on the Unit website (<http://www.biophilately.org/exhibits>). The first two exhibits are *The African Coelacanth*, by Sue Jones and *A Celebration of the Cockroach*, by Jean Stout. The pages are high quality scans.

**The African Coelacanth**  
*Latimeria chalumnae*



The first living coelacanth, mounted and still on display at the East London Museum, South Africa.

This exhibit tells the story of a strange blue fish - a big, homely, rare, endangered fish - known as the coelacanth (SEE-uh-kanth). Coelacanths disappeared from the fossil record about the same time as the dinosaurs. Scientists thought they were extinct. After reviewing the fossil record, the exhibit focuses on the extraordinary discoveries, from 1938 through 2003, of living coelacanths inhabiting the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa.



Error: The coelacanth *Latimeria* is misidentified as *Lophius*, a type of angler fish. As a result, this stamp has not appeared on any known list of coelacanth stamps.

▲ = indicates notable items in the exhibit

**Plan (# of pages)**

1. Finding a Living Fossil (1)
  - 1a. The Fossil Record (2)
  - 1b. The First Living Coelacanth (5)
  - 1c. The Second Living Coelacanth (7)
2. Converging on the Comores (1)
  - 2a. The 35-Year Search (7)
  - 2b. Success with Submersibles (3)
3. Expanding our Knowledge (5)

*The African Coelacanth* Title Page  
By Sue Jones

Our hope is that we can include more exhibits and that these will inspire and encourage other members to prepare and show exhibits of their own. If you already have an exhibit that uses a biology theme (I'm looking at you Dawn), contact our webmaster, Chris Dahle, to coordinate getting it posted to the website.

While I am on the subject of exhibits, the Biology Unit will be the featured study unit at the National Topical Stamp Show next year in Portland, Oregon. Members of the Governing Board are preparing a single-frame exhibit about collecting the Biology topic to display at this exhibition. Look for images of it to be posted on the Unit website in the near future.

### ALSO ON THE WEBSITE

The webmaster has made some changes on the website recently. He added our new logo to each page. There is now the option to submit, or renew a membership application on-line through PayPal. The archive page has been restructured so you do not have to scroll down so far to get to more recent pages.

### ATA SEEKING ASSISTANCE

The American Topical Association (our parent organization for those who may be unaware) is seeking some persons to help with their myriad projects. In case you did not know, the headquarters office of the ATA is staffed with **one** full-time person—Vera Felts, the Executive Director. Vera has two part-time assistants, but they are kept busy preparing for the support of upcoming shows and other routine office duties. I am sure that we have in our Unit someone who is qualified and able to help with the following activities.

**Chapter Coordinator:** Communicate with and support ATA chapters, receive chapter newsletters and summarize relevant information for inclusion in *Topical Time*. Job description available.

**Web Researcher:** Someone to search web for email addresses of 20–30 international philatelic publications.

**Checklist Proofreaders:** Compare old and new checklists and identify any entries not included in new lists. Scott catalogue is **not** needed

Please contact ATA President Jack Denys if you can serve in any of these ways: [jdenys@verizon.net](mailto:jdenys@verizon.net).

### WORLD STAMP SHOW – NY 2016

The ATA will be an Attending Society at the World Stamp Show to be held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City between 28 May and 4 June 2016. The Biology Unit will be represented at this show also.



These international shows take place in the United States once every ten years. They are by far the largest, most prestigious exhibitions that occur in this country. This show expects to host more than 200,000 visitors. More than 200 dealers specializing in all sorts of materials including stamps, covers, collections, postcards, ephemera, cinderellas, and supplies will be there buying and selling.

More than 50 postal bureaus including the US Postal Service and the UN Postal Administration will have booths and many will release new issues during the event.

Some of the world's greatest stamp rarities will be on display along with 4,000 frames of competitive exhibits of the highest quality and variety, many never seen in this country.

In addition to meetings of philatelic societies and organizations, there will be educational seminars and other activities open to the public. There will be many family friendly events and activities including a youth and beginner area.

Admission is free on all eight days of the show. Make plans to attend and stop by the ATA and Biology Unit booths.

### ATA WEBSITE

Electronic Topical Time (ETT). All ATA members can access the electronic version of our journal from the home page of the ATA website, [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org), or directly at <http://americantopicalassn.org/ETT/ETT-2014/ETT-387/index.html> (FlippingBook version) or <http://americantopicalassn.org/ETT/ETT-2014-387.pdf> (PDF version).

The Youth page includes copies of *Topical Tidbits*, a periodical oriented toward youth collecting with fun fact, games, puzzles, and activities. Print out selected pages and give them to your favorite “grand” or other child. The latest issue deals with “Magic in Literature” and includes Harry Potter, Peter Pan, Aladdin, and many other characters. There are also printable album pages for dozens of topics.