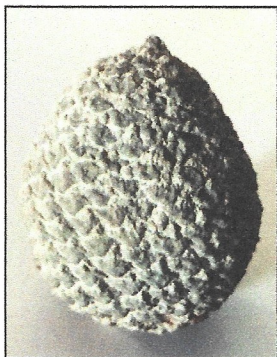




Two Hobbies, Two Trees by Susan Jones sjones1665@comcast.net

Topical collecting allows me to combine two of my hobbies: collecting stamps and collecting fossils. The photographs show fossil pinecones of *Araucaria mirabilis* from a petrified forest in Argentina. The genus *Araucaria* evolved during the Age of Dinosaurs in the Jurassic Period, 201–145 million years ago.



Fossil *Araucaria mirabilis* cones, Argentina.
Above: Whole cone, about 2 inches tall. Right: Cone, about 3 inches tall, cut in half and polished to show seeds. (Photographs of specimens in my collection.)

The stamps depict a second species, *Araucaria araucana*, that lives in isolated forests in Chile. This giant species, the national tree of Chile, can reach a height of 160 feet and live up to 2000 years.



Airmail stamp with *Araucaria araucana*.



Above: Airmail stamps, plane and *A. araucana*.
Right: 75-centavos *A. araucana* stamp issued 1976 for Chile's Reforestation Campaign.
Far right: Airmail cover, Santiago, Chile to Morris Plains, New Jersey. Pair of 10-centavos *A. araucana* stamps.

