

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings to all members and I hope everyone is enjoying the summer after what seemed to me a long and snowy winter and a pretty wet spring. This increased moisture had a profound effect on the trees and plants and our Magnolia, which has been in the front yard for many years, had more blossoms this year than we have seen for a very long time. Needless to say up at this latitude, frosts are not unusual when it blooms, so we often lose most of the buds, but this year we had a second flowering, which pleased Barbara very much.

As Fran has noted in her President's Message, the recent NTSS annual show in Dayton, Ohio, was quite successful and my Wife and I also had a good time meeting with all the ATA people that we see once a year at NTSS. There were 320 frames of exhibits, many more than at recent past shows, including a Court of Honor of past Grand Award winners at NTSS and also the AAPE "Youth Champion of Champions" exhibits, which were most interesting and a good sign that there are still youthful stamp collectors out there. As I mentioned in the March Biophilately, a new score sheet was in use at the show titled UEEF. This means 'Unified Exhibit Evaluation Form' and was used for all exhibits – Thematic, Display and Postcard, with the aim of having more meaningful observations from the judges recorded on the sheet for the benefit of the exhibitor. The sheet makes no specific mention of thematic elements such as thematic knowledge or research and development of the theme. However, the guidelines for thematic exhibits which will appear in the judging manual covers these factors. The idea of the UEEF was to have a universal sheet which would be suitable for all facts of philatelic exhibiting. We shall have to see how this plays out in the long run.

A subject which is of greater concern at the moment is how to put on and run a stamp show without losing money, since the only result of this for the ATA in the long run is that NTSS will cease to exist. The root cause of course is money, since everything required to put on a show keeps escalating in cost, while increasing frame fees for exhibits or membership fees in the host society is very difficult to apply. In the long term, these two options are probably the only ones open to make the show successful. The ATA Boards discussed this at the annual board meeting and hopefully, some answers will be forthcoming in the future.

This journal is once again a little smaller than usual except for the bird enthusiasts. There have been very few new issues of late for the insect collectors and other columns seem a little abbreviated. In addition, a file sent by Kris Lindstrom with a fish column refused to be opened on my computer. This is a new aspect of communication between editor and associate editors which will have to be worked out!

Until next time - Alan J. Hanks

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