

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Now that I am semi-retired, I find myself busier than ever and wonder when I ever had time to work at a regular job. As I write this, I am preparing to leave for the annual American Philatelic Society Stamp Show in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where *Biophilately* is entered in the philatelic literature exhibition.

I have just completed recovery from the National Topical Stamp Show in Clackamas, Oregon, for which I was local co-chairman. And there are only 25 days left to make final preparations for the Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (SEAPEX), for which I am also the show manager.

Not to mention that the deadlines for both this quarterly edition of the Unit journal and the quarterly newsletter of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, for which I am also the editor, are due now. It seems that I need to better organize my schedule, or as my collector friend Jean Stout has said, "Learn how to say 'no.'"

Anyway, life is exciting and don't tell anyone, but I secretly enjoy being involved all these activities.

The Biology Unit had a very successful participation at NTSS. We gained six new members, among other things. See the report on the show that starts on page 144. Also, see scans of the pages from the Biology Unit one-frame exhibit shown at NTSS starting on page 147.

This edition contains another article on amphibians by Vic Eichler, who I finally got to meet in person at NTSS where he showed a free style exhibit on the same subject.

We also have the first of a multi-part article by Michael Kogan on Paleo-Philately, which is not the study of prehistoric stamp collectors, but a description of the development of the paleontology topic on postage stamps through the years.

Of course we have our regular botanical and zoological checklist columns including an extensive update in the Ornithology section. We are however missing our Ichthyology column and I am **still** trying to recruit an associate editor for Herpetology.

You may note on the inside cover that addresses have changed for some of our officers and editors.

As summer activities wind down and we enter into autumn, many collectors will increase their attention to their indoor hobbies. I hope all of you find time during this season to visit a stamp show, tidy up your albums, and add a special item to your collection.

Jack R. Congrove

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Please see the Biology Unit website (www.biophilately.org) for membership applications. Several payment options are available. Send applications and payments payable to the Biology Unit of ATA to: Chris Dahle, 1401 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402