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ATA TO OFFER NEW NOVICE CLASS AT FUTURE NTSS SHOWS

Effective with the next National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS), to be held adjacent to the Dallas/Ft. Worth airport June 15-17, 2007, the American Topical Association (ATA) will establish a new class of exhibits to be called "Novice Class" for beginning collectors in the Multiple-frame class, the Single-frame class and the Display class who have never exhibited a "thematic" before. This would still be called a Novice Class even if the exhibitor has previously exhibited in other Classes. This "Novice Class" would be judged by a panel of three local judges, appointed by the ATA, with not more than one being an accredited judge.

The ATA will develop simplified score sheets before this next show to maximize the value to the exhibitors. Special awards will also be prepared to avoid any misunderstanding between these and the regularly judged exhibit awards. This new class will give novice exhibitors an opportunity to test the waters and learn more about thematic exhibiting so that they may move up in exhibition awards through a more gentle learning process.

The other classes of exhibiting at NTSS will remain unchanged allowing experienced exhibitors to continue vying for awards in the Multiple and Single frame Classes in addition to the Display Class under the currently constituted rules established by CANEJ..

This additional recognition for novice exhibitors adds to the recently created "Topical Novice Awards" and the "Awards for Thematic Exhibitors who have yet to win a Vermeil or Gold at a World Series of Philately Stamp Show". These are currently available to all stamp exhibitions as an incentive to continuing to exhibit, from the American Topical Association. Show Exhibition Chairpersons may request award cards for exhibitors who fall into these award categories and the cards will be redeemed by the ATA for copies of ATA Handbook #133, Adventures in Topical Stamp Collecting by George Griffenhagen and Jerry Husak. This handbook includes comprehensive information on exhibiting topical stamp collections. Stamp clubs holding exhibitions can obtain these cards and other information by contacting ATA – PO Box 57 – Arlington, TX 76004-0057 or at americantopical@msn.com .

For additional information on the American Topical Association contact the ATA Central Office, PO

Box 57, Arlington, Texas 76004-0057 (telephone 817-274-1181; fax 817-274-1184; email americantopical@msn.com; or visit their website at www.americantopicalassn.org.