

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CORNER

NEW MEMBERS

No new members to report this quarter. The Biology topic is immensely popular. It is likely that someone in your local club is a collector of something related to zoology or botany. **Sign them up.**

BIOLOGY UNIT MEETING

The Biology Unit will hold its annual meeting at the joint American Topical Association (ATA)-American Philatelic Society (APS) StampShow in Columbus, Ohio, from 10:00–11:00 AM on Saturday, 11 August 2018. Ordinarily this is a social meeting and we do not discuss detailed business matters. The joint show, which will be the largest in the United States this year, runs 9–12 August 2018, at the Crowne Plaza-Downtown Hotel.

The overall theme of this show will focus on Dragons. See the previous page for a story about a new stamp release on this topic that will take place at the show. The ATA will also hold its annual board meetings and Annual General Meeting at the show. The Biology Unit will display a special one-frame exhibit with pages from our members showing humorous views of “What [their topic] Does in Its Spare Time.”

NTSS SCHEDULE

In addition to our own annual Unit meeting, the joint ATA-APS StampShow in Columbus, Ohio, will offer several events that should be of interest to members of the Biology Unit. The ATA will conduct ATA Ambassador training sessions on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00–10:00 AM each day. The Ambassadors represent the ATA at local, regional, and national shows around the country. Contact the ATA office (americantopical@msn.com) to reserve a spot.

The joint show will feature 1,000 frames of philatelic exhibits including those competing for the Champion of Champions award. There are also three dozen entries in the philatelic literature competition including our own *Biophilately* unit journal. There will be 125 dealers, three cachet makers, and more than 50 societies, clubs, and study units in attendance.

The ATA will have a huge prominent booth. Eight study units, including the Biology Unit, are contributing sponsorships for this booth. In addition, four study units will have individual booths of their own at the show. Twelve study units will be holding meetings. Harmer-Schau will hold a live philatelic auction at the show.

The ATA will hold its Annual General Meeting on Friday, 10 August, from 1:00–2:30 PM. This meeting will include discussion of upcoming important policy changes.

Also on Friday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, our Unit President, Laurie J. Ryan, will present “JRR Tolkien, the Hobbit, and Dragons.” On Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM, ATA member Jeff Lough will present “Here Be Dragons!”

Jack André Denys, past-President of the ATA, will present “A Basic Guide to Looking at Thematic Exhibits” on Friday from 3:00–4:00 PM.

The ATA will premiere its newest handbook, *What's First?*, which describes each stamp that was the first to show a particular topic or celebrate a particular event.

The Penguins on Stamps Study Unit will hold their annual meeting on Friday from 3:00–5:00 PM. Marci Jarvis will present “Cats of Stamps from A–Z” on Saturday from 1:00–2:30 PM. The Gastronomy on Stamps Study Unit will hold its meeting on Saturday from 2:00–3:00 PM.

The ATA President's Reception will take place at Schmidt's Sausage House on Friday starting at 7:15 PM. Contact the ATA office (see above) for reservations, which are required.

The ATA is sponsoring an all-day tour on Monday, 13 August, following the show. Details are still being finalized.