

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the first edition of another volume of *Biophilately*. This is our 66th year of publication. The Biology Unit is the second oldest of all the Study Units in the American Topical Association (ATA). The oldest is the Casey Jones Railroad Unit and they only have us beat by a couple months.

The pagination on the print version of the last edition of the journal was not aligned correctly due to a printing error. The list of editors should have been printed on the inside of the cover. But since it was not, this misaligned all the other pages. We are sorry for this error.

We are looking for a new Associate Editor for the **Ichthyology** column. Kris Lindstrom has retired and will be devoting his time to travel. If you collect this or a related topic, please contact me to discuss undertaking this position. Since you probably already keep a listing of the related stamp issues, I will make it as simple as possible for you to share it with the rest of our members.

As I have mentioned previously, we would like to add another recurring column devoted to **Microbiology**. Microbiology is one of the three primary divisions of the biological sciences along with Botany and Zoology. We have been seriously deficient when it comes to including it in our articles. The fact that its organisms are visible only under a microscope, is not an excuse for this.

Another column that we would like to re-institute is "Mammals Biographical." This is an awkward title, so we will probably rename it, but it is the Mammals equivalent of the "New Birds in the Philatelic Aviary" column. It would include a short description of the animal and a summary of its ecological and geographical place in the biological world. We could do the same sort of thing with any of the new listing areas such as Plants, etc., so if you are willing to provide a periodic column on these subjects, please let me know.

This edition contains a huge section on new issues for Birds on stamps. Glenn Mertz apparently has decided that you cannot avoid the current versions of what we used to call "Sand Dunes" productions, which are issues specifically produced for sale to collectors and serve limited, if any, other purpose such as actually paying for postal service. He has included several pages of topical issues that will very likely never receive official listings in catalogs.

We have added a new table to our Glossary of Terms that contains the abbreviations for the Family entries used in our Entomology column.

The ATA is planning its annual **National Topical Stamp Show** to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 23–25 June 2017 (see details on page 4). The Biology Unit will hold its **annual meeting** in conjunction with the show. The one-hour meeting is currently planned for Saturday at 10:00 AM. Usually we do not conduct any official business at these meetings. We hold them to provide information to the members about the Unit's activities and to socialize and receive feedback from the membership.

However, this year we may need to discuss filling some important vacant positions in the Unit Board of Directors and in the editorial roster for *Biophilately*. Please try to attend the show and come to the Unit meeting.

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