

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Another year has come to a close and I imagine that, like me, most of you are looking around wondering where all the days went. Now that I am fully retired, many days seem to be a repeat of the day before. Although I could generally set my own schedule when I was working at my paying job, now I am truly free to do whatever I want.

Fortunately, I enjoy a hobby that pretty much is limited only by imagination and I flatter myself that my imagination is right up there with the best. For I find that I will **never** run out of projects (as the piles of things I am “working on” clutter most of the flat surfaces in my house).

In this issue, we continue the three-part article on the International Botanical Congresses by Dr. John Gray. Also we have at last an article in the microbiology arena by Victor G. Potter, “Man and Microbes,” that details some of the history of the discoveries of disease-causing microorganisms.

Our intrepid publisher and Herpetology editor, Dick Roman, is enjoying spring in Antarctica. So we have no column on Herpetology in this issue. And you may have to bear with us as Chris Dahle and I figure out how to get the printed copies of this issue to all the subscribers.

It is not too early to start planning for the 2018 National Topical Stamp Show, which next year will be held as a joint show with the American Philatelic Society's StampShow in Columbus, Ohio, 9–12 August 2018. This joint show will undoubtedly be the largest exhibition in the United States in 2018. The organizers from both the ATA and APS are expecting more than 100 dealers. There will be multiple philatelic society meetings (including our own Biology Unit meeting), live auctions, and multiple first-day-of-issue ceremonies for new stamps.

Of course, there will also be several thousand pages of philatelic exhibits of all types. The ATA and APS will host separate exhibitions with both groups having World Series of Philately (WSP) status. This show will also host the annual APS Champion-of-Champions competition for the Grand Award winners at each of the WSP national shows.

The Biology Unit has accepted the challenge of creating a humorous non-competitive one-frame exhibit using the theme “What Does [your topic] Do in its Spare Time?” We already have pages for Beavers, Butterflies, Chickens, Cockroaches, Frogs, Pelicans, Stegosauruses, Tomatoes, and Trees. They are all hilarious and I think this exhibit will be a real viewing treat. If you would like to get in on this project, contact me (see inside front cover).

Also, the ATA is seeking competitive exhibits for this show. Check the ATA website as details and application forms become available.

As the New Year looms, it is time to renew your membership. I have attached a renewal form to this edition for your use. Your address label indicates the year your membership expires. Several members are in arrears. Please send your dues to the Secretary. For our Life Members, we welcome your donations as well.

Please accept my best wishes for a terrific holiday season and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Jack R. Congrove



#### DUES RATES (US\$)

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Regular membership (US & Canada) | \$20 |
| Overseas membership              | \$25 |
| Overseas airmail (add)           | \$10 |
| On-line membership               | \$15 |

#### ADVERTISING RATES

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Full page insertion    | \$20 |
| Half page insertion    | \$10 |
| Quarter page insertion | \$5  |

Please see the Biology Unit website ([www.biophilately.org](http://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