

BIOPHILATELY

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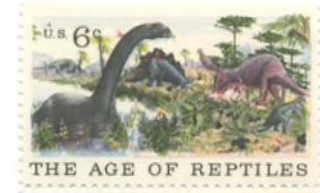
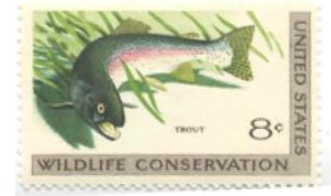
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BIOPHILATELY

Editor

Jack Congrove
P.O. Box 33092, Fort Lewis, WA 98433, USA
jackcongrove@comcast.net

Publisher

Dick Roman
Dick.Roman@SbcGlobal.Net

Associate Editors

Christopher E. Dahle *Botany*
1401 Linmar Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
chris-dahle@uiowa.edu

Paul A. Mistretta *Fungi*
4148 Commodore Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341
mistrettapaul@bellsouth.net

Michael Prince *Mammalia*
"Dorset," Grove Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants. U.K.
Michael.Prince@bushinternet.com

Glenn G. Mertz *Ornithology*
625 N. Lafayette St., Allentown, PA 18104
ggmertz@juno.com

Charles E. Braun *New Birds*
7 Winthrop Drive, Aiken, SC 29803
ChuckBraun@aol.com

Kris P. Lindstrom *Ichthyology*
P.O. Box 51008, Pacific Grove, CA 93950
kplenviro2@sti.net

Ian Hunter *Invertebrate Zoology*
77 Edgevalley Way N.W., Calgary, AB
T3A 4X7, Canada
ighunter@shaw.ca

Donald Wright, Jr. *Entomology*
84 Woosamonsa Rd., Pennington, NJ 08534
don.aa2f@verizon.net

Dr. Hans-Peter Schultze *Paleontology*

BIOLOGY UNIT OF ATA

Alan J. Hanks **President**
(vacant) **Vice-President**

Christopher Dahle **Secretary/Treasurer**
1401 Linmar Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Directors

Jack Congrove Lois Herrmann
Frederick Skvara Donald Wright, Jr.

International Secretary

(vacant)

Librarian

Mark Reineke
925 Boychuk Drive, Saskatoon, SK
S7H 4L6 Canada
mikadoate@sasktel.net

Website

www.biophilately.org

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Send membership enquiries and change of address notices to the Secretary, Chris Dahle, (319) 364-4999. See the following page for dues rates.

Please send letters, comments on the journal, articles, or new material to the Editor, Jack Congrove (data above). The Publisher will handle requests for issues from the current year. Contact the Librarian, Mark Reineke (address above), for copies of all other issues.

NOTE: Please provide a self-addressed envelope with the necessary return postage (or International Reply Coupons, if available) for all enquiries requiring an answer.

PLEASE NOTE:

Material for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor before 18 May 2012.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I have already learned at least one thing (and many others, if I think about it) from taking on the editorship of this journal. And that is, you have to plan far ahead. It is early February as I write this, but I found myself thinking about future events that need discussing in our first edition for 2012. One problem with a quarterly publication is that it can only inform the reader once every three months. This makes it less work for yours truly, but limits its capability to impart timely information.

Our study unit has two important matters that we must consider in this issue. One item is our annual membership dues. The bottom of this page shows the rates. We are also enclosing a dues notice form that you can use to submit your payment. Our Secretary informs me that some members have already sent in their dues for this year, for which we thank them. Last year we had several members mistakenly pay twice because we put dues notices in two issues. We applied some of those double payments to the dues for this year. If you are unsure of your payment status, the mailing label should have a date indicating the year for which you are paid up. If you receive only the on-line edition and have a question about your status, please contact the Secretary.

The second item for consideration is our annual election of study unit officers. The election will take place this year at the annual National Topical Stamp Show scheduled to be held 22-24 June 2012, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The show press release on page 16 describes some of the planned activities. We will hold the Biology Unit meeting at the NTSS on Saturday morning. I highly encourage all members to attend. In the meantime, the unit is soliciting your nominations for any of the officer or director positions. We currently have a vacant position at Vice-President. All current officers and directors have indicated that they will be running again. We encourage all members who wish to make any additional nominations to contact the Secretary (chris-dahle@uiowa.edu).

In the current edition, we have several checklists for new issues. Several flocks of birds have arrived starting on page 19. Our journal covers most fields of biology, but there is one area where we currently fall short and that is Herpetology—the study of reptiles and amphibians. I am convinced that we have among our members several interested in this topic and surely someone is compiling listings of these issues for their own use. I invite that person to share their effort with others in this publication. I promise to make the process as painless as possible. I will take care of all the formatting and text arrangement. All I need is the source data. Please contact me and we will get you started in the next edition.

I invite readers to send me their suggestions for improvement on any aspect of the journal. See the inside cover for contact information. And, as I mentioned previously, I am always looking for articles, letters, and other input of interest to the readers for inclusion in future editions.

Jack Congrove

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings once again from Aurora (Ontario), where the weather has been extremely kind to us, unlike Europe, where they seem to be experiencing what I have always thought of as a typical North American Winter, with piles of snow everywhere. At my somewhat advanced age, I employ someone to clear the driveway, and he is having a very easy time of it. Since I have been told many times “never count your chickens...,” there will probably be some really bad stuff ahead for us, but I hope not.

I was thinking the other day and trying to remember how long I had been a Biology Unit member and since I joined BU before I joined the ATA in Philadelphia, 1976 at the International show, it amounts to thirty-five years. The first ATA show I attended was in Atlantic City in 1978, where we had camped with our tent trailer nearby on the way home from the annual holiday with our two children. At the Unit meeting, they said they were looking for a new Treasurer and I found my hand was up! It created quite a stir, as some members wondered if it was all right to have the money with the neighbour to the North! The following year, the ATA Convention was in Spokane in Washington, and I really wanted to go, so I suggested to my wife Barbara that we should fly out and leave the kids with some friends. She said “spend the weekend with a bunch of stamp collectors – you must be mad.” Luckily, I convinced her and we had a wonderful time out there, setting the stage for what has been an annual event for us during the summer of most years since then.

If you have never attended an ATA Convention, I urge you to take the opportunity whenever the show is within relatively easy reach. This year, the Convention is in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the heart of Amish country. There are lots of events planned, so if you can possibly make it, go to the show and have an enjoyable time! The Biology Unit meeting is usually on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and I hope to meet some of you there!

Until next time...

Alan J. Hanks

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