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SPNHC NEWSLETTER

Society for the Preservation of
Natural History Collections

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Evolution, Predator Traps, and Money Pits: Re-thinking Collection Extinction

William F. Vartorella, PO Box 1376, Craig and Vartorella, Inc., Camden, SC 29020-1376

Is your natural history collection facing extinction? At first blush, it certainly might seem that way. Worldwide, collections are decaying. By the mid-21st century best estimates project holdings at 12 billion specimens—a 500% growth over today's collection holdings and a multi-billion dollar preservation crisis. Add to this pressures to record biological diversity (300% growth in collections during the past 70 years) and very real fears in developing nations that Western efforts to catalogue their collections digitally will functionally end scholarly interest and global concern over the status and condition of these at-risk collections – and the picture becomes draconian.

Worse, there is increasing competition for what are perceived to be finite financial resources by the world's 6,500 natural science collections. Unfortunately, natural history museums seem to forget that while they, like living species, evolve to some extent through competition, they also evolve through opportunism. It is our premise that competing for the increasingly finite financial resources (U.S. Federal grants, for example) takes a museum and collection on the slippery slope to a predator trap. A much better approach is for collections to position themselves to occupy unique niches (evolutionary spaces) which are aggressive, high profile, and capable of attracting the attention of significant funders while remaining consistent with the evolving mission of their institutions. Inherent in this opportunism is the ability of a collection to meet a) donor needs, b) constituency needs (visitors, board, staff, etc.), and c) institutional needs (rising costs of conservation, overhead, long-range goals, etc.).

Vertebrate paleontology is an excellent exemplar, with both natural history museums and corporations sharing the excitement of dino-imagery to capture audiences. For corporations the goal is market share and clients through the use of billboard, print, and point-of-purchase campaigns that utilize "borrowed interest" (advertising jar-

gon) to attract attention. Museums seek a combination of visitors and potential access to new corporate donors. The opportunistic linkage of a natural history collection with a paleontology focus with a corporation or individual donor is far from unique in American history. Examples abound.

In the 1930s, the old Sinclair Oil Company staged a major dinosaur exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago, complete with professional assistance from a paleontologist at the American Museum of Natural History. During the same period, Sinclair sponsored a free dino book for use by schoolteachers and librarians. Sinclair continued the

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Bylaws, Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

Stephen L. Williams, Strecker
MuseumComplex, Baylor University, Waco,
Texas 76798-7154

Since the beginning of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), the organization's leadership has been responsible for the internal and external management of operations. This endeavor has resulted in an accumulation of assorted written documents in the form of bylaws, policies, procedures, and guidelines. As the leadership continues to manage the operations of the Society, it has been a challenge to fully assimilate all of the directives and intents of previous decision-making as expressed in these documents. As a result, the leadership is currently involved with an initiative to evaluate, update, and place various operational documents in their proper perspective. In doing so, it is helpful to understand the significance and function of bylaws, policies, procedures, and guidelines. Definitions (in quotes) from *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*

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The **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections** was formed in 1985 and is recognized as a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] in the United States. SPNHC members receive *Collection Forum*, a bi-annual journal of reviewed technical information, and two issues of the *SPNHC Newsletter* each year. The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is a multidisciplinary organization composed of individuals who are interested in development and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections include specimens and supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data, and similar archives. The Society actively encourages the participation of individuals involved with all aspects of natural history collections.

The *SPNHC Newsletter* (ISSN 1071-2887) is published twice a year, February and August, by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, c/o Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, 170 Whitney Avenue, PO Box 208118, New Haven, CT 06520-8118, USA. Changes of address should be directed to Lisa Palmer, Treasurer, PO Box 797, Washington, DC 20044-0797; palmer.lisa@nmnh.si.edu.

Submissions are welcome. Please forward announcements, articles and notes to Tim White, Newsletter Editor, Invertebrate Paleontology, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, 170 Whitney Ave., PO Box 208118, New Haven, CT 06520-8118, USA; (203) 432-3767 (voice); (203) 432-9816 (fax); tim.white@yale.edu (email).

Deadlines for future newsletters are: February 9, 2000, August 9, 2000 and February 7, 2001.

Presidential Profile

*Sally Y. Shelton, National Museum of Natural History,
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560*

It was the largest SPNHC meeting ever: over 200 of you were here for six days of workshops, technical sessions, a memorable Potomac dinner cruise, and non-stop talk and ideas everywhere. On behalf of the SPNHC leadership, I would like to thank the local committee and our sponsors once again for planning such an event, and all the registrants for making our most optimistic projections come true. I look forward to seeing you in Halifax next summer, lobster bibs and all!

There were some extraordinary presentations this year. It is good to know that museum researchers are making SPNHC a first or early stop in their announcements of results, and coming to SPNHC first when collections challenges arise. The NCPTT-funded SPNHC project on natural history collections research priorities is definitely taking shape at the right time. I urge all speakers and workshop leaders to submit manuscripts to *Collection Forum*.

Several SPNHC initiatives will be continuing throughout the year. The Long-Range Planning Committee, chaired by Member-at-Large Linda Thomas, has drafted a plan that is due in final form at the Halifax meetings. This is your chance to tell us what SPNHC should and should not be doing as it grows and matures. We need to know what you like, what you do not like, what keeps you renewing your membership, what you value most as return on your membership investment, what SPNHC should be doing for you as a museum professional. We need to know it all, good and bad. Fifteen years is about the right time for an organization to re-think, re-word, and re-focus itself.

In addition, the Membership Committee will keep looking at membership

numbers and strategies. Why do some people become life members while others resign? What would make membership in SPNHC better for you or for your colleagues? If you did not participate in the recent membership survey, or even if you did, get in touch with Ann Pinzl or Jane MacKnight and let them know what makes or would make SPNHC membership worthwhile.

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Treasurer's Report

*Lisa F. Palmer, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, DC 20560*

In 1998 SPNHC had a financially stable year. Over 610 members and subscribers paid 1998 dues, including 488 individual and associate members, and 123 library subscribers. Sales of both our Storage books continue to do well: in 1998, SPNHC sold over 200 copies of volume one (*A Preventive Conservation Approach*) and over 160 copies of volume two (*Ideas and Practical Solutions*). Although book sales have decreased when compared to previous years' sales, our books remain a solid source of revenue. Back-issue sales of *Collection Forum*, *SPNHC Newsletter* and SPNHC Leaflets and sales of our mailing list produced income of \$485. In 1998 SPNHC received a U.S. Department of Interior grant of \$9,950. SPNHC received only \$371 in donations, a significant drop from 1997 donations. Total income in 1998 was approximately \$44,000.

Expenses in 1998 included over \$23,000 for publication costs associated with printing, mailing and shipping SPNHC publications. The Treasurer's office incurred expenses of \$1,023 for supplies and in bank fees. Direct costs to transfer the Treasurer's office from Iowa to DC were \$753. Other signifi-

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**Committee
Reports**

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Awards and Recognition Committee is accepting nominations for the SPNHC Award and the President's Award for 2000. These awards are given only when an appropriate candidate is identified, and neither award may have more than one recipient per year. Final decisions are based on documentary information and approval from the SPNHC Council. The Committee is also accepting nominations for Special Services Awards.

The SPNHC Award recognizes an individual's life-time achievements that have served as a significant contribution to the objectives of the Society. Nominees for the SPNHC Award may be members, previous members or non-members of the Society. The President's Award is given in recognition of a SPNHC member's distinguished service to the development and continued success of SPNHC. This would normally involve superior, prolonged service to appointed offices, committees, and/or ongoing activities of SPNHC. Nominees must be current or previous members of SPNHC. Nominations for the SPNHC and President's Awards must be submitted by 30 November 1999. Special Service Awards recognize individuals for any special effort leading to the success of an important event or activity of the Society. The award is essentially a certificate of appreciation. The nomination process for this award is less formal, and names of nominees may be submitted in writing or verbally at any time before the second meeting of Council at the 2000 Annual Meeting.

Nominations should include the name of the nominee, name of the award proposed, a description of important contributions of the nominee, and other information supporting consideration of the nominee for the award in question. Nominations and related questions should be directed to Steven Krauth, Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, 346 Russell Laboratories, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706-1598. Phone (608) 262-0056; Fax (608) 262-3322; email krauth@entomology.wisc.edu.



*Steven Krauth, Chair
University of Wisconsin*

SPNHC Begins a New Long Range Planning Endeavor

SPNHC is embarking on the development of a second Five-Year Plan to take us from the year 2000 when the current one concludes. The new Sessional Committee on Long-Range Planning (PC) was begun this past year when Sally Shelton appointed the six Members-at-Large to form its core. The MALs then chose Grant Hughes (Chair of the first Planning Committee), Carolyn Rose and Pam Bruder as additional members of the Committee to add greater continuity, newness, and experience. We were entrusted with this task, not because the first one was faulty, but because 1) it will soon be time for another one, and 2) collections-related fields are continu-

ally changing along with global economic, political, technological and environmental changes.

The purpose of having a Long-Range Plan is to assess where SPNHC has been as a society within these contexts, where it is now, and where we want it to go in the five years following 2000. The process begins with a review of the current Plan that includes five components: a Mission Statement, Five-Year Vision, Strategic Priorities, Five-Year Goals, and Implementation. The PC is currently in the process of reviewing the Mission Statement and coming up with a set of goals. At this stage, we are doing this with input from all of the Standing Committees.

During the coming months we will be posting our progress and requests for input from all members of SPNHC on our web site (www.spnhc.org) and on NHCOLL-L. Please look there. We will also be doing an update for the next Newsletter. In the meantime, if you have questions/suggestions, please contact me (Pratt Museum of Natural History, Amherst College, Amherst, MA 01002, USA; (413) 542-2326 (voice); llthomas@amherst.edu (email)), or any of the other PC members.

*Linda L. Thomas, Chair
Amherst College*

Conservation

Fifteen committee members and four interested general SPNHC members attended the conservation committee meeting in Washington, DC at the 14th Annual Meeting. The agenda included subcommittee reports, discussion of a cooperative project on residual pesticides in collections, and a short commentary on the work of the SPNHC Long Range Planning Committee.

If you have journals or disciplines that you want included in the citation review process, please contact Paula Work. A volunteer is urgently needed to conduct broad computer searches of literature relevant to the care and preservation of collections. If you can do this, please contact Paula (work3@fuse.net).

Gene Hess and Rob Waller discussed the completion of the fluids assessment project at the University of Kansas. Rob stated that he thought the testing protocols are difficult to do and he felt that there continue to be questions about what the data developed in the project means, and how it can be used. Rob and John Simmons will prepare the first publication from the assessment project, and expect to submit it to *Collection Forum*. The second publication will deal with multivariate analysis and is expected to be submitted to *Collection Forum* for Spring, 2000. Arnold Suzumoto's work, "Jars and Lids," will be submitted to *Collection Forum* for Fall, 1999.

David Von Endt introduced Paisley Cato, the principal investigator on the NCPTT grant. Paisley (cato@pe.net) presented the concept of the grant that is to cover costs for a survey of natural history research needs. After discussion of the concepts, it was suggested that identification of research needs required input from the end users and from potential researchers. The discussion emphasized that prioritization of research and technology transfer should be made using the risk assessment model.

The American resource display unit (RDU) was used at seven venues during the year, and was set up at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The Canadian RDU made its debut in Edmonton last year. New products will be introduced and some products will be retired. New product information will be made available to the membership through the Newsletter. Christine Del Re and Carolyn Rose, conservators, volunteered to evaluate new products before they are announced.

The National Park Service (NPS) is interested in cooperating with selected museums and SPNHC in gathering information on residual pesticides in collections. Current interest in this project has been expressed by SPNHC members in Canada, Europe, and the United States and by the NPS. The project is in the explorative stage, with work being done by NPS and the Research Subcommittee. As additional information is available it will be submitted to the Newsletter for distribution. SPNHC sponsorship will be considered once the project is clearly defined.

Cindy Ramotnik, Carolyn Rose, and Arnold Suzumoto represented the long range planning committee at the conservation committee meeting. The current five-year plan will be evaluated, and the conservation committee membership will respond to an updated five year plan. All conservation committee members will be sent an informational seven-page packet on the long range planning. Please respond and return the packet to the conservation committee chair.

The Conservation Committee welcomes the following new members: Caroline Buttler (National Museum of Wales), Lisa Kronthal (American Museum of Natural History), Victoria Purewal (National Museum of Wales) and Jude Southward (Denver Museum of Natural History). Remember that Conservation Committee meetings are open to all SPNHC members. Watch for the Fluids Assessment article by Rob Waller and John Simmons, and the Jars and Lids article by Arnold Suzumoto in the *Collection Forum*, Fall, 1999. And watch for notice of new collection care products from Cindy.

*Diana H. Dicus, Chair
Boise, Idaho*

Documentation

The Glossary Project headed by Paisley Cato, Julie Golden and Sue McLaren is firming up and has been transferred to the Publications Committee for production. Paisley will continue in the lead with the support of Kate Shaw, our Managing Editor. We anticipate publication of the glossary by next year's annual meeting. NHCOLL-L, the Natural History Collections listserver has moved to Yale University and is locally administered by Tim White. Postings to the list have resumed. We thank the Museum of Paleontology at the University of California, Berkeley for supporting NHCOLL-L the past five years.

At this year's annual meeting the Committee identified new initiatives and directions. Discussion focused on computer-related issues, data standards and data models for natural history collection management and biodiversity. A series of guideline papers was discussed for such areas as digital image collections, molecular or

tissue collections and archives. Legal and ethical considerations for collection and usage was also identified as new areas for the committee. In the year to come we intend to further define these areas and use the Society web site to post information relevant to documentation.

The Committee welcomes Holly McEntee (University of Wisconsin) and Kathryn Vaughn (Texas A&M) as new members and says good bye to Jan Bernstein, Julie Golden, Sue McLaren and Terry Vidal. The Committee is looking for additional members; contact Tim White (tim.white@yale.edu) if you are interested or have any documentation concerns.



*Tim White, Chair
Yale Peabody Museum*

CALL FOR THE 2000 FABER AWARD PROPOSALS

The Awards and Recognition Committee is requesting proposals for the Faber Award, a cash grant of up to \$1000, to support the best project addressing issues on the management, care, conservation, or use of natural history collections. Applicants for the Faber Award must be SPNHC members in good standing for at least one year prior to the award date.

The successful applicant will be expected to 1) present a final or interim report at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Society and 2) publish the results, with the understanding that the manuscript will be sent first to the SPNHC Publications Committee for first right of refusal.

Each applicant may submit only one proposal per funding period. The cover sheet should include a project title, name(s) of project personnel (including title, address, and phone/fax numbers), and a single-line spaced 100-word abstract describing the proposed project. The proposal text should include a statement of purpose, project plan (e.g., participants, methods, materials, schedule of completion, etc.), and proposed use of funds. The text should have one-inch margins, 10-12 characters per inch, and double-line spacing. The application, including cover page, should not exceed 10 pages. Curriculum vita of the principal investigator and letters of commitment may be single-line spaced and attached as an appendix.

Proposals and questions regarding proposals should be directed to Steven Krauth, Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, 346 Russell Laboratories, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706-1598; (608) 262-0056 (voice); (608) 262-3322 (fax); krauth@entomology.wisc.edu (email). Proposals must be postmarked before 30 November 1999.

*Steven Krauth, Chair
University of Wisconsin*

Membership

Phil Angle recently retired as Collections Manager of Birds after 36 years with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. He established the SPNHC archives at the Smithsonian and wrote the archives guidelines that we use today, and served as Archives chair from 1989-1997. At the NMNH, Phil has been instrumental in developing better techniques in conservation for use of the collections and established a pest management program in Ornithology. *Barbara Moore* recently left the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History and has moved to Rochester, New York where she will be pursuing her consulting career in conservation. Barbara just finished her term as Member-at-Large and through her leadership revitalized the Conservation Committee and has been an active participant in the Education and Training Committee as well. At Peabody, Barbara was primarily responsible for developing Peabody's Collection Policy and developed a long-term plan for the conservation and care of Peabody's collections, which included a series of IMLS grant awards. Barbara plans to remain an active member of SPNHC. Congratulations to Phil and good luck to Barbara.

*Tim White, Newsletter Editor
Yale Peabody Museum*

SPNHC infiltrates AAM

I just want to give my SPNHC colleagues an update on my whereabouts. In July I started work at the American Association of Museums, where I am running the Museum Assessment Program. The MAP program is undergoing significant changes and growth - one of my first assignments is developing new MAP components focusing on issues not covered in depth by the existing Institutional, Collections Management, and Public Dimension Assessments. I am also looking for ways to improve the existing program. I welcome your comments on your experience with the MAP program, ideas for improvement, and identification of needs we might serve. I can be reached at: Elizabeth Merritt, Assistant Director, Museum Advancement and Excellence, American Association of Museums, 1575 Eye Street N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 218-7661 (voice); bmerritt@aam-us.org (email).

*Elizabeth E. Merritt
American Association of Museums*



Life Membership

The SPNHC Life Membership is a special membership category for those interested in the long-term financial stability of our organization. Life membership monies are invested towards the future goals of the Society. SPNHC life memberships are available for \$625. The fee is 25 times the Individual Membership rate, currently \$25. Life Memberships may be paid in one of three ways:

- (1) one-time payment of \$625;
- (2) two-year installments of \$350/1st year and \$275/2nd year;
- (3) three-year installments of \$300/1st year, \$200/2nd year and \$125/3rd year.

Please contact the Treasurer should you wish further information about life memberships.

New and Reinstated Members

Dee Allen	James Hubler	Library
Arthur Anderson	Geoff Keel	Subscribers:
Joan Andrews	Gina Laurin	
Nicholas Bailey	Craig Ludwig	PUC-RS
Kerry Barringer	Howard Mendel	Fort Worth
John Bartell	Caleb Morse	Nature Center
Sharon Birks	Bill Moser	
Eileen Blankenbaker	Michael Mungai	
Chrisse Boulis	Jane Mygatt	
Thomas Braun	John Nay	
Cheryl Bright	Pat Nutter	
Janie Burkett	Paul Oles	
Ralph Chapman	John Osofsky	
Terry Chesser	Tyjuana Nickens	
David Cicimurri	Diane Pitassy	
Chris Collins	Marta Polinger	
Thomas Dearie	Charlie Potter	
Don DeBlieux	Karen Reed	
Denny Diveley	Ellen Roblee	
Penelope Drooker	Duane Schlitter	
Clare Flemming	Matthew Shepherd	
John Frost	Nancy Simmons	
David Furth	J. D. Singleton	
Kelly Goulette	Leslie Skibinski	
Michael Gutknecht	Robert Stuebing	
Mark Hafner	Colin Sumrall	
Leslie Hale	Jann Thompson	
Shirley Harpham	Bill Tompkins	
Jill Harris	Sue Valis	
Elizabeth Harrison-	Linda Ward	
Nelson	Linda Welzenbach	
Shelly Hight	Alex Wilson	
Stuart Hine	Jenny Yearous	
Paula Holahan		

Lisa F. Palmer, Treasurer

Call for Nominations

The Elections Committee of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections announces the closing date for nominations will be 30 September 1999. Nominations are encouraged for President-Elect, Secretary and two Members-at-Large to take office in July 2000. Our society has gained great strength from the dedication of our council members and the involvement of our membership in choosing people who serve us so well. To submit a nomination or for information on the election process please contact the committee chair Judith Price, Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443 Station D, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 6P4; (613) 566-4263 (voice); (613) 364-4027 (fax); jprice@mus-nature.ca (email).



*Judith C. Price, Chair
Canadian Museum of Nature*

Finance

The Committee is experiencing some restructuring as Stephen Williams assumes the Chair in place of Julia Golden and Sue McLaren. The committee is in the final stages of establishing its membership. In the coming year, the Committee will be focusing on standard budget issues, as well as reviewing financial policies for the Society and implementing investment strategies for responsibly dealing with cash assets of the Society.

*Stephen L. Williams
Strecker Museum Complex*

Professionalism Committee Revamped

At the annual meeting in June, Council approved a change to the composition and focus of the Professionalism Committee. The PC continues to pursue its original goals of exploring how to increase professionalism in collections management; how SPNHC can assist members in receiving the support they need for professional development; and how SPNHC can promote the recognition of standards for professionalism in collections management. To this end, the Committee will be rebuilt to include representatives of other professional organizations with missions related to that of SPNHC.

Out of this broad awareness of activities and standards in various professional fields, SPNHC will build a better vision of how we can uniquely serve our members and advance their professional agenda. The new committee membership will be built by appointing SPNHC members as liaisons to related professional organizations. These liaisons will be given specific assignments related to advancing SPNHC's long range plan and professional development initiatives. The Chair is compiling a list of appropriate professional organizations, and identifying SPNHC members active in these organizations who are willing to serve as liaisons. To receive a copy of the working list of organizations, to suggest a possible liaison or volunteer to serve as such, please contact the chair.

*Elizabeth E. Merritt, Chair
American Association of Museums*

Treasurer's Report... ***continued from page 2***

cant Society expenses include \$340 to develop the Canadian SPNHC Resource Display Unit (RDU), \$100 to ship the US RDU; and \$275 to print and mail SPNHC ballots. SPNHC lent \$3,000 to the 1999 Washington, DC local committee. Of the total loan, \$1,570 was realized in 1998, with \$1,430 realized in 1999.

Thus far fiscal year 1999 has been busy. Over 615 members and subscribers have paid dues, including 507 individual and associate members, and 109 library subscribers. While over 60 new members joined SPNHC since the last Newsletter, more than 80 members and library subscribers have not yet renewed in 1999.

Publication sales remain steady. At the time of the Annual Meeting, 97 copies of Volume One, and 42 copies of Volume Two have been sold. SPNHC currently has less than 100 copies of Volume Two, *Ideas and Practical Solutions*, available. Plans are underway to reprint this volume. SPNHC has just published *Managing the Modern Herbarium, An Interdisciplinary Approach*. The book is available for purchase through Peanut Butter Publishing. Sales of the book are anticipated to bring in approximately \$15,000 in revenue in 1999. Order your copy today using the enclosed flyer!

Thus far in 1999 expenses include approximately \$7,000 for producing our periodic publications, *Collection Forum* 13(2) and *SPNHC Newsletter* 13(1). More than \$12,000 was spent to print and publish the new Herbarium book. Please note that the overall costs to produce the Herbarium book have been offset by over \$4,500 in grants received from Canadian Heritage, The Royal Ontario Museum Foundation Endowment, The Bay Foundation and Huntington T. Block Insurance.

Because SPNHC is growing financially, the Society has acquired professional services including contractual support for the Treasurer's office, and a Certified Public Accountant firm to review our financial documents and to prepare taxes.

As a result of the unusual circumstances surrounding the 1999 annual meeting, whereby SPNHC took on the meeting's fiscal management, the workload of the Treasurer's office has more than doubled. Special thanks go to Jane MacKnight (Cincinnati Museum Center) and to Lori Schlenker (Smithsonian Institution NMNH Move Office) for ensuring that the finances of the annual meeting remain manageable.

SPNHC is also grateful to the Smithsonian Institution NMNH Division of Fishes and the University of Iowa for their generous of-fice support throughout the year.

Research and Collections SPNHC99 - June 27-July 2, 1999 Washington, D.C., USA

Steven Krauth, *Department of Entomology,
University of Wisconsin, WI 53706-1598*

The 14th annual meeting of SPNHC was hosted by the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education and the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. and was coordinated by Local Committee Chair, David von Endt. The central theme for the meeting was Research and Collections.

The local committee, composed of dedicated SPNHC volunteers and Smithsonian staff, assembled a meeting that set records for SPNHC in a number of areas. This year's meeting had 200 participants, a first for SPNHC. This was an international meeting with participants from Bermuda, Canada, France, Kenya, the Netherlands, South Africa and the United Kingdom. A large portion of the oral presentations and posters was the result of research at the Smithsonian Institution, a major strength of this year's meeting. The Education and Training Committee organized a record three preconference workshops: *Finance and Funding*, *Rigging*, and *Anoxic Environments*. The exhibitor showcase and vendor support was also exceptional, contributing to the success of the meeting. The local committee successfully carried off three preconference trips. There were preconference tours of collections at the Museum of Natural History and the storage facility at Suitland, Maryland, capped by the Icebreaker at Suitland rounding out a memorable day.

The morning of the first day of the technical sessions dealt with Health and Safety issues. After lunch Bobbie Faul-Zeitler, Executive Director, Association of Systematic Collections gave an encouraging talk on products from collections, forging partnerships and the future of federal funding. The afternoon papers were collections based: historical surveys, status reports, or proposed projects.



David Von Endt, Chair of the Local Committee.

The second day of technical sessions began with a half-day symposium on



The SPNHC Council attempting to raffle off Kate Shaw (left), our Managing Editor. Going once...



The SPNHC crowd enjoying the Potomac River cruise.

the Collection and Preservation of Genetic Resources. The importance of vouchering specimens and maintaining the chain of information from original collection/collector to products and publications was restated



A demonstration of proper techniques at the Rigging workshop.

for biotic inventories, environmental monitoring and impact projects and in Conservation of Genetic Resources. Special Interest Groups in Anthropology, Geology and Conservation were run concurrent with the morning technical session. The general business meeting featured general business, awards, and a raffle. The afternoon session was organized around uses of computers in collections whether for teaching, data conservation in natural history collections and a new subject for SPNHC, reverse engineering. The evening soiree was held aboard the cruise ship *Odyssey* and a good time was had by all.

Day three featured a morning symposium on the Repatriation of Anthropology Collections followed by afternoon presentations on adhesives, storage, conservation, disaster recovery progress and collections moving. Special Interest Groups in Paleobiology, Zoology and Botany were scheduled concurrent with the morning sessions. The staff at the Natural History Museum was most helpful in arranging evening and after meeting work time in the collections for SPNHC participants with ongoing studies.

On the fourth day we rested... somewhat. Thanks to those heroes known and unknown who made this meeting one for the record books! More details of the meetings will be available on the web at www.spnhc.org.



Liz Taylor and John Pinder-Moss enjoying the Icebreaker at the Museum Support Center.

**Special
Announcements**

CONCENTRATION SHIFT INDICATOR Information about the Samples Distributed at the SPNHC99 Conference

The Leiden Museum of Anatomy recently discovered that the samples of the Concentration Shift Indicator, which were distributed at the SPNHC99 conference in Washington DC, do not meet the required specifications to function properly as an indicator in ethanol-preserved specimens. This is probably caused by a fault in the production process. Therefore, these samples should not be used, because they will give no reliable information about the ethanol concentration in fluid preserved specimens.

The data about the indicators, presented by Andries J. van Dam, at the SPNHC99 conference were collected from an earlier production batch and did meet the demanded specifications. All tested indicators functioned properly as an accurate instrument to monitor the ethanol concentration in fluid preserved specimens. The Leiden Museum of Anatomy has urged the distributor and the manufacturer of the Indicator to solve the production problem as soon as possible and replace the samples that were distributed at the conference without charge. Questions and concerns may be directed to Andries J. van Dam, Curator, Leiden Museum of Anatomy, PO Box 9602, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands, +31715276677 (voice); +31715276680 (fax); ajvandam@rullf2.nl (e-mail).



*Andries J. van Dam, Curator
Leiden Museum of Anatomy, LeidenUniversity*

SPNHC LEAFLETS A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

The SPNHC *Leaflets* series consists of single-topic short papers on various technical aspects of collections care, management, preservation, and conservation. They are inserted in the *SPNHC Newsletter* annually. A typical SPNHC *Leaflets* paper will describe and suggest practical means for solving a technical problem or issue. SPNHC *Leaflets* are designed as training and educational tools for natural history museum collection professionals and students in museum studies programs. Papers should be written from a perspective that emphasizes preventive conservation techniques. Interventive techniques, those which require advanced training and carry some degree of risk to the specimen or to human health and safety, will not be published in this series. All SPNHC *Leaflets* will have a list of references or an annotated bibliography for further reading. Longer papers and papers with a theoretical or academic emphasis should be submitted to *Collection Forum*.

Submission guidelines for the *Leaflets* can be accessed on the SPNHC web page at www.spnhc.org. Contact Mary Anne Andrei at

andr0309@tc.umn.edu if you have any questions or are interested in submitting a *Leaflet*.



*Mary Anne Andrei, Associate Editor
University of Minnesota*

MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

The Museum Studies Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has begun its tenth year of operation with the opening of class on August 23, 1999. The Program has unveiled its new website at www.unl.edu/museumstudies featuring pages on admission procedures and policies, program requirements, degree plans (36 credit-hour MA/MS), courses, list of faculty members, and a list of Program graduates and their positions. The Program remains committed to recruiting students with interests and backgrounds in the natural sciences and anthropology, especially students with career interests in collection management. A 45-credit hour specialization has been developed in management of cultural collections for students with interests in anthropology and history. The students with interests in the natural sciences have an opportunity to work with the collections and faculty curators of the University of Nebraska State Museum. All students have the opportunity to study preventive conservation techniques at the world-class facilities of the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, Nebraska State Historical Society, Omaha, NE. We are looking forward to meeting you on the web in the near future.

*Hugh H. Genoways
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Museums on the Mend

Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History

The Division of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History and the Bird Unit of the USGS - Biological Resources Division are pleased to announce that we are open for normal business following their long shutdown for building renovations. We are near completion of the bulk of the collection and office move and have established the following schedule: we will begin accepting the return of existing loans as of 6 July 1999; all current borrowers will be receiving individual notice of loans in their possession; we will re-open the collections to visitors on 12 July 1999. For further information please contact the collections manager, James Dean, Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560; dean.james@nrmh.si.edu (email).

*James Dean
National Museum of Natural History*

Museums on the Mend ...

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U.S. National Herbarium

The U.S. National Herbarium will be compacting two sections of the herbarium: Bay 3, Poaceae: *Cordochloa -Spinifex* (alphabetically arranged) and Bay 8, Fabaceae: *Astragalus* and Euphorbiaceae: *Acalypha* (Phylogenetically arranged according to Engler), from approximately September, 1999 - February, 2000. Other areas of the 4th floor (Cycadaceae- Quinaceae) may be blocked for staging. It is critical that everyone notifies the U.S. National Herbarium in advance of planning a visit, to ensure that the collections needed for study will be accessible at that time. Loans will continue to be processed but, depending on the group could be delayed. Types will be unaffected. Any questions, or notice of visitation, should be directed to Rusty Russell at russellr@nsmh.si.edu or Deborah Bell at belld@nsmh.si.edu.

Deborah Bell
U.S. National Herbarium

Rethinking Collection Extinction ...

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tradition of sponsorship well into the 1960s—30 years—with a host of exhibits, mechanical dinos, stamp albums, etc. with a combined educational and advertising focus.

A paleontologist at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh shrewdly named a new species of the sauropod *Diplodocus* in the honor of steel tycoon-turned-expedition-underwriter, Andrew Carnegie (*Diplodocus carnegiei*). Carnegie, in the best tradition of response to donor recognition, provided additional funds to have the 300 or so bones cast in plaster and replicated, with the resulting skeletons donated to Natural History Museums in Mexico City, Paris, Vienna, London, etc.

Financier J.P. Morgan played a central, if behind-the-scenes role, in supporting paleontology, whether in assisting Roy Chapman Andrews in securing permission from the Chinese nationalists to search for human fossils in the Gobi Desert (he found significant dino fossils instead) or in bankrolling the American Museum to acquire the Edward Drinker Cope Collection in the late 1890s.

Perhaps the best recent example is the surge in funding for dinosaur research and collections following the release of *Jurassic Park*, to wit:

- Estimated annual funding prior to *Jurassic Park*: \$1 million
- Increase in funding immediately following the movie's release: 25%
- Grants from revenue of The Dinosaurs of *Jurassic Park* traveling exhibit: \$500,000
- *Jurassic Park* worldwide box office: \$882 million (last available figure and rising)

What should be clear from the above examples are two major points:

Entrepreneurship and the support of natural history collections are old allies, whether as corporate partners or individual donors (and the recent debate over donor naming of new species, albeit in a different context, has precedent). The closer the linkages to corporate/individual and museum missions, the better the opportunity for long-term financial cooperation. What is surprising, considering a host of funding precedents, is the general lack of modern linkages between natural science museums with paleontology collections and corporations which are intent upon using the "borrowed interest" of dinosaurs in their marketing efforts.

If Natural History Museums are partnering with the following companies, all the better. If not, why not?

GE Information Services: "If you think you can take your time going to market, think again." (Advertisement with dino skeleton.)

Mazda: "Is your car an invertebrate?" (Dino display in a museum setting!)

GDS Systems: "It appears layer based systems have finally found their place in time." (An "update" of traditional GIS software, this ad not only features a host of dino species, but also offers a free poster of the ad from its home office.)

A final example, which is probably the exception rather than the rule:

Rockport Shoes: "I'm comfortable chasing monsters". (Dr. Bob Bakker, author of *The Dinosaur Heresies* and "Hollywood's Dinosaur Guru.")

Bakker, the inveterate scientist-as-entrepreneur/promoter, is an example of opportunistic financial evolution in an era in which large-scale expeditions are prohibitively expensive. (For example, an unrelated expedition in New Mexico unearthed a *Seismosaurus* whose entire skeleton could cost some \$1 million to excavate.)

The point is simple: corporate and individual donor alliances with natural history collections have worked for more than a century and are expected to work in the future, whether the project is paleontology, biodiversity, or the cosmos. Examples are commonplace and the potential for partnerships limitless. Here are some tips:

- Canvas your collection for both its strengths and its most unusual specimens. Think of how your collection should evolve in terms of both its competitive components (strengths) and those which are most opportunistic (meteorites, ancient birds, minerals, etc.).
- Scan advertisements in popular magazines with a constant eye toward campaigns with a natural history focus. Keep a dated, annotated clip file and share the file and ideas with your Museum's development staff. Donors are lurking everywhere.
- Brief development staff on current and future collections needs with particular attention to how the collection can best serve development needs (read: long-term sustainability of the Museum/collection) through cost-effective, high profile entrepreneurship.
- Create an atmosphere of dialogue and lifelong learning between collections and development professionals (as well as board and museum director). The more they know about the nuances of the collection, the better. Preservation is difficult to fund in isolation. Make it part of the Big Picture.

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Should we insure our specimen shipments?

*Allison Anderson, Texas Natural History Collections,
Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas at Austin,
2400 Trinity, Austin, TX 78705*

In a natural history collection, all specimens are valuable. If they weren't, there would be no point to keeping them—no reason to put effort into their preservation and long-term care. Each specimen in a collection represents an important bundle of information.

Some specimens, though, are more valuable than others. Types are obviously the most important specimens in a collection. Rare specimens are also valuable, as well as those of endangered or threatened species. A repository may refuse to ship these specimens at all, and insist that the loanee hand-carry them to and from the collection. Unfortunately, for items going to overseas institutions, shipping may be the only way to deliver or return specimens in a timely manner. When collection personnel ship their types and rare specimens, they want to reinforce the message that, "These items are especially valuable to us." At some collections, this is accomplished by insuring the shipment for a certain amount of money. This practice also began as a way to obtain some level of accountability or tracking number from the courier. However, there is no evidence that insurance itself causes the company to treat the package differently. Insurance is never a means of affecting a certain outcome. Rather, it is intended to be a method of recovering costs of replacement. Insurance purchased through the courier is merely a way for the sender to cover his or her own liability, not the courier's.

The additional costs of insurance do not benefit the sending institution in the long run. Nobody could ever argue that a specimen is "worth" a certain amount of money, even a type specimen. A check for \$200 could potentially cover the cost of personnel time to find out what happened to a package, but on the other hand, the additional \$2 or so per package will add up quickly in a few years, especially in an active collection. The net insurance benefit to a collection for lost or damaged specimens is not much.

Insured packages will often incur an import duty, because the parcel has been assigned a monetary value. In the U.S., the Harmonized Tariff Schedule subchapter 9810.00.70 specifies that wild animals sent between scientific institutions for scientific use are duty-free; there are probably similar customs regulations in other countries. Theoretically, this should exempt the package from any import duties. But often a package will not have adequate documentation for the customs office to honor the exemption, or the courier company is in too much of a hurry to properly categorize the shipment. I once had some specimens described as, "Animal parts—other."

I posted those ideas on NHCOLL-L, the Natural History Collection listserv, earlier this year, and all respondents agreed that insurance for specimen shipments is pointless. The goal of shipping any specimens is to have the package arrive reasonably quickly and in one piece. The method used by collections ideally allows

them to obtain tracking numbers for shipments. Packages sent by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) that are insured for amounts over \$50 will get a number assigned to the package, but this is *not* a tracking number. Rather, it is a "claim check" for damaged goods. Registered mail is a popular means of shipping, although USPS will not ship packages over 4 lbs. to foreign countries by this method. Also popular are corporate courier services such as FedEx and United Parcel Service. However, the company's tracking system may not be reliable when it gets to foreign soil, and sending packages by regular postal service may be preferable. Another downside to using a corporate courier service is that it can become prohibitively expensive for a collection with a limited budget.

In an ideal world, all researchers would travel to a collection to examine its most valuable specimens. But this is not practical for many scientists. In the end, there is no easy answer to the question.

Bylaws, Policies ...

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(1986) serve as a suitable standard from which to differentiate the terms in question. The definitions, supporting text, and Table 1 are intended to assist the members with understanding the purpose and application of these documents in serving the needs of the Society.

A *bylaw* is "a law, ordinance, or regulation made by a public or private corporation or an association or unincorporated society for the regulation of its own local or internal affairs and its dealings with others or for the government of its members." SPNHC is an incorporated society, meaning that it is a "corporation recognized by law as an entity and having particular functions, rights, duties, and liabilities." The Society's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws serve as the foundation for all other operational documents. Although it is possible to change these documents, if there is a clear need to do so, such changes require the approval of the membership and possibly the governmental entities that hold the organization accountable for its actions.

A *policy* is "a definite course or method of action selected (by a government, institution, group, or individual) from among alternatives and in the light of given conditions to guide and usually determine present and future decisions." An organization uses policies to help interpret the bylaws as well as to unify the membership by providing direction, defining objectives, establishing expectations, developing consistency, and promoting predictable results. For these reasons, policies must be holistically and uniformly applied, comprehensive yet concise, enforceable yet flexible, understandable and familiar to everyone, and clearly distinct from procedures. Because policies are often a simple statement of objectives, and objectives rarely change without due cause, policies normally will not change much through time. When changes are needed, the leadership selected by the membership is responsible for developing and modifying the policies for the organization. In the case of SPNHC, this is the responsibility of Council.

While the bylaws are supported by the policies, the policies are supported by procedures. A *procedure* is "a traditional, customary,

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Bylaws, Policies ...
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or otherwise established or accepted way of doing things.” Unlike policy, procedures can be more lengthy, detailed, and directly applicable to a specific group of individuals responsible for policy compliance, such as the committees or subcommittees. If there are problems with fulfilling policies, then the procedures must be efficiently and effectively corrected to fulfill the intended objective defined by the policy. For this reason, procedures are usually developed and modified as needed by those individuals assuming the responsibility for carrying out the designated activity. In SPNHC, this role often is fulfilled within the committee structure of the organization.

Finally, there are guidelines. A *guideline* is “an indication or outline of future policy or conduct.” While guidelines might evolve in the future to a higher level of documentation, they are initially distinct from other documents because there is no organizational endorsement at any level. Also, guidelines may or may not have any

relationship with the previously described documents. In SPNHC, the user has used guidelines more for information transfer and possible assistance, without any expectation of endorsement or compliance. Examples of such documents include the *Guidelines for the Care of Natural History Collections* (Collection Forum, 10(1):32-40) and the *Guidelines for Planning and Conducting Annual Meetings of SPNHC*. Guidelines can be developed or enhanced by any SPNHC member intending to make such documents useful to other members; however, prior approval should be acquired from the appropriate authority overseeing such guidelines.

It is apparent that each type of document can be very important to the operations of SPNHC. While all of these documents are intended to help manage the operations of the organization, it is clear that some have greater significance than others. The bylaws and policies help define the *product* of the operations, whereas the procedures and guidelines help define the *process* of the operations.

The author gratefully acknowledges the comments and recommendations of Sally Shelton and Sue McLaren in preparing this contribution.

<i>DOCUMENT</i>	<i>SIGNIFICANCE</i>	<i>GOVERNING AUTHORITY</i>	<i>DELEGATED AUTHORITY</i>	<i>COMMENTS</i>
<i>Bylaws</i>	Founding document with internal and external legal implications; supports the Articles of Incorporation; supported by policies.	SPNHC Membership.	SPNHC Council.	Rarely changed, but can be revised or amended by procedure compliance and membership approval.
<i>Policies</i>	Support the Bylaws; supported by procedures.	SPNHC Council.	Committees, subcommittees or other operational subunit of SPNHC.	A statement of organizational objectives; occasionally changed to meet the needs of the organization; changes are made by approval of a majority of Council.
<i>Procedures</i>	Support the Policies; may or may not be supported by guidelines.	Committees, subcommittees or other operational subunit of SPNHC.	Individuals responsible for procedures.	A protocol for achieving results that are in compliance with policy; commonly changed to accommodate intent of policy.
<i>Guidelines</i>	Although in compliance with all operational documents it may or may not provide support for such documents.	None	None	Used for information transfer and assistance; may be developed or modified by an authorized member.

Table 1 – Quick reference for distinguishing the different types of documents used for the operations of SPNHC.

MANAGING THE MODERN HERBARIUM *An Interdisciplinary Approach*

Deborah A. Metsgar and Sheila C. Byers, Editors

New from SPNHC is *Managing the Modern Herbarium - An Interdisciplinary Approach* that highlights the significance and value of one of the world's oldest and most basic elements of botanical systematics, the herbarium. The book combines practical guidelines for the proper care of documented collections of preserved plants and fungi with recommendations for their responsible use in modern systematic research. Dr. Brent D. Mishler, Director of the University and Jepson Herbaria at the University of California, Berkeley has this to say about the book:

"This book covers a diverse set of issues ranging from pragmatic specimen preservation, to information science, to a very thoughtful and sensible set of recommendations for destructive sampling for molecular studies. Plant systematists these days require so much training in new areas of research but still, perhaps more than ever, need a grounding in herbarium curation and management; this book should thus be required reading for all graduate students in the field of plant systematics. It sets a new standard."

Managing the Modern Herbarium promotes a spirit of interdisciplinary collaboration and consensus among those responsible for the care and use of collections of plants and fungi. It

is an invaluable reference for preserving and promoting museum voucher specimens as a vital record of biological organisms, and as a resource for systematics and biodiversity studies now and in the future.

The book is based on a SPNHC workshop held at the Royal Ontario Museum in 1995 that provided a unique opportunity for dialogue between herbarium personnel, conservators, and researchers from many life sciences. It bridges gaps between disciplines, focusing on topics ranging from preventive conservation, to herbarium design, to the standardization of techniques and policies, especially those for the destructive sampling of museum specimens for molecular systematics.

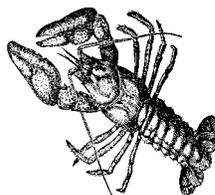
Given its practical, comprehensive approach, the book is bound to be a well-thumbed resource! *Managing the Modern Herbarium* sells for \$29.95 US or \$39.95 Canadian (plus shipping) and is available from Eldon Wolf Publishing, # 212-1656 Duranleau Street, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC V6H 3S4 Canada; 604-688-0320 (voice); pnutpubv@axion.net (email). For an order form, visit www.spnhc.org.

Editor's note: *Deborah A. Metsgar is the Assistant Curator for botany at the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology at the Royal Ontario Museum. Sheila C. Byers, the former Assistant Curator for invertebrate zoology at the ROM, currently resides in Vancouver, British Columbia.*

Maritime Heritage - SPNHC2000 July 10-15th, 2000 Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

The Natural History Museum of Nova Scotia and the Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic are co-hosting the Society's upcoming annual meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 10-15, 2000. The theme for this upcoming meeting is Maritime Heritage (see www.spnhc.org for details) and we have arranged for both accommodations and meeting rooms at Dalhousie University, as well as a local nearby hotel. An icebreaker with music by the Harbour Trio and collection tours will be held at the Nova Scotia Museum, while the wrap-up sessions will be held the last day of the conference at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography on July 14. City tours of the local geology, botany and history will be provided enroute back to Halifax after the final session. Our lobster banquet will be held aboard the Harbour Queen with

a commentary provided by local historian David Flemming who will outline the history, harbour morphology and fortresses of our third deepest harbour in the world. Guest speakers include Steve Blasco of *Titanic* fame as well as Dale Buckley who will discuss the uses of the admiralty brass shells and rusticles from the *Titanic*, and Gordon Fader who will discuss the implications of new ocean mapping techniques in the discovery of shipwrecks and other sunken artifacts. A one-day whale watching expedition is planned before the conference as well as a trip to Joggin and Parrsboro for the geologically inclined. A half day panel on permits across borders is planned as well as a one day workshop for Friday July 15 whose topic was not finalized at the time of writing. So come one and come all to the Maritimes and enjoy some of our down home hospitality!



*Iris A. Hardy
Geological Survey of Canada*

*Alex Wilson
Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History*

Stephen L. Williams

The 1999 SPNHC President's Award

*Sally Y. Shelton, National Museum of Natural History,
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560*



It is difficult to summarize Steve's profound contributions to SPNHC briefly. He was one of the founding members and was instrumental in creating the original organizational by-laws. Steve has served in all the presidential positions: President-Elect, President and Past President. In the last role, he also chaired the

By-Laws Committee, and

has chaired the Awards Committee as well. He has also served as Newsletter Editor, and just agreed to assume the chairmanship of the Finance Committee to steer it through its long-range plans.

Steve Williams was a member of the first M.A. class in museum science at Texas Tech University, and has specialized in natural history collections management and conservation ever since. He brings to the field a thorough background in zoological science as well as a dedication to the rapidly-evolving field of natural history conservation. Steve is a gifted and thorough researcher who has published his results often in *Collection Forum*, and has worked with graduate students in museum science to help them research and publish on problems in natural history conservation science. He has served as a faculty member at Texas Tech University and at Baylor University, and is currently an associate professor in museum science at Baylor.

There is no aspect of SPNHC as it currently exists that has not been influenced by Steve's vision and tireless work on the Society's behalf. In many ways, SPNHC owes its existence and future to Steve Williams. "Following the Second Workshop on Care and Maintenance of Natural History Collections in May of 1985, Steve was one of the people who strongly pursued the establishment of this organization. He served on the Organizing Committee that met in November of that year and was appointed to the pro tem Elections Committee for the fledgling organization. I cannot substantiate my belief that he was instrumental in the creation of our By-

laws but he has certainly been involved in subsequent refinements of the original wording. His insistence on the establishment of a peer-reviewed journal was perhaps one of the most important ideas in furthering the professionalism of the organization."

Steve was one of the leading organizers of the *International Symposium and First World Congress on Natural History Collections*, held in Madrid in 1992, and has campaigned tirelessly for improved international efforts in fostering collections care training for museums.

"Steve has worried over SPNHC throughout its growth, always generously giving of his time and experience, but rarely, if ever, taking any credit for what he has done for the organization. Steve has consciously sought to downplay his role in SPNHC, never seeking the limelight, always promoting the organization first and his fellow members second, preferring to work quietly in the background and let others take the credit for what he did. Even when not in office in SPNHC, Steve has been a quiet and reliable sounding board for SPNHC officers who sought out his counsel. In addition to his contributions to SPNHC, Steve is an exemplary scientist and teacher in the museum field, with many solid professional contributions. I can think of no SPNHC member more deserving of the President's Award than Steve Williams."

Editor's note: *Above excerpts are from letters that supported Steve's nomination and were read into the record at the 1999 Annual Meeting and are reproduced here with the kind permission of the authors, who remain anonymous as part of the confidential awards process.*

Rethinking Collection Extinction ...

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Do not just think outside the box, live it. Whoever has *Velociraptor* should pick up the telephone and contact the NBA's Toronto Raptors. Dinosaurs, children, and NBA players as role models has cachet. No telling what might emerge from a robust conversation.

Is your natural history collection facing extinction? Only if you fall into a predator trap created by a lack of imagination.

Editor's note: *William F. Vartorella is the vice-president of Craig and Vartorella, Inc. a global marketing and fundraising firm based in Camden, South Carolina, USA. He presently moderates a Discussion Group on the Internet entitled, "Funding Exploration and other Exotic Projects," and lectures and consults worldwide. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Explorers Club and recently participated in the SPNHC workshop on Finance and Funding at the 14th annual meeting of the Society in Washington, DC this past June. Bill can be reached at 803.432.4353 (voice and fax) or at globebiz@camden.net.*

Check your Bookmarks

Check your Bookmarks is a column devoted to listservers, newsgroups and websites focusing on natural history collection management, computerization and conservation. Interesting sites or suggestions may be submitted to the Newsletter Editor.

Have you had a chance to visit the SPNHC webpage? Jon Greggs, our Webmaster, has done a fantastic job of migrating our Society web page from the University of Northern Iowa to Jon's home at the University of Calgary. Jon has redesigned the site, streamlined many of its features, and established the Universal Resource Locator (URL), www.spnhc.org. The SPNHC webpage should be one of your first stops on the world wide web.

In 1995, former Documentation Chair Jackie Zak (Getty Conservation Institute) and Paula Sumpter (formerly of the Milwaukee Public Museum) demonstrated a prototype web site to the SPNHC membership. All agreed that it was a useful project and Council approved continued development. Later in 1995 Terry Vidal from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) volunteered to develop and maintain our web site at UNI. Terry continued to build, enhance and maintain the site with input from the Council, committees and our membership. Last year Terry Vidal resigned as Webmaster and the search was on for a new host. At last year's annual meeting in Alberta, Council agreed to create an Associate Editor position within the Publications Committee and Jon was appointed Webmaster.

In years to come our web site is going to become increasingly valuable to our membership. Committee reports, *Technical Leaflets*, the *SPNHC Newsletter* and other information will be available on the site. If you have suggestions or would like to see other information on www.spnhc.org, contact Jon Greggs at greggs@geo.ucalgary.ca.

Collection Management Software Review

The Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) is preparing to conduct another review of collection management software for museums. If your institution is preparing to purchase collection management software this is an excellent opportunity to fully evaluate one or more of the products that interest you.

The evaluations will take place between September 20 and November 30, 1999 and a combination of hosting evaluations at CHIN in Hull, Quebec, and at North American sites. Demonstrations are expected to take one day per software product. Museums who participate must be willing to cover their own expenses. The evaluations will be in conjunction with conferences and would be conducted before or following each conference. The evaluation at CHIN in Hull, will take place in mid-November.

Evaluations are to be conducted at the following conferences:

- *Western Museum Association Conference in Sacramento, CA, USA, Sept. 23-26, 1999.*
- *Mid-Atlantic Museum Association Conference in Baltimore, MD, USA, Sept. 29-Oct 2, 1999.*
- *Museum Computer Network, Philadelphia, USA, October 27-30, 1999.*
- *Revelstoke, BC, Canada, October 15-16, 1999.*

As part of a team, you will benefit from the expertise of colleagues from CHIN and other institutions. We encourage those of you who are interested to respond to service@chin.gc.ca. There will be limited registration, so we encourage you to register now. Please include the following information: your name, the name of your organization, your email address, your city and province/state, phone number. Those who participate will receive a complimentary copy of the criteria checklist and a copy of the collection management software review.



*Diane Bowden
Canadian Heritage Information Network*

Federation for Natural Sciences Collections Research

The Federation for Natural Sciences Collections Research (FENSCORE) Committee has met twice this year, in February and in June. There is now a Website on which you can search the UK national database of natural science collections - go to www.man.ac.uk/fenscore. Of particular note at present is the full text of the NWCRU report on the condition of collections in North West England: *Skeletons in the Cupboard*. The expenses of the web site are currently being funded by the UK Museums and Galleries Commission. There is a discussion list, FENSCORE-L. You may join this from the web site, or emailing either the Fenscore Web Master (c.pettitt@man.ac.uk) or the List Moderator (ian@nms.ac.uk). The discussion list will carry up to the minute reports on Fenscore activities, and is intended as a forum for the discussion of all matters to do with collections research. Overseas members welcome. At their recent meeting, the

Fenscore Committee decided to apply to the UK Heritage Lottery Fund Access initiative for a grant to bring all the CRU databases up to a minimum standard of completeness and currency. It is intended the work will again be done on an area by area basis, with local knowledge input from the existing CRU members, although with the help of paid peripatetic surveyors. Visit the web site and/or join FENSCORE-L to keep up-to-date on this exciting new development.

*Bill Pettitt
University of Manchester*

PROTECTED FOSSILS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (CANADA)

In Newfoundland and Labrador, fossil collecting is restricted in National and Provincial Parks, and Ecological Reserves. Only scientists holding valid permits can collect fossils from these areas; collecting for collecting's sake is not permitted. There currently are three fossil-based Ecological Reserves in the province:

Mistaken Point (Avalon Peninsula, eastern Newfoundland) - one of the oldest sites of Late Precambrian soft-bodied metazoan fossils in the world.

Fortune Head (Burin Peninsula, eastern Newfoundland) - the official worldwide reference section (global stratotype) of the Precambrian-Cambrian boundary.

Table Point (Great Northern Peninsula, western Newfoundland) - the site contains an unusual Early Ordovician graptolite horizon preserved in dolostone, as well as one of the most diverse and well-preserved assemblages of Middle Ordovician fossils in the world.

In eastern Newfoundland, the world famous Manuels River site (notable for its Cambrian trilobite faunas) is protected under the stewardship of the Manuels River Natural Heritage Society. The province currently is in the process of strengthening its fossil protection legislation. The Historic resources Act of 1985 is being revised to include fossils. Currently, only the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act has built-in fossil protection provisions. Eventually, the two acts will operate in conjunction. If you have specific questions about the Acts, your best bet is to contact Louise Daley.

I suspect the new legislation will resemble Nova Scotia's which can be viewed at www3.ns.sympatico.ca/gphrynew/law.htm. Another option being considered is the designation of particular stratigraphic intervals as being off-limits. The Historic Resources Act is being revised because of an incident that took place on the Avalon Peninsula in early September, 1998 when a trio from Buffalo, New York were caught attempting to remove Ediacaran-type fossils using a pivotable rock saw. The local residents are trying to develop

ecotours around the fossils. They are fully aware of the significance of the fossils, and take an extremely dim view of unauthorized outsiders trying to remove their potential livelihood and deface the scenery. Indeed, the locals actually defeated the trio's efforts. You may wish to contact Tracy Barron, who covered the story - "Residents thwart fossil hunters" (The Sunday Telegram, September 13, 1998, pages 1-2).

*W. Douglas Boyce
Geological Survey Division,
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador*

Editor's note: *Doug Boyce is the Provincial Paleontologist for Newfoundland and Labrador and can be reached at Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Mines and Energy, Geological Survey Division, Regional Geology Section, P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NF, Canada A1B 4J6; (709) 729-2163 (voice); (709) 729-4270 (fax); wdb@zeppo.geosurv.gov.nf.ca (email). Doug has generously provided SPNHC with a list of WWW sites and resources for collecting and permits which can be accessed via the Documentation Committee on the SPNHC web site, www.spnhc.org.*

WEB SITES RELATED TO BIODIVERSITY POLICY AND LAW

At www.bionet-us.org/website.html is the 2nd edition of the 1999 directory of web sites on biodiversity policy and law which is distributed by the Biodiversity Action Network (BIONET).

In an effort to balance the importance of current issue-oriented sites with the utility of maintaining relevant institutional sites, the directory is divided into two sections. Section one contains timely issue-specific web addresses, which will be updated with each addition, and another listing the addresses of relevant institutions, organizations and other stakeholder groups working around The Convention of Biodiversity and Law.

The list is notably not comprehensive, and we welcome submissions for inclusion in future editions. If you have any other suggestions or comments please feel free to contact Philip Myers, Biodiversity Action Network, 1630 Connecticut Ave. NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20009, USA; 202.547.8902 (voice); 202.265.0222 (fax); bionet@igc.org (email).



*Philip Myers
Biodiversity Action Network*

Publications of Interest

This section is from the Conservation Committee and chaired by Paula T. Work of the Citations Subcommittee. Prices and availability are cited when available. Annotations are provided by Diana Dicus {DD}, Ann Pinzl {AP}, Rob Waller {RW} and Paula Work {PW}. Contributions and comments may be submitted to Paula Work, Grier Collection Research Center, 1720 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45202; 513-345-8506 (voice); 513-345-8501 (fax); ptwork@fuse.net (email).

AIC Disaster Workshop. (Hillwood Museum: Washington, D.C.) June 1998. Recovery of water damaged collections: a practical drill. Hillwood Museum.

American Library Association. Conference (117th : Washington, D.C.). 1998. Collection management issues for offsite storage. American Library Association: [Distributed by Teach'em, Recording - 2 sound cassettes : analog].

Andrew, K. The specific risks of temperature for natural history collections - with particular references to geological collections. Natural Sciences Conservation Group Newsletter 10: insert.

Five short pieces by K. Andrew relating mostly to geological materials with the article on the frozen specimens detailing steps undertaken with two highly unusual specimens of dendritic silver which had grown in a vein of ice within a rock matrix. {AP}

Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee 1998. Transforming Cinderella collections : the management and conservation of Australian university museums, collections & herbaria. Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee. 331 p.

Includes directory of university museums, collections and herbaria (p.189-331) 1. Executive summary & recommendations — Part A. Background and objectives : 2. The 1996 Cinderella Collections report: an update — 3. The 1998 DCA/AV-CC report (Transforming Cinderella collections) —Part B. Policy and management : 4. Introduction — 5. University-wide policies — 6. National and international significance — 7. Recognition by universities of specific museums, collections and herbaria — 8. Strategic plans: an example — Part C. Conservation : 9. Overview — 10. The conservation survey — 11. The conservation assessments — Part D. Actions and recom-

mendations : 12. Taking stock —13. Continuing to implement the Cinderella recommendations — Part E. Directory of university museums, collections and herbaria.

Ball, S. 1997. Larger & working objects: a guide to their preservation and care. London : Museums & Galleries Commission, 70 p. ISBN: 0948630531

Banks, P. April 1999. What Makes Records, Deteriorate. ASHRAE Journal, 41:4, p. 71-72, 74-76. References for fire suppression or protection. {DD}

Barclay, R. L. 1998. Mount-making for museum objects. Ottawa: Canadian Conservation Institute, Co-published by the Centre de conservation du Québec.

Baril, P. Fire Prevention Programs for Museums. Technical Bulletin No. 18. Ottawa: Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI). Cat. No.: NM95-57/18-1997E.

The bulletin describes ways and means to develop and implement comprehensive and effective fire prevention programs. Examples are given to help museum staff prepare documents and procedures.

Brochu, D. 1997. Comment informatiser vos collections?: le guide de planification du Réseau Info-muse [Montréal]: Société des musées québécois. 317 p. Attention aux collections. ISBN: 2891720377

Brown, P.A. 1998. The perfect relationship? Balmforth cabinets and the Natural History Museum entomologist. Natural Sciences Conservation Group Newsletter 9:47-49.

Byalt, V. V., D. V. Geltman, and R. V. Kamelin. 1998. Herbaria of Russia: Preliminary Results From a New Cataloguing Project. Botanical Collections Throughout the World. W. Szafer Institute of Botany; Kraków, Poland, pp 47-48.

Analysis of pattern of herbaria in Russia (specialized research institutions are the major organizations), with view that decentralization of herbarium resources (currently based in two main cities) is desirable. {AP}

Carter, D. ed. Care and Conservation of Natural History Collections. 1999. Butterworth-Heinemann.

Chitaley, S., J. Gasperic, and R. F. Gaul. 1998. Wax technique to conserve crumbling plant fossils and mammoth bones. Botanical Collections Throughout the World. W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Kraków, Poland, pp 127-133.

Description of technique to impregnate melted wax, under pressure, inside cracks and crevices of fragile material; specifics for oxidized coal balls, pyritized plant specimens, mammoth bones provided. {AP}

DiNoto, A. 1999. The pressed plant: the art of botanical specimens, nature prints, and sun prints. New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang, ISBN: 1556709366

Edmonds, J. M., 1999. The University of Leeds Natural History collections - Part 1. The Biology Curator 14:3-9.

Brief history of herbarium and to its move into new quarters, followed by discussion of major collections and analysis of further work. {AP}

Edwards, K. J., M. O. Schrenk, R. Hamers, and J. F. Banfield, 1998. Microbial oxidation of pyrite: Experiments using microorganisms from an extreme acidic environment. American Mineralogist, Volume 83, No. 11-12, Part 2: 1444-1453.

Demonstrated that bacteria attaching to pyrite surfaces accelerated pyrite oxidation, at pH=0.7 and 42°C, as measured by ferrous iron release to solu-

- tion. (Note from R. Waller: the experimental conditions represent a much higher water activity than that found in typical collection storage conditions.) {RW}
- Envirodesign (2nd: 1998: Monterey, Calif.) Envirodesign 2, Monterey, Santa Clarita, CA : Professional Programs, Inc., Recording 14 sound cassettes (ca. 21 hrs.) : analog.
- Ferguson, L. M. 1997. Archaeological documentary archives: preparation, curation and storage Manchester: Institute of Field Archaeologists, 22 p. ISBN: 0948393149
- Finney, L. 1998. Museum storage in the East Midlands: a study. Nottingham: East Midlands Museums Service, 31 p. ISBN: 0951846833
- Fitzgerald, R. A. 1999. Developing written policy for the curation, conservation, and exhibition of Native American artifacts using model guidelines United States. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. University of Central Oklahoma. Thesis (M.A.), 114 pp.
- Getty Conservation Institute. 1998. Oxygen-free museum cases. Getty Conservation Institute, Research in conservation 71 p. ISBN: 0892365293
- Gilroy, D. and I. Godfrey. 1998. Conservation and care of collections. Perth, W.A.: Western Australian Museum, ISBN: 073071215X: \$34.95
- Gosselin, A. 1997. Comment numériser vos collections? : le guide de planification du Réseau Info-muse. Société des musées québécois, Attention aux collections, 149 p. ISBN: 2891720326
- Guevremont, J. M., A. R. Elsetinow, D. R. Strongin, J. Bebie, and M. A. A. Schoonen. 1998. Structure sensitivity of pyrite oxidation: Comparison of the (100) and (111) planes. American Mineralogist, Volume 83, No. 11-12, Part 1: 1353-1356.
- Demonstrated a synergy between H₂O and O₂ in oxidizing pyrite and that oxidation rates were faster on FeS₂(111) surfaces than on FeS₂(100) surfaces. {RW}
- Halliday, L. 1999. Hanwell radio telemetry. Natural Sciences Conservation Group Newsletter 10: insert.
- Heyman, M. February 1999. Saving our Treasures A Devoted Keeper of the Past, the National Museum of American History Looks Ahead to the Millennium, p. 14. Smithsonian.
- Inside IAQ, EPA's Indoor Air Quality Research Update.
- This is issued twice each year by the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. The Fall/Winter 1998 issue gives excellent collection management information, including evaluation of low VOC latex paints, a compilation of data on emissions from indoor sources, antimicrobial agents used in HVAC systems.
- Two excellent resources for collection manager, curators, and conservators dealing with the care of collection data and information. {DD}
- Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium. 1997. Fragile harvest preserving your heritage through basic collection care. Iowa Cooperative Preservation Consortium, Audiovisual -1 videocassette (53 min.).
- Johanning, E. (1999). Fungal and Related Exposures. Reprinted from Occupational Medicine Secrets [sic]. Copyright 1999 by Hanley and Belfus, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- This article was used as a handout at the Bioaerosols Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY, September 1998. This is an eleven page booklet written in question and answer form, giving a succinct and accurate view of the effect of mold on human health. {DD}
- Johnson, P. G. M. 1997. For the future of archaeology: archaeological curation standards for the state of Washington. 104P. Thesis (M.A.)—University of Washington, 1997
- Keafer, Y., P.E., A.R.M. 1998. Protection without Halon: What are the Alternatives? Disaster Recovery Journal, Summer, p. 38, 40-42, 44.
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- McQuilkin, Kyle S. 1998. An articulated Phytosaur skeleton : preparation techniques from field to exhibit. 119 p. Thesis (M.A.)—Texas Tech University
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- Profile of the temperature and relative humidity levels, description of activities related to temperature and relative humidity concerns, and some details about the equipment in use. {AP}
- Moore, S. 1999. Deodorising skeletal material. Natural Sciences Conservation Group Newsletter 10:24-25.
- Museums and Galleries Commission. 1998. Ours for keeps?: a resource pack for raising awareness of conservation and collection care. ISBN: 0948630558
- Discussion of nature of problems with emphasis on the fill treatments themselves (recipes and methods) . {AP}
- O'Malley, M. 1998. Current practices and issues of ethnobotanical data collection

- and curation. 66P. Thesis (M.S.)—University of Colorado, 1998.
- Parenti, L. R. 1999. Collective Spirit. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, 55: 203-206. A book review of Collection building in ichthyology and herpetology, Pietsch & Anderson.
- Patrick, S. 1997. How to create a local herbarium. Land for Wildlife, Dept. of Conservation and Land Management, 24 p. ISBN: 0730987957
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- Virtues of a telemetric system (for RH and temperature measurement) presented with the Hanwell system discussed in detail. {AP}
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- An alert to the hazardous potential of past chemical (mercuric chloride, arsenic trioxide, barium flourosilicate, naphthalene) use, with a brief discussion of impact of increased temperatures. {AP}
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- Waller, R. Incorrect temperature as a risk - how significant is it? *Natural Sciences Conservation Group Newsletter* 10: insert.
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Presidents Profile...

continued from page 2

Four positions on Council are coming up for election: President-Elect, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large. Nominations come from you, the membership, so look around and contact Judith Price if you know someone who would be a great SPNHC Council member. Start by looking in the mirror, leadership starts with you.

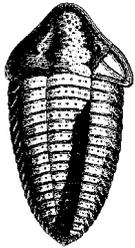
We are all looking forward, as I write this, to the appearance of *Managing the Modern Herbarium*, the proceedings from the 1994 workshop in Toronto. Congratulations to Sheila Byers and Deb Metsgar and their colleagues for pulling this together! And congratulations to everyone on the Publications and Documentation Committees who spent time and trouble getting *Collection Forum*, Newsletter, Leaflets, NHCOLL-L, and our

Web site into shape, under the leadership of Kate Shaw, Tim White and Jon Greggs. If you like our new image, thank these people.

Finally, the By-Laws Committee is working on the SPNHC Leadership Manual, compiling the By-Laws and policies of SPNHC and reviewing them critically. These will be combined with each committee's procedures and guidelines to make a manual handed out annually at second Council to all officers and chairs. SPNHC has grown and matured over 15 years, and we will be providing much more to incoming members of the leadership team (along the lines of materials given to new board members of organizations). If there are changes to the By-Laws, those will be brought to you for a membership vote. Your input on this project will be very valuable. The manual is due in final form at second Council in Halifax.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to submit job descriptions, please send postings to the Newsletter Editor.



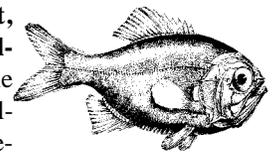
Collection Manager, Fossil Invertebrates, Field Museum of Natural History. The Department of Geology of the Field Museum of Natural History has an immediate opening for an experienced collection manager of Fossil Invertebrates. This collection encompasses all major phyla of metazoans and is ranked among the top paleontology collections in the world. We are seeking someone familiar with all aspects of modern collection management, adept in communicating with both scientists and the public, and eager to participate in an ongoing NSF-funded collection grant and public learning programs in all areas of the museum. Experience in collection management, graduate education in Invertebrate Paleontology, and familiarity with database systems are highly desired. For further information contact Scott Lidgard, Collection Manager Search Committee, Dept. of Geology, The Field Museum, Roosevelt Rd. at Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60605; (312) 665-7625 (voice); lidgard@FMNH.org (email).

Fossil Invertebrate Preparator, Field Museum of Natural History. The Department of Geology of the Field Museum of Natural History has an immediate opening for an assistant position in fossil preparation, collections and research. Primary duties involve assisting two active research programs through preparation of fossil material and data collection. Additional duties involve assisting collection management of one of the top paleontology collections in the world. We are seeking someone familiar with preparation of both invertebrate macrofossils and microfossils, including thin-section and SEM techniques. The successful candidate should also be adept in communicating with scientists, educators and the public. Experience in preparation, formal education in Invertebrate Paleontology, and familiarity with database systems are highly desired. For further information contact Peter Wagner, Dept. of Geology, Field Museum, Roosevelt Rd @ Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60605; (312) 665-763 (voice); pwagner@fmnh.org (email).

Scientific Assistant, Department of Mammalogy at the American Museum of Natural History. The Department of Mammalogy at the American Museum of Natural History seeks a Scientific Assistant to oversee scientific loans and visitors. With the guidance of the curator in-charge (or designate), the incumbent will (a) maintain the loans database, (b) send, receive, and track specimen loans in compliance with all relevant US and international regulations, (c) receive scientific visitors and keep track of visitor data. Other duties as assigned by curator-in-charge. BA/BSc required; some background in databasing and museum collections desirable. There is no closing date for applications - the position will remain open until a suitable candidate has been identified. Please send resumes to Dr. Nancy Simmons, Curator-in-Charge, Department of Mammalogy, American Museum of Natural History, NY 10025.

Collection Manager, Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia) Department of Ichthyology. The Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia) Department of Ichthyology is seeking a Collection Manager (CM) to be responsible for the oldest and one of the five largest research collections of fishes in the U.S. The collection is completely computerized. The CM is responsible for all aspects of caring for the collection, including processing and cataloging incoming material, data entry, maintenance of systematic order, identification of specimens, maintenance and conservation, tracking statistics on collection usage and growth. The CM interacts with curators and research associates of the collection (Drs. John Lundberg, Dominique Didier Dagit, Eugenia Bohlke), and the national and international scientific community, including handling specimen loans, responding to inquiries, hosting visitors and maximizing utilization of the collection. The CM also supervises curatorial assistant(s) and volunteers, conducts fieldwork to collect fishes and associated fauna, and is expected to participate in public education and Academy programs. Qualifications include: Master's degree in an appropriate field of biology, knowledge of systematic ichthyology and world geography, familiarity with computers and database programs, field experience collecting fishes, and five years experience working with museum collections (or fewer with proof of sound training in collection management). Application materials should include letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and names, addresses, and phone numbers of three references; send these to Ichthyology CM Search, c/o Mark Isaksen, Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Review of applications will begin 1 September 1999 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

Curatorial and Research Assistant, Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia) Department of Ichthyology. The Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia) seeks a full-time Curatorial and Research Assistant in the Department of Ichthyology. Responsibilities are to assist in collection maintenance and in the research programs of the curators, Drs. John Lundberg and Dominique Didier Dagit. Duties include preparation of research materials, specimen care and processing, bibliographic and clerical work, data acquisition and entry, participation in fieldwork, and related activities as assigned. Minimum qualifications: BA/BS in biological sciences; background in ichthyology and/or training in vertebrate zoology; basic computer skills; experience with (or interest in learning) morphometrics and molecular systematics lab protocols. Send letter of interest, CV and names of 3 references to: Ichthyology CA Search, c/o Mark Isaksen, Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Review of applications will begin 1 September 1999 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Calendar of Events is an attempt to list application deadlines, conferences and symposium relevant to collection management, computerization and conservation of natural history collections. Notices may be submitted to the Newsletter Editor.

August, 1999

August 23 – 28, 1999. **Museums at the Crossroads** with Stephen E. Weil at The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250)721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

August 23-29, 1999. **Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archivists**, in Pittsburgh. Theme: Meeting the challenge of contemporary records. See www.archivists.org for details.

August 29 - 4 September, 1999. **ICOM-Committee for Conservation 12th Triennial Meeting**, Lyon, France. For more information please contact Jean-Pierre Mohen (mohen@culture.fr) Laboratoire de Recherche des Musees de France, 6 rue des Pyramides, 75041 Paris Codex, 01, France, 33 1 4020 5650 (voice), 33 1 4703 3246 (fax).

September, 1999

September 3, 1999. **National Science Foundation - Biological Resources application deadline.**

September 8-10, 1999. **Reversibility—Does it Exist?**, London, England. Conference held by the British Museum Department of Conservation. The concept of reversibility as applied to cleaning, stabilization, consolidation, assembly, and restoration will be addressed, as will changes to the physical or chemical properties of objects as a result of conservation. For information contact Sara Carroll, Dept. of Conservation, British Museum, Great Russell St., London WC1B 3DG; 44 171 323 8636 (fax); conservation@british-museum.ac.uk (email).

September 13-17, 1999. **IPC workshop on tape and tape removal**, with classroom and practical working sessions, in Newcastle, UK. Coverage includes identification, aging properties, non-solvent removal, past removal methods, and more. Tutors: Elissa O'Loughlin and Linda Stiber. Fee: 370 lbs. IPC members, 400 lbs. nonmembers. For information contact Institute for Paper Conservation, tel. 44 1886 832323; 44 1886 833688 9 (fax); clare@ipc.org.uk (email).

September 15-17, 1999. **Rethinking Cultural Publications: Digital, Multimedia, and other 21st Century Strategies** at the Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. For information on registration contact Gay Tracy at the Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810; (978) 470-1010 (voice); tracy@nedcc.org (email).

September 18, 1999 to April 16, 2000. **Museum Principles and Practices.** Long distance education through The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria.

For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

September 18, 1999 to April 16, 2000. **Principles and Practices in Heritage Preservation.** Long distance education through The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

September 21-23, 1999. **Preservation Options in a Digital World: To Film or To Scan - A Workshop on Preservation Microfilming and Digital Imaging of Paper-Based Materials** presented by Northeast Document Conservation Center at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center and The Nebraska State Historical Society, Nebraska. Cost of the workshop is \$250. Attendance is limited to 18 participants. Complete agenda and registration form is on NEDCC's web site at www.nedcc.org click. For other information, contact Sona Naroian at (978) 470-1010 (voice); sona@nedcc.org (email).

September 23-25, 1999. **Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Computer Software for Collections Management.** Enrollment Limit: 15. Course Fee: \$420 (including accommodations). Registration Deadline: August 1, 1999. For information, contact Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 (voice); (815) 244-1619 (fax); www.campbellcenter.org (online catalog).

27-29 September, 1999. **Handheld Computing in the Field**, part of the International Symposium on Handheld and Ubiquitous Computing (HUC99) in Karlsruhe, Germany. Contact Nick Ryan, Computing Laboratory, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, EndlandCT2 7NF, UK.; +44 (0)1227 827699 (voice); +44 (0)1227 762811 (fax); N.S.Ryan@ukc.ac.uk (email); www.teco.edu/huc/ (www).

October, 1999

October 4 – 9, 1999. **Managing Archaeological Information** with Luke Dalla Bona at The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

October 13-15, 1999, **Fundamentals of Preservation** at Northeast Document Conservation Center facility in Andover, Massachusetts. Cost is \$500 for series of five workshops. If you have questions, contact Karen Brown, Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810; (978) 470-1010 (voice); kebrown@nedcc.org (email).

October 15, 1999. *Institute of Museum and Library Services Conservation Project Support application deadline.*

October 18, 1999 to February 4, 2000. **Collections Management** with Jacqueline Gijssen. Long distance education through The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

October 20-23, 1999. **59th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology**, Denver, Colorado. See www.museum.state.il.us/svp/ for details.

October 23-28, 1999. **Annual Meeting of the Paleontological Society**, meets concurrently with Geological Society of America Denver, Colorado. See www.geosociety.org for details.

October 25 – 30, 1999. **Heritage Area Conservation: Strategies for Sustainable Management** with Robert Lemon at The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

October 26-28, 1999 **Preservation Options in a Digital World: To Film or To Scan. A Workshop on Preservation Microfilming and Digital Imaging of Paper-Based Materials** At The University of Texas at Austin, Perry-Castaneda Library, Austin, TX. The cost of the workshop is \$250. For more complete information contact Gay Tracy, Public Relations Coordinator, Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover MA 01810-1494; (978) 470-1010 ext. 217 (voice); (978) 475-6021 (fax); tracy@nedcc.org (email).

October 27-30, 1999. **Access for All: Integrating Cultural Heritage, Media and Technology, MCN '99** at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. For more information, please contact: MCN Membership Office, 8720 Georgia Avenue, Suite 501, Silver Spring, MD 20910 USA; (301) 1585-4413 (voice); (301) 495-0810 (fax); mdevine@asis.org (email).

October 29-31, 1999. **International Taxonomic Databases Working Group**, Harvard University Herbaria, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA. This workshop is organized by the International Taxonomic Databases Working Group, TDWG, a specialist group of IUBS, to further the creation and use of standards in the biodiversity data systems community. To request additional information, please contact Peter Stevens at peter.stevens@mobot.org (email).

November, 1999

November 1 – 6, 1999. **Planning in Cultural Organizations** with Gail Lord at The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

November 7, 1999. **Human Remains: Conservation Retrieval and Analysis**, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, VA. Contact Emily Williams, Department of Conservation, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, PO Box 1776, Williamsburg, VA. 23187-1776. (757) 220-7079 (voice); (757) 565-8752 (fax); ewilliams@cwf.org (email).

November 15, 1999. **Museum Assessment Program: Institutional Assessment (MAP I), Collections Management Assessment (MAP II), Public Dimension Assessment (MAP III) application deadline.**

November 15-19, 1999. **Plant Anatomy and Morphology for Objects Conservators and Archaeologists**, Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education. This course provides an introduction to and appreciation of plant anatomy and morphology for those dealing with ethnographic objects made from or containing plant materials. Tuition fee: \$500. For information about this course or any other SCMRE Education Programming, contact: Francine T. Lewis, SCMRE Education Program, Museum Support Center, 4210 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746, (301) 238-3700 (voice); (301) 238-3709 (fax).

November 22 – 27, 1999. **Communicating Through Exhibitions** at The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

November 30, 1999. **Triennial Meeting of the ICOM-CC Working Group on Training in Conservation and Restoration**, in Lyon, France. Submit proposed papers by Nov. 90, 1998, to Kathleen Dardes, WG Coordinator, Getty Conservation Institute, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90049-1684.

December, 1999

December 3, 1999. *Institute of Museum & Library Service Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) application deadline.*

December 11-12, 1999. **Entomological Collections Network**. Georgia Center for Continuing Education, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

January, 2000

January, 2000. **Institute of Museum & Library Service General Operating Support Program (GOS)**. Application deadline.

January 1, 2000. *National Science Foundation Systematic Anthropological Collections Information application deadline.*

January 10-12, 2000, **Emergency Preparedness** at Northeast Document Conservation Center facility in Andover, Massachusetts. Cost is \$500 for series of five workshops. If you have questions, contact Karen Brown, Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810; (978) 470-1010 (voice); kebrown@nedcc.org (email).

January 15, 2000. *Institute of Museum and Library Services General Operating Support application deadline.*

January 17 - April 21, 2000. **Museum Information Management** with Jim Blackaby. Long distance education through The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

February, 2000

February 7 – 12, 2000. Heritage Interpretation at **The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria**. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

February 21 – 26, 2000. **Museums in the Marketplace** with Pamela Johnson at The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250)721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

March, 2000

March 15, 2000. **Museum Assessment Program: Institutional Assessment (MAP I), Collections Management Assessment (MAP II), Public Dimension Assessment (MAP III) application deadline.**

April, 2000

April 5-7, 2000. **Collections Maintenance** at Northeast Document Conservation Center facility in Andover, Massachusetts. Cost is \$500 for series of five workshops. If you have questions, contact Karen Brown, Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810; (978) 470-1010 (voice); kebrown@nedcc.org (email).

April 10 – 15, 2000. **Approaches to Repatriation** with Tom Hill at The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, visit our web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ or contact Kelly Wilhelm (250) 721-6119 (voice); kwilhelm@uvcs.uvic.ca (email).

May, 2000

May 14 - 15, 2000. **Annual Meeting of the Association of Systematic Collections**, Baltimore, Maryland. See www.ascoll.org for details.

June, 2000

June 1-2, 2000, **Selection For Preservation** at Northeast Document Conservation Center facility in Andover, Massachusetts. Cost is \$500 for series of five workshops. If you have questions, contact Karen Brown, Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810; (978) 470-1010 (voice); kebrown@nedcc.org (email).

June 9-10, 2000. **28th Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)** in Philadelphia will focus on preservation issues relating to electronic media. Contact the American Institute for Conser-

vation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) 1717 K Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 452-9545 (voice); 202-452-9328 (fax); infoaic@aol.com (email); <http://aic.stanford.edu/> (www).

June 17-21, 1999. **Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammologists**. University of New Hampshire.

June 14 – 20, 2000. **Meetings of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists**, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico. See www.utexas.edu/depts/asih/ for details.

July, 2000

July 1, 2000. **National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation and Access application deadline.**

July 10-14, 2000. **15th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**. Halifax, Nova Scotia. Hosted by the Geological Survey of Canada and Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

August, 2000

August 20-26, 2000. **International Congress of Entomology**, Iguassu Falls, Brazil. Contact: Dr. Decio Luiz GaO. Box 231, 86001-970 Londrina-PR, Brazil.

August 14-19, 2000. **118th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Joint Millennial Meeting of American Ornithologists' Union, British Ornithologists' Union, Society of Canadian Ornithologists**. See www.fmnh.org/aou/aoupage.htm for details.

September, 2000

September 21-22, 2000, **Preservation Administration** at Northeast Document Conservation Center facility in Andover, Massachusetts. Cost is \$500 for series of five workshops. If you have questions, contact Karen Brown, Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810; (978) 470-1010 (voice); kebrown@nedcc.org (email).

Summer, 2001

Summer, 2001. **16th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**. California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California. Contact Local Committee Chair Jean Demouth (jdemouthe@calacademy.org) for further information.

Summer, 2002

Summer, 2002. **17th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**. Redpath Museum, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Registration costs will probably not exceed \$125 CAN. Co-organized with the Canadian Museum of Nature and focussing on the theme of Biodiversity, these meetings will span 3 - 4 days. For more information contact Ingrid Birker, at the Redpath Museum, McGill University, 859 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, QC H3A 2K6, Canada; (514) 398-4086, ext. 4094 (voice); (514) 398-3185 (fax); ibirker@hotmail.com (email).

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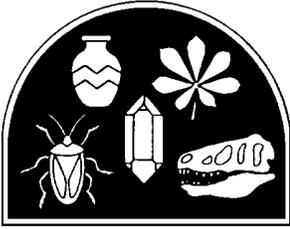
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2001 ♦ *California Academy of Science* ♦ *San Francisco*

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