

STAMP STORIES

Jack R. Congrove, BU1424

Members of the Biology Unit combined to create a one-frame exhibit for the joint ATA-APS show this year in Columbus, Ohio. The Unit chose a humorous theme based on a conversation with former ATA Board member Bob Lamb at last year's National Topical Stamp Show.


He asked Laurie Ryan, "What do hedgehogs do in their spare time?" And to Jean Stout, "All those penguins, what do they do in their spare time?"

For some (probably forever unknown) reason, members of the Biology Study Unit found this joke to be ridiculously funny. So, the idea was born to create one-page "mini-exhibits" on each topic to fill a frame for the joint show. This article is the first of a series that will show each of the resulting pages shown in the exhibit.

Here is a list of the pages and contributors. We will include images of all the pages in upcoming editions of the journal.

1. Title Page: Dawn Hamman
2. Biology Unit Description: Jack Congrove
3. Beaver Spare Time: Larry Davidson
4. Butterfly Spare Time: Jack Congrove
5. Butterflies (continued): Jack Congrove
6. Chicken Spare Time: Dawn Hamman
7. Cockroach Spare Time: Jean Stout
8. Donkey Spare Time: Bob Mather
9. Frog Spare Time: Vic Eichler
10. Hedgehog Spare Time: Laurie Ryan
11. Pelican Spare Time: Susan Jones
12. Stegosaurus Spare Time: Susan Jones
13. Tomato Spare Time: Dawn Hamman
14. Trees Spare Time: Chris Dahle
15. Paleontology (filler): Jack Congrove
16. Paleontology (filler): Jack Congrove

The Spare Time Challenge!



Bob Lamb—
in his spare time!

At last year's National Topical Stamp Show, retiring ATA board member Bob Lamb took to teasingly asking questions...

To Laurie Ryan, "What do hedgehogs do in their spare time?"

To Jack Congrove, "What do butterflies do in their spare time?"

To Jean Stout, "All those cockroaches, what do they do in their spare time?"

You are undoubtedly getting the idea that Bob was suggesting that every topic has some spare time!

For some (probably forever unknown) reason, members of the Biology Study Unit found this joke to be ridiculously funny, so we took the challenge, and here are the results.

Enjoy!

BIOLOGY STUDY UNIT of the ATA

The Biology Unit has the distinction of being the second oldest study unit in the American Topical Association. It was founded on 22 May 1951, by Homer L. Jones and six other collectors. It has grown to include a total of almost 1,900 members over the period of its existence. Other than perhaps the very general topic of notable persons, biological themes form the largest category of topical postage stamp issues.

From its very beginning, its members were involved with the production of topical listings. The Unit has supported more ATA Handbooks than any other starting with HB1-2, *Biology Philately*, and including three handbooks on Horses, six on Flowers and Plants, five on Birds, four on Insects and Invertebrates, two on Fish, two on Pharmacy, and four on various Mammals including Bats and Bears.

Thirty of the 121 recipients (nearly one-quarter) of the Distinguished Topical Philatelist award, the highest honor bestowed by the ATA, have been members of the Biology Unit.

The Biology Unit, throughout its history, has been a leader in the field of topical philately. It was the first study unit to produce topical handbooks and its members have been responsible for the publication of more ATA handbooks than any other unit. It was the first to provide a special topical exhibit award. It has provided leaders not only to many other philatelic organizations, but also to the scientific and educational communities. Its Unit journal, *Biophilately*, is one of the oldest philatelic periodicals in continuous existence, and its members have many received philatelic and academic honors.

Collecting stamps portraying the natural world has long been one of the most popular topical pursuits. These always head popularity listings of thematic subjects. Collecting all plants and animals on stamps is virtually impossible, but concentrating on a single topic, or a narrower field is the conventional approach.



souvenir sheet, Czech Republic, 4 September 2013
depicting the flora and fauna of the Karlštejn region
all species of plants & animals are identified by their scientific name except for two (can you find them?)