

**Biology Unit Meeting at NTSS – Chris Dahle**

The National Topical Stamp Show was held in Portland Oregon from June 12-15, 2008. The Biology Unit held its annual meeting at 10:00 am on Saturday June 14 during the show. Seven members and 4 officers (president Fran Hammond, vice president and editor Alan Hanks, treasurer Laurie Ryan and secretary Chris Dahle) were present.

The meeting had no specific agenda. Those members present indicated they like the format of the journal, which is essentially a compilation of new issue checklists. A list of members will be published in the journal, using those names for which we have received permission. Please inform the treasurer if you wish to be listed and have not indicated that on the dues sheet. We need to hear from Life members, too.

There was discussion about exhibiting. Several people thought that there were too many rules, which keep them from participating. Others would like to see more written guidelines for exhibiting. They would also like to see thematic rules to include illustrated mail and postcards.

There was discussion about the hobby of stamp collecting. It was pointed out that there are many collectors who do not belong to organizations. Despite what you read, there are kids collecting stamps, and they have a wide variety of interests. Parents often will not bring kids to stamp shows but will take them to sports activities. Crossover collecting should be encouraged: expose train hobbyists to train stamps or orchid growers to orchid stamps and see what happens.

Alan brought up the question of how will your heirs dispose of your collection. Contact a dealer that you have been working with. Make suggestions about who to see. Get more than one opinion. Keep records of what you paid. Highlight high value stamps.

It was suggested that a list of internet resources be published. To start this off, the following site was suggested by one of the attendees: <delcampe.net>. The meeting ended at 11:00.

**New Members**

- # 1793 Michael G. Conner, 109 Woodward Road, Trussville, AL 35173
- # 1794 Nancy E. Gooch, 410 Meadowbrook Lane, Fairfield, TX 75840-1829

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I checked out the delcampe site and it is an International Collector’s Community on which one can buy and sell items such as stamps, postcards, coins, books and other collectibles. I carried out a search for Nyasaland (one of my countries) and there was plenty of material, from older to more recent issues. A problem could be that some items are in Euros and some in USA\$. However, it is worth a look. [Ed.]

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