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“Improving preservation, conservation and management of natural history collections to ensure their continuing value to society.”

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SPNHHC NEWSLETTER

**Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections**

September 2006
Volume 20, Number 2

Past Glories: the Importance of Historic Taxidermy

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INSIDE...

Historic Taxidermy	1
Presidential Report	3
Committee Reports	4
IPM databases	8
Collection Forum	
Vol. 20	11
Understaffing	12
NatSCA	14
SPNHHC 2007	16
New Website	17
Pubs of interest	18
Calendar	20

Insert: How To... No. 1

..... and much more!

ISSN 1071-2887

Over the past few years a great deal of work has been undertaken to write the histories of the work of some of the great taxidermists of the past, with publications such as *Window on Nature: the Great Habitat Dioramas of the American Museum of Natural History* by Stephen C. Quin (2006), being just the latest of the American publications. In Britain, the work of Pat Morris and his books on Rowland Ward and Edward Gerrard and Sons have helped to inspire others to research this fascinating subject area. This growing interest in taxidermists and their work is, unfortunately, not reflected in the thinking of many of our national, regional and local natural history museums.

In many great national institutions modernisation has become a byword for the destruction of many of these “Past Glories”. National museums and larger regional institutions often lead the way in the development of ideas and techniques and so it is even more important that these institutions think carefully, and assess the wider implications, before they remove and destroy historic displays.

The modern technology, models and graphics which so dominate many of the more re-

cent displays within our institutions, often as alternatives to the “real thing”, do little to captivate the imagination of many of our visitors, often alienating the more intelligent and becoming more of a playground for the young, than an educational asset for all.

There is little more disappointing, when visiting an exhibition, than to find that the object of most interest to you is only a replica!



Dioramas have been refurbished in the Überseemuseum in Bremen, Germany to reflect new concepts in the displays.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1:
.....Historic Taxidermy

Dioramas have been refurbished in the Überseemuseum in Bremen, Germany to reflect new concepts in the displays. Taxidermy, both modern and historic, still has an important role in the education of future generations. Film, video and television, and even computers may all have a role to play, but only the real thing can give scale, and develop our knowledge and imagination to its fullest extent.



Musk Ox on display at the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet in Stockholm. Even today taxidermy provides a sense of scale to the museum visitor which cannot easily be communicated in other ways.

I first highlighted the problems associated with historic taxidermy, in particular with large tropical mammals, in 1988 when I published a paper in the Biological Curators Group Newsletter entitled "Vanishing Herds large mammals in museum collections?" (*B.C.G. Newsletter*, 4 (8) 148-149).

Although this paper was widely quoted, little changed and the large tropical animals held in our institutions still continued to be under threat. I was pleased therefore, to have the opportunity to submit and present a paper at the ICOM (International Council of Museums) Natural History Committee Annual Meeting held in Jacobstad, Finland in 2005, on this subject entitled; "The Collector's Tale – The importance of secondary documentation in telling a good story". The substance of the presentation was based around some of the facts and fiction surrounding historic taxidermy and how we can, and must use "even the fiction which surrounds these objects" in order to help preserve this important material held within our collections.

This resulted in a discussion on the current state of taxidermy in many of our institutions, and in particular the demise of many historic dioramas, with Eirik Granqvist highlighting the imminent destruction, in the name of modernisation, of a series of dioramas, the construction of which, he had been personally involved in, in his early years as a professional taxidermist conservator.

As a result of this discussion, a decision was made to set up

a small working group to look into the situation and develop a process by which we could help other, like-minded people, to highlight and protect at least some of the more important historic dioramas and important individual pieces of taxidermy held within our museums worldwide.

In order to create greater public awareness of these, and associated issues, a WORKING GROUP ON THE ART OF TAXIDERMISTRY AND ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPORTANCE was established at the ICOM NatHist meeting held in Jacobstad, Finland in 2005, details of which can be found at the following web-address: <http://www.icom-nathist.de/icom/index.htm>.

In association with the Guild of Taxidermists in the United Kingdom and others, the Working Group has developed, a series of criteria by which historic taxidermy can be judged. In parallel with this, and with the co-operation of individual members of the Museums Association within the UK, a code of conduct has also been produced and published within the ICOM Natural History Committee Newsletter Number 15, as well as being placed on the ICOM-NatHist website, (see full address below). The aim of all this work is to develop an on-line database which will hold information and images of the most important historic pieces of taxidermy held within institutions throughout the world. This will allow institutions and individuals, in particular in developing countries, to access information on historic material which, in all probability, originated in their countries and may thus have other cultural and historic associations known only locally.

With this database in mind, a national panel has been established within Britain, and an international panel is being established, but we still require participation from other parts of the globe, with other national panels being set up and individual members being put forward to participate in the final evaluation of material prior to its final grading on the website.



Some dioramas at the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin have been protected by specific preservation orders.

Continued on page 9

Presidential Report

Tim White

Assistant Director for Collections and Operations, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, 170 Whitney Ave., PO Box 208118
New Haven, CT 06511 USA

Russell D. "Tim" White was born in Stafford, Connecticut, and at Eastern Connecticut State University, he developed his interest in geology, paleontology, and biodiversity. Following graduation from ECSU in 1981, he entered the graduate program in geology at the University of Kansas where White's interest flourished in natural history museums and the role they play in documenting global change and the history of life. He interned at KU's natural history museum and worked on various databasing projects and collected invertebrate fossils for the museum in Kansas, Nevada, Utah and northern Mexico.

In 1984 White joined the staff of Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History as the Collection Manager for invertebrate paleontology. White was a key player in the design and construction of Yale's Environmental Science Center, an interdisciplinary facility that is home to faculty members, research centers and 65 percent of Peabody's research collections. This experience led to the creation of White's current position, Assistant Director for Collections and Operations.

White is a charter member of SPNHC and a former officer of the Paleontological Society. He has been an active member in both societies and has held numerous offices. He is married to Elizabeth Joseph White, an executive at Kodak's Scientific Imaging Group in New Haven, Connecticut, for the past 18 years. He lives in Killingworth, Connecticut with his wife and two Labrador retrievers.



Twenty one years ago I walked into the office of Fred Collier, who was at the time the Collections Manager in the Department of Paleobiology at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History (he is currently the Curatorial Associate in Invertebrate Paleontology at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology). Fred had been at the Natural History Museum for many years and it has been claimed that he was the first person in the world to hold the title of Collections Manager. I had just completed a course on legal and ethical responsibilities in managing museum collections, hosted by the former Smithsonian Office of Museum Programs. Part of the course included scheduled time with a Smithsonian museum professional, and Fred, being a paleontologist, was my man.

Fred had just returned from a meeting of museum professionals in Toronto, Ontario where a small group of curators and collections staff who were interested in the conservation and management of museum collections had gathered to talk about building a community...a network of museum professionals dedicated to the management and care of natural history collections. He told me this group was looking to establish as a formal organization and that I should get involved. A year later this group met again in Washington, DC and SPNHC was born. I was lucky to be able to attend that first meeting, and I remember meeting a couple dozen individuals, many of whom are still active in the Society's affairs today. Thanks for the encouragement, Fred!

This year SPNHC met in Albuquerque, New Mexico for our 21st meeting and our host was the Museum of Southwestern Biology and the U.S. Geological Survey's Fort Collins Science Center, with the local organizing committee chaired by Jane Mygatt and Cindy Ramotnik. We were joined by the Natural Science Collections Alliance (formerly known as the Association of Systematic Collections) and for the third year in a row we attracted more than 200 attendees! The theme of this year's meeting was "*The Road to Productive Partnerships*" and the highlights of the meeting for many were the keynote presentations by Jorge Soberon (KU) and Peter Raven (MBOT). Our meeting was held at the Hotel Albuquerque, which made for a festive atmosphere, with a wide array of symposia, technical sessions and special interest groups sprinkled with field trips, collections tours and a healthy group of vendors, sponsors, and margaritas!

Continued on page 4



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 biannual 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, March and September, by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, c/o Division of Ichthyology, Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Dyche Hall, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045-7561, USA.

Changes of address should be directed to SPNHC Treasurer, PO Box 797, Washington, DC 20044-0797.

Submissions are welcome. Please forward announcements, articles and notes to the Newsletter Editors by mail or email.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is February 1, 2007.

Continued from page 3:
.....Presidential Report

In Albuquerque we were lucky to have Kristen Laise, Director of the Heritage Health Index, at our meeting. HHI is an ambitious project sponsored by Heritage Preservation with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to survey the health of museum collections and various repositories throughout the United States. While in New Mexico Kristen met with the boards of SPNHC and NSCA and gave a presentation in the general session focusing on the results of the HHI survey, which can be found on the HP website (<http://www.heritagepreservation.org>). The HHI estimates that there are approximately 820 million specimens in natural history museums and repositories in the United States. However, they also noted that around 80 percent of the institutions surveyed lacked emergency plans and people trained to carry them out. Our collections are at risk, so please take a look at your institution's policies and plan accordingly. If you are unsure of how to go forward, check out the Museum SOS website (<http://museum-sos.org/>) for information from the 2004 annual meeting and workshop.

As SPNHC continues to grow there are several initiatives afoot to manage that growth. President-elect Rich Rabeler, along with our Members-at-Large and Committee Chairs, will be looking to update our long-range plan and will be organizing two surveys: one for our membership and one for the natural history community to assess our needs. Along those lines, Lisa Kronthal Elkin is chairing a sessional committee on Publicity and Outreach and will work closely with Rich. James Macklin will be working with the Council on the development of a new web site, which will be hosted at the Harvard Herbaria. We hope this new web site will be launched soon, and I would like to thank Jon Greggs from the University of Calgary for several years of service as our web master.

Next summer we will meet in St. Paul, Minnesota at the Science Museum of Minnesota where the theme of our meeting will be "Building for the Future." Over the past few years there have been many museum capital projects completed and several others currently under construction. We hope to draw on these experiences and put together an informative program that will provide you with the background information to begin planning a capital project tailored to the unique needs of natural history museums.

Finally, this fall, as we send out our membership renewals please be sure to update your email address with the renewal. Over the course of the year, we plan to send periodic updates and notices of SPNHC and other natural history collection activity to our membership, and I believe the most efficient means of communicating with you is via email. I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer!



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conference Committee Report

Nine SPNHC members attended the meeting, including representatives of the Organizing Committees for the London and Albuquerque meetings. We briefly reviewed details of both meetings, noting that the 2006 meeting was the third consecutive joint meeting with over 200 participants. This is the first meeting at a hotel and our local hosts will be adding information on their experiences to our planning documents. Other topics related to future meetings were discussed, including the importance of being proactive to get quality speakers for special sessions and developing good relationships with the tradeshow vendors/sponsors.

The 2007 meeting will be held during the week of 21 May in St. Paul, Minnesota at the Science Museum of Minnesota. "Building for the Future" will be the conference theme and at least one workshop focusing on building projects, both new and renovations, is being formulated. Watch for more information as time draws closer.

Possible venues for meetings beyond 2007 were noted. There was nothing definite to report, but the possibility of another meeting in Europe seems strong and we also are beginning to think about the 2010 meeting as being a celebration of 25 years of SPNHC.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Rabeler, Chair

Conservation Committee Report

Thanks to Barbara Hamann who has served for four years as the Conservation Committee Co-chair. Thanks for a job well done!

Welcome to Victoria Book who is the new Conservation Committee Co-chair.

1. Resources Subcommittee:

Under the direction of Cindy Ramotnik, student intern Adrienne Raniszewski spent numerous hours refreshing and refurbishing the U.S. Resources Display Unit. The products were reorganized following the template style originally used for the Canadian Resources Display Unit. Some products were retired to make room for new ones, such as lidded polyethylene boxes, rubber gaskets for jars, and the Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel. Expect a few more products to be added.

Thanks go out to Janet Waddington who served for nine years as the Resources Subcommittee Co-Chair. Janet managed the Canadian Resources Display Unit all during this time period. She and Helen Coxon, conservator at the Royal Ontario Museum, put the original Canadian Resources Display Unit together. Thanks for a great job these past nine years! Janet Waddington is passing the baton to Kelly Sendall of the Royal British Columbia Museum. Welcome to Kelly Sendall.

The Resources Display Units are available to be borrowed for display at collections-based meetings, conferences, and workshops. Please contact Cindy or Kelly for more information.

2. Adhesives Workshop Subcommittee

Gretchen continued in this past year to explore a workshop on the evaluation of adhesives for use with natural history specimens. She is seeking funding and leaders toward hosting a workshop at the 2007 SPNHC Annual Meeting at the Minnesota Science Museum. Thanks to Gretchen for four years of great help.

3. Adhesives Historical Research Subcommittee

This subcommittee is new (beginning at the Albuquerque meeting) and plans are that subcommittee members will record the historic use of adhesives in natural history collections. Some factors to be recorded will include name of adhesive, applicability issues, and aging properties.

4. Citations Subcommittee

The committee continues to seek out new reviewers. Anyone interested should contact Marcy Revelez. A database is currently under construction and will be available on the new website. It will be searchable and comprising all citations previously listed in all newsletters.

5. Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBoL) Fluids Historical Research Subcommittee - Andy Bentley

A new committee put together in Albuquerque, it plans a survey of collections and their history of formalin fixation in natural history collections with respect to the potential for DNA extraction. A report from the the CBoL workshop on recovering DNA from formalin-fixed specimens, held in May 2006 at the US National Academy of Science, can be found at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11712.html>. This document will form the basis of future work.

Respectfully submitted,
Jude Southward and Victoria Book, Co-Chairs

Documentation Committee Report

The Documentation Committee meeting in Albuquerque was attended by fourteen people. Discussions in the meeting centered on (1) bridge building with other groups sharing our interests, (2) implementation of the SPNHC website redesign, and (3) planning future activities of the Committee.

Continued on page 6:

Membership

Membership applications for individuals (US\$25), Libraries (US\$30) or Associate/Institutional (US\$50) may be submitted to:

*SPNHC Treasurer
P.O. Box 797
Washington, DC 20044-0797
USA*

Be sure to include the following information:

*Name, Discipline Specialty, Institution
Address (Street, City, State/Province, Country, Zip/
Postal Code)
Voice, Fax, E-mail address*

Payment may be made by cheque, money order, Visa or Mastercard.

Membership application/renewal form by portable document (Adobe Acrobat Reader required): <http://www.spnhc.org/renew.pdf>

Membership application/renewal form by Word file: <http://www.spnhc.org/renewal.doc>

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 require further information about life memberships.

Treasurer

Continued from page 5:

.....Documentation Committee Report

Committee members are actively working toward the creation of working relationships with other organizations concerned with standards development and implementation as well as datasharing initiatives. To this end, Richard Monk attended the Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG) meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, in September 2005 with an eye toward how the two organizations can benefit one another. See the TDWG Report for additional information. Currently, discussions are ongoing with Larry Speers to develop a positive relationship between SPNHC and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF); see the GBIF Report for information. Other organizations were identified for possible interaction in the future, including The UK Registrars' Group and Museum Documentation Association (MDA).

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of James Macklin, the website redesign is now complete and is scheduled to be released this fall.

The Committee supports SPNHC President Tim White's initiative of developing a concrete plan for the future of the organization and will be contributing to the upcoming SPNHC questionnaire being developed by Rich Rabeler.

The NHCOLL-L listserv, serving more than 700 subscribers, continues to be a very active forum for members of the natural history community. Gregory Watkins-Colwell manages the list. To subscribe, go to <http://www.spnhc.org/nhcoll.htm>.

Chris Chandler continues to collate meetings, workshops, short courses, and important deadlines for the Calendar section of the SPNHC Newsletter. Please contact Chris at chandler@putnam.org with any important announcements.

Welcome New Members:

Carol Butler, National Museum of Natural History
Jane MacKnight, Cincinnati Museum Center

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Goulette and Richard Monk, Co-Chairs

Education & Training Committee Report

At the 2006 SPNHC-NSCA meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, three workshops were presented: "Data quality and data cleaning" (half-day), organized by Larry Speers and taught by Arthur Chapman; "The ins and outs of imaging for museum collections" (half-day), organized and presented by Reed Beaman; and "Arctos: a biodiversity informatics tool" (half-day), organized by Gordon Jarrell and team taught.

Ongoing committee activities for 2006-2007 include continuing to identify future workshop topics, collaborating with other committees on the upcoming membership survey, and coordi-

nating with the newsletter editor on a new "How To" article series. The workshops for the 2007 SPNHC meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota are currently under development.

Continuing goals (indicated in bold) and activities of the Education and Training Committee include **1) improving membership development** by improving membership services; **2) improving professional expertise in managing and caring for collections** by communicating the importance of participation in professional development activities, providing training opportunities, developing workshops, and providing for the active exchange of information; and **3) increasing collaboration with other organizations**.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Butler and Linda Hollenberg

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee focused on three related activities this past year: seeking candidates to be the new Treasurer, reviewing their qualifications, and making recommendations to the President and President-Elect.

As are all the positions within SPNHC, the Treasurer is a volunteer. The Treasurer's position is similar to that of the Managing Editor: it is a non-elected position that is appointed by the President with approval from Council. The term of the Treasurer traditionally has been long-term commitment of five or more years, although the President is required to reappoint the Treasurer every two years. Per the SPNHC By-laws, the Treasurer is responsible to report the financial affairs of the Society to Council, to seek budgetary approval from Council, and to maintain the SPNHC membership database. The amount of time that the position requires averages five hours per week.

The Treasurer should be well versed in the SPNHC By-laws, is required to be a United States citizen whose legal residence is in the USA, and should generally understand financial management under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as well as those regulations particular to nonprofits such as FASB 116 and FASB 117. While a certified public accountant (CPA) annually reviews the SPNHC financial records and files both federal and state taxes, the Treasurer is to maintain accurate financial records and to be available and able to answer the questions of the CPA as well as those of SPNHC Council.

The Treasurer interacts quite closely with members of SPNHC Council, particularly the President and Managing Editor and with the Membership Chair and Finance Committee. Basically, the Treasurer has to know what is happening in the entire Society if money is involved.

Several candidates expressed interest in becoming our new Treasurer, and the Finance Committee wishes to thank these candidates for their willingness to commit their time and energy to the Society. Although only one Treasurer can be appointed, we hope the other candidates will go on to support the Society in other ways.

The Finance Committee warmly welcomes the new Treasurer, Barbara Brown, and would like Barb to know that our Committee is pleased to be of assistance to the Treasurer. Congratulations!

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Palmer and Rob Waller, Co-Chairs

Publications Committee Report

Andy Bentley has produced two issues of the SPNHC Newsletter. PDF copy of the September 2005 issue is available to post on the web once our new site is up and running. Tim White has also scanned the missing back issues of the Newsletter for posting.

Collection Forum Volume 20 is in page proofs and will be printed very shortly. It contains 11 articles and two book reviews in 117 pages. These comprise papers received over the past two years, including several that were presented at the Eastern Analytical Symposium (more pesticide related papers) and directed our way through the efforts of Cathy Hawks. Volume 21 is nearly ready to go to press, with 20 articles. It will be a proceedings volume of papers submitted at the 2005 meeting in London, following the theme of Standards. The papers for this volume have been guest edited by the meeting organizers, Giles Miller and Paul Davis. There are five additional manuscripts either still in review and revision or just arrived.

Members are reminded that manuscripts for Collection Forum are always welcome. Please check the website under Publications for the revised guidelines to authors. As well as publishing the results of research on collections preservation issues we also accept papers of a more philosophical nature and short articles describing an innovative technique for collections storage or care. We need to redouble our efforts to attract manuscripts and to get them reviewed in a timely manner, to try and regain author confidence so that we can get back to a predictable publication schedule.

Museum Studies: Perspectives and Innovations (A Volume in Honor of Carolyn L. Rose) edited by Stephen Williams and Cathy Hawks is in page proofs and should be printed late this summer.

The chairmanship of the Publications Committee passed to Jean DeMouthe at the end of this year's annual meeting. Jean will also take over as Managing Editor.

Associate Editors and reviewers are needed for Collection Forum. If you have any questions about Collection Forum, or would like to be an associate editor, please contact the Managing Editor at jdemouthe@calacademy.org

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Waddington, Chair

Report of the Treasurer

New Treasurer, New Office.

Welcome our new Treasurer, Barbara Brown, Curatorial Associate in the Department of Ichthyology at the American Museum of Natural History. As Barb is in New York, the Treasurer's office will move from Washington, DC to New York, NY later on this year. We will keep you posted when the new address has been confirmed. Your 2007 renewal notice, which will be sent in late October, will contain the new address. We will also announce the new address by email. Please welcome Barb!

In 2005, the Society's total net assets increased to \$185,972 from a total of \$183,048 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2005 totaled \$194,942. Operating income was generated from two sources: membership dues, and publication sales. Approximately \$14,510 in membership dues was received. Sales of our four publications brought in approximately \$4,953, as well as \$829 from voluntary page charges. It was a good year for donations. Restricted and unrestricted donations totaled \$5,540 including \$5,095 from the 2005 local committee in London.

One hundred library subscribers, and 418 individuals and associates renewed their membership in calendar year 2005. Of the 538 SPNHC members, 60 joined SPNHC for the first time.

Major expenses for the Society in 2005 were \$5,816 for Collection Forum 19 (1&2) and \$3,299 for two issues of *SPNHC Newsletter*. Election expenses including printing and mailing of the ballots came to \$553. The Web Sessional Committee spent \$600 for contract support and the 20th Anniversary Sessional Committee spent \$390 on our commemorative pins. The Archives Committee spent \$46 for photo documentation. Additional Society expenses include: \$2,015 for postage, supplies, legal fees, post office box rental and contractual support for the Treasurer's Office, \$3,067 for insurance, \$424 in merchant fees, and \$3,500 for the 2004 financial review, tax preparation and filing.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments gained approximately \$3,220 in value and our money market funds earned \$1,334 in dividends. Our two CD's earned approximately \$475 in interest. For additional

information concerning the 2005 finances, please contact the SPNHC Treasurer.

The first part of 2006 has seen good income activity. Thus far, approximately \$13,410 has been received from membership renewals, including approximately 86 library subscriptions, and 365 individual and associate members. Thus far, of the 451 members, 38 are new. One hundred and thirty-five members paying in 2005 have yet to renew in 2006. Please help SPNHC save time and money by paying your dues today.

Midway into 2006, sales of all our publications total \$6,309. Once again our donors promise to make 2006 healthy and financially stable year. We have received \$40 in donations. Thank you!

Expenses thus incurred in FY 2006 include \$170 for office supplies, postage and contractual support; \$210 for the P.O. Box, \$212 in merchant card fees, \$249 for new membership brochures, \$683 in Election Committee expenses, \$1,816 for Newsletter 20(1) and \$3,912 to reprint *Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach*. The financial review of the 2004 SPNHC financial records has been performed and taxes filed. The Society anticipates large expenses related to new publications during 2006. Please contact the SPNHC Treasurer for further details.

For their help throughout the year, I would like to extend thanks to Andy Bentley (University of Kansas), Jon Greggs (University of Calgary), Cathy Hawks (Independent Conservator), Iris Hardy (Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic), James Macklin (Harvard University), Sue McLaren (Carnegie Museum of Natural History), Judith Price (Canadian Museum of Nature), Rich Rabeler (University of Michigan), Janet Waddington (Royal Ontario Museum), Tim White (Yale University) and Steve Williams (Baylor University). The Smithsonian Institution Division of Fishes provides general office support for the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Palmer, past Treasurer

Call for Nominations - SPNHC

The Elections Committee of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections announces that nominations for the 2007 election will be received by the Committee Chair from now until 31 October 2006.

Members participating in this election will be selecting two Members-at-Large to take office in May 2007. Members-at-Large serve three-year terms and serve to bring the voice of

the membership to Council and support Committee functions and leadership as required by current needs. The two Members-at-Large whose terms expire this year can also be nominated to serve for another term.

I encourage all Active and Honorary members to think about their colleagues who are active in SPNHC and propose them for nomination. Our society depends on both the dedication of our Council members and the involvement of our membership in choosing people who will serve the Society.

To submit a nomination or for more information on the election process please contact the committee chair, Kelly Sendall, by way of the contact information below.

Kelly Sendall
Chair, Elections Committee
Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
c/o Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville Street
Victoria, BC CANADA V8W 9W2
Tel: (250) 387-2932; Fax: (250) 356-8197
ksendall@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

More Disaster Funding available

At a May 31st conference sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Tulane University in New Orleans, First Lady Laura Bush announced two new grant initiatives that will provide funding to institutions that have suffered a major disaster. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is reserving \$1.5 million of the grant money it will award over the next year for projects related to the Gulf Coast and other regions affected by major disasters. Read more about this program at www.imls.gov/news/2006/060106.shtm. The National Endowment for the Humanities will award an additional \$750,000 in stabilization grants to cultural and historical institutions along the Gulf Coast. Details of the program can be found at www.neh.gov/news/archive/20060602.html.

Heritage Emergency National Task Force
Heritage Preservation
1012 14th St. NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 233-0800; Fax: (202) 233-0807

This space could be yours.....

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (ABentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2007

*Continued from page 2:
.....Historic Taxidermy*

If this very important initiative is to be successful, we require input from all parties interested in the long-term conservation of taxidermy. In particular, we need input from taxidermists and curators who work with, or are responsible for, this type of collection. In the long-term, we would like to hold and publish a register on the World Wide Web of the most important such specimens.

In November 2006 the ICOM Natural History Committee is holding its annual meeting at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, in Wellington. The Natural History Committee Newsletter Number 16, also published in June 2006 has just issued a call for papers covering this subject and, finally, as part of the ICOM Triennial Conference which will be held in Vienna in 2007, ICOM NatHist intends to devote a full day to this very important subject area.

Adrian Norris, Chair,
Working Group on the Art of Taxidermy and Its Cultural Heritage Importance

2006 American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) was held in Providence, Rhode Island this year and the theme was *Using Artifacts: Is Conservation Compromised?*

The general and specialty group sessions focused on the access and use of cultural property, and the criteria used to decide when and how society might have the right to use cultural property. The keynote address by Professor Amareswar Galla, PhD, The Australian National University and the University of Queensland was titled *Shifting the Paradigm of Conservation from "as it were" to the Present*.

Specialty groups at the annual meeting included Architecture, Book and Paper, Conservators in Private Practice, Electronic Media, Objects, Paintings, Photographic Materials, Research and Technical Studies, Textiles, and Wooden Artifacts.

This year's workshops included Introduction to Microscopical Identification of Conservation Materials, Working at Heights, Disaster Assessment and Management, Digital Photography, The Theory and Practice of Conservation Research, Magnetic Media Conservation, Respirator Fit Testing, Risk Management: Insurance and Beyond.

The 2007 annual meeting will be held in April in Richmond,

Virginia and the 2008 annual meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado.

For additional information see the AIC website at <http://aic.stanford.edu/> or Jude Southward, Conservator, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, Colorado 80205, jude.southward@dmns.org.

Amherst College Museum of Natural History

After being closed for more than two years, the Amherst College Museum of Natural History (formerly the Pratt Museum of Natural History) is pleased to announce that it opened to the public on June 6, 2006. Housed in a stunning new building, our new exhibits include the Hitchcock ichnology collection (on public display for the first time in over 50 years), the geology of the Connecticut River valley, and the F.B. Loomis 1911 expedition to Patagonia. The ACMNH has been warmly received by the local community. Installation on some exhibits continues, but most work in the collections and research has recommenced.

Kate Wellspring
Collections Manager, Amherst College Museum of Natural History
Amherst College, Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 542-2165
www.amherst.edu/museumofnaturalhistory

Interactive Plant ID Keys

Interactive identification keys to various plant taxa are being developed by Timothy M. Jones and Pedro R. Oñativia Lake.

The keys are written using Lucid3, a Java-based program that allows for true multi-entry diagnosis of specimens. Accompanying the interactive keys are fact sheets containing treatments, distribution maps, photographs, and line drawings. The interactive keys and fact sheets together represent a powerful tool in taxon identification.

Keys are now available for taxa of the Poaceae, Cyperaceae, and Orchidaceae at <http://utc.usu.edu/keys/>.

For more information contact Tim Jones at TPolonski@adelphia.net.

Announcement for IPM Databases

The Integrated Pest Management Working Group (IPM-WG) is a group of collection managers, conservators and other professionals interested in issues surrounding the implementation of integrated pest management in museum and other collection-holding institutions. The group is informally hosted by the American Museum of Natural History in New York and meets on an ad-hoc basis. The goal of the group is to promote and facilitate good IPM practices and collaboration between staff and institutions through the development and on-line distribution of training materials and other resources. The group also maintains the IPM listserv which provides a forum for discussion of IPM-related topics. Gathering and managing pest activity data is an essential part of any IPM program. As part of IPM-WG's effort to provide museums with on-line IPM resources, the Working Group is in the process of developing an on-line tool for tracking and managing pest data which will be made accessible over the IPM-WG website (www.museumpests.net). The key purpose of this on-line resource is to offer museums and other institutions the framework needed to develop individualized databases tailored to accommodate their collections. To assist in this endeavor, we are asking interested museums to provide us with examples of their electronic systems (e.g., types of database platforms, types of software and report generators) that they are now using to document these activities. It is possible that we may request examples of individual database programs and copies of generated reports to be made accessible over the IPM-WG's website. Any concerns a museum may have over such issues as permissions, credit lines or confidentiality will certainly be respected. Below is a list of information the Working Group is interested in compiling. This information, along with any IPM database program or report that you would be willing to share with us, can be sent electronically to linda.klise@yale.edu or by mail to Linda Klise, Peabody Museum, 170 Whitney Ave., P.O. Box 208118, New Haven, CT 06520-8118. While you may submit it at your convenience, we would appreciate receiving it as soon as possible to facilitate our ongoing analysis. Thank you for taking the time to send us this information.

Integrated Pest Management Working Group Database Self Evaluation

Following is a list of the information we would like each respondent to supply. Please be as complete as possible, but realize that if some questions are left blank, your response is still valuable.

1. Name (optional)
2. Institution (optional)
3. Name of the database program (if applicable)
4. Database "language" (e.g., Access, Excel, FileMaker)

5. Who created the database?
6. When was it created?
7. Was the database developed commercially?
8. Cost of the database
9. How many data fields? (Include a list of data fields if desired)
10. Who is the primary user of the database?
11. Level of computer experience? (Beginner, Intermediate, Expert)
12. Level of pest identification literacy? (Beginner, Intermediate, Expert)
13. Is the database developer also the primary user? (Yes, No, There are many users)
14. Ratings:
 - a. Data Entry (Very slow, Slow, Medium, Fast, Very fast)
 - b. Ease of Use (Very difficult, Difficult, Medium, Easy, Very easy)
 - c. Data Retrieval (Difficult, Medium, Simple)
15. How long does it take to enter pest information for 10 pest observations? (Do not include time taken in identifying the pests)
16. Can you create paper reports? Are you willing to provide samples? How are reports used? (IPM planning, Education, Justification for funds requests, Cleaning requests, HVAC modification requests, Building maintenance requests, Cabinetry requests, Other)
17. Can observation data be mapped for visualization of spatial occurrence of pests? (Yes, No)
18. Strengths of your database?
19. Weaknesses of your database?
20. Features your database includes but that you never use.
21. Features you wish your database included.

Call for the 2007 Faber Grant Proposals

The Recognition and Grants Committee is requesting proposals for the Faber Grant, a cash grant of up to \$1000 US, to support the best project addressing issues on the management, care, conservation, or use of natural history collections. Applicants for the Faber Grant must be SPNHC members in good standing for at least one year (2006-2007) prior to the award date. The successful applicant (s) will be expected to:

- 1) present a final or interim report at the next upcoming 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.

Continued on page 14

Collection Forum Volume 20

Table of Contents

Articles

Investigation of Solid Phase Microextraction Sampling for Organic Pesticide Residues on Museum Collections.....*Mark Ormsby, Jessica S. Johnson, Susan Heald, Lauren Chang, and Jenifer Bosworth*

Testing Cultural Material for Arsenic and Interpreting the Results: A Case Study at Carnegie Museum of Natural History.....*Barbara Hamann*

Pesticide Contamination on Native American Artifacts – Methods, Results from Six Case Studies, and Next Steps.....*Peter T. Palmer, Matthew Martin, Gregory Wentworth, Salvatore Ostini, Chris Prospero, and Madeleine Fang*

Detection and Mitigation Strategies for Contaminated NAGPRA Objects – The Seneca Nation's Experience.....*Peter Reuben*

Use of Handheld XRF for the Study of Pesticide Residues on Museum Objects.....*Nancy Odegaard, David R. Smith, Leslie V. Boyer, and Jae Anderson*

Exposure of Museum Staff to Formaldehyde During Some Wet Specimen Activities.....*G. Edward Burroughs, Kathryn Makos, Catharine Hawks, and Timothy J. Ryan*

On the Development, Care, and Maintenance of Collections of Reference and Subfossil Seed and Plant Macroremains.....*Alwynne B. Beaudoin*

The Effect of Relative Humidity on Mollusc Periostracum and the Use of Coatings to Prevent Loss.....*Joanna Morton*

The Future of Collections: An Approach to Collections Management Training for Developing Countries.....*John E. Simmons and Yaneth Muñoz-Saba*

Colombian Herbaria.....*Yaneth Muñoz-Saba, Edgar L. Linares, Wilson Devia, and Fernando Gast*

Using Capillarity for Determining and Maintaining a Polymer Consolidant Concentration after Solution Preparation.....*Tim J. Fedak*

Book Reviews

The Conservation of Fur, Feather and Skin, edited by Margot M. Wright.....*Madeleine W. Fang*

Old Poisons, New Problems a Museum Resource for Managing Contaminated Cultural Materials, by Nancy Odegaard, Alyce Sadongei and Associates.....*Victoria Purewal*

To contribute to a future edition of Collection Forum contact the new Managing Editor, Jean DeMouthe at jdemouthe@calacademy.org or send submissions by mail to Jean at Managing Editor, Collection Forum, California Academy of Sciences, 875 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Bridging a chasm of understaffing

Paolo Viscardi^{1,2} & Julia D. Sigwart^{1,2}

¹National Museum of Ireland, Natural History Division, Merrion Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

²University College Dublin, Department of Zoology, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland

The National Museum of Ireland – Natural History (NMINH) houses more than 2 million specimens, comprising the national collections for zoology and geology in Ireland. The scientific collections are housed in an off-site storage building, approximately 1 km from the public galleries (which also contain aspects of the research collection). Despite the size of the collections there are only five members of staff provided to maintain and develop the collections (the museum director, three curators and one technician).

The NMINH's partnership with University College Dublin provides innovative solutions to making scientific collections accessible. This programme – CoB/D (Collections-based Biology in Dublin) harnesses a pool of volunteer and student labour, and taps into grant-funded support. However, since funding is project-related, it can be difficult to justify staff time spent on essential curatorial work that is outside the remit of the grant.

Volunteers are a valuable asset to CoB/D, and much of our progress in making the collections accessible has been due to their efforts in cataloguing specimens. But without staff to provide supervision, they cannot be expected to address fundamental collections management and preventative conservation problems. As part of an effort to address these problems, CoB/D entered into partnership with a work experience programme called Bridge-to-Workplace.

The Bridge-to-Workplace Programme (BTW) is a multi-agency collaboration, which provides a route back into the workplace for the long-term unemployed. Most clients of the programme have had a history of drug addiction, but have gone through rehabilitation and are subsequently trying to rebuild their lives. Placements for this programme are unpaid, but they are intended to develop transferable skills and build confidence through work experience. The scheme provides the grounding for clients to progress into the workplace or into education, and away from a culture of dependency.

As part of the BTW placement programme, CoB/D was awarded a grant to employ a full time, museum-experienced supervisor for four months. The supervisor (PV) was based in the NMINH collections building, where he provided clients with constant one-to-one supervision whilst they were on site. Weekly reports were produced to allow the progress of clients to be assessed during the duration of the placement, both for museum staff and the BTW project coordinator. Work would be identified and discussed by the supervisor and a member of CoB/D or NMINH staff, and projects were developed for the clients based on problems in collection management and con-

servation.

As a pilot initiative, the BTW placement was treated with some reservation from the outset, with fears being raised about petty theft, damage to specimens and health and safety issues for clients and staff. Some friction arising from the preconceptions of existing staff and volunteers was also expected. These initial fears were dealt with by developing the strict policy of one-to-one supervision. This was intended to protect the collections, but also to prevent the clients from being made into scapegoats should anything happen. Once the programme was underway the actual challenges associated with the client base began to emerge, such as wide variation in levels of computer skills and general literacy, poor attendance and punctuality, poor interpersonal skills, and personal issues affecting motivation at work. To address these challenges, the abilities of each client were assessed and suitable projects were tailored to use their existing skills and to encourage the skills that they wished to develop. Attendance was improved by developing ownership of a project and by building a good working relationship between client and supervisor. This relationship, backed-up by professional support workers from BTW, also helped clients build confidence and deal with personal issues. By operating on an honesty basis, with protected disclosure about drug use and criminal background, a strong bond based on acceptance and mutual respect formed the basis of the working relationship.

Despite the challenges, the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work of the BTW clients has resulted in a huge amount of essential work being done in the first four months of the programme. This includes the bagging, packing, freezing, labelling, organisation, and relocation of a collection of over 3,000 bird specimens; the intensive localised monitoring of pest infestations; the relocation and organisation of over 1,000 mammal taxidermy mounts and skins; the removal and replacement of over 400 mounted birds to allow case cleaning; the packing and relocation of over 100 archaeological cattle specimens; the wrapping, packing and labelling of over 100 casts of human skulls; relocation of several large fossil ichthyosaurs and crates of geological material to create a dedicated storeroom for packing materials, and the furnishing of two offices.

The initial four months of the project have been very successful for everyone involved: the NMINH has benefited greatly from the work carried out, whilst undertaking a socially responsible role; two clients now have full-time jobs whilst an-

other has earned a place on a paid part-time placement programme; a further four clients have been taken on, and the Bridge-to-Work funding to CoBiD has been extended. Fears about friction from staff and volunteers have proved unfounded; indeed, the established BTW clients have integrated well with the existing workforce, reflecting increased interpersonal skills and confidence. Feedback from the clients has been incredibly positive, all of them have enjoyed their experience in the museum and it is heartening to see the personal and professional progress they have made in such a short time.

The main remit of CoBiD is to provide access to collections for researchers and students (in UCD and the international community) – taking on a staff of volunteers with a history of drug abuse may seem to be outside the scope of this mission, but in fact it has proven to be a productive source of curatorial labour, as well as a grassroots initiative to raise awareness of the importance of collections with an audience that is potentially the most intimidated by the ivory tower.

For more information on CoBiD, contact Julia Sigwart (julia.sigwart@ucd.ie).

2007 Conservation Assessment Program Applications Available This Fall

The Heritage Health Index, a comprehensive study of the condition of U.S. collections, found that 75% of small museums and historical societies need a condition assessment of their collections. Are you one of them? If so, the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) can help!

CAP is designed to help small to mid-sized museums of all types, from art museums to zoos, obtain a general assessment of the condition of their collections, environment, and historic buildings. Following an on-site assessment by a conservation professional, the museum receives a written report recommending priorities to improve collections care. This report assists museums in educating staff and board members on preservation practices, creating long-range and emergency plans, and raising funds to improve the care of their collections.

In 2006, 110 museums in 39 states and the District of Columbia were selected to participate in CAP. To view the entire list of current CAP participants, visit www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP.

The FY2007 CAP applications will be mailed on *Friday, October 6, 2006*, to museums on the CAP mailing list and will also

be available on Heritage Preservation's Web site at www.heritagepreservation.org. The postmark deadline for applications is December 1, 2006. Eligible participants will be accepted into the program on a first-come, first-served basis. Heritage Preservation's CAP is supported through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

To be added to the CAP application mailing list, or for more information, please contact CAP staff at cap@heritagepreservation.org or (202) 233-0800.

First Comprehensive Guide to Collections Management Policies Now Available

AAM announces the publication of *Things Great and Small: Collections Management Policies*, by John E. Simmons (paper 208 pp.) This is the first time that all current issues related to collections management policies are collected in one volume.

Drawing on his extensive experience as director of the University of Kansas museum studies program, collections manager at the university's Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, and surveyor for AAM's Museum Assessment Program, John E. Simmons reviews the issues that a collections management policy should address and the pros and cons of choosing one policy option over another.

Presenting sample policy sections from numerous museums, featuring sad, but true, stories of museums that have appeared in the news in recent years for collections management lapses and dilemmas and enlivened by humorous, apt quotations it was developed with assistance from the AAM Registrars Committee.

Available from the AAM Bookstore (www.aam-us.org) at \$30 [member] \$40 [non-member] quantity discount available.

Visit SPNHC on-line at:



www.spnhc.org

Continued from page 10:
Faber Grant Proposals

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 application, including cover page, should not exceed 10 pages. Curriculum vita of the principal investigator and letters of commitment to be attached as an appendix.

Questions and proposals should be directed to the Chair of the Recognition and Grants Committee, Iris A. Hardy at IHardy@NRCan.gc.ca or Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic), Bedford Institute of Oceanography, P.O.Box 1006, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 4A2. Nominations for the SPNHC and President's Awards and the Faber Grant must be submitted by 1 May 2007 to be considered for the current year.

Report for Heritage Emergency National Task Force Meeting

Emergency Response Activities

In May 2004, the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) collaborated with the American Museum of Natural History on a conference in New York City entitled, *Museum SOS: Strategies for Emergency Response and Salvage*. The conference was attended by 200 people from institutions around the world. Following the conference, a 1-day, hands-on workshop, *Don't Panic: Emergency Response & Salvage* provided instruction on salvage techniques, focused on the first 24 hours after an event. The expertise for the workshop derived from the American Institute for Conservation's training program in salvage for staff at cultural institutions.

The conference and development of a Museum SOS website were funded in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation Biological Research Collections Program. The website was designed to provide links to extensive resources for care of collections in the aftermath of disasters. SPNHC provided a link to the site as part of the resources offered to its members and publicized the link in response to the devastation during the 2005 hurricanes season.

In the aftermath of the hurricanes, the SPNHC electronic listserv, *NHCOLL-L*, provided a conduit for members and other subscribers to exchange information on the fate of colleagues

and state of collections in the areas decimated by the hurricanes. Information from the list was forwarded to the Heritage Emergency National Task Force for inclusion in their compilation of data on the status of cultural property in the affected regions.

Discussion with SPNHC colleagues during the aftermath of the 2005 disasters suggests that there are two areas of special concern:

- Assistance in development of emergency management processes on an institutional basis
- Availability of additional hands-on training in salvage methods for various collection materials

Catharine Hawks
 SPNHC Representative
 Heritage Emergency National Task Force



The Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA) was formed in 2003 by merger of the Biology Curators' Group and the Natural Sciences Conservation Group, and is a charity registered in England and Wales.

NatSCA provides a forum for individuals and institutions involved in the management, curation, conservation and interpretation of natural science collections and records, and to present the views of professionals and institutions.

The group maintains close links with relevant bodies such as the Museums Association, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, the Geological Curators Group, ICON (Institute of Conservation), the National Federation for Biological Recording and the Society for the Preservation of Natural Science Collections.

The group aims to act as an advocate for Natural Sciences collections, promoting their protection, development and use, and seeking to help people inside and outside of the profession to understand the value and importance of these collections, and that of understanding the natural world and our relationship to it. We provide, by way of publications, seminars

and other events and activities, a means for the exchange of information, the establishment of standards and principles, professional training and the ability for the community to undertake cooperative ventures.

Benefits of membership

- Participation in the community of natural science collections staff
- Network for information exchange
- Publications – three Newsletters a year with news, reviews, articles, ads for courses/seminars and job ads
- Annual conference, sometimes held jointly with other organisations
- Training seminars and workshops, foreign study trips

The following membership rates apply until further notice:

UK Individual members	£15.00
Overseas individual members	£15.00
UK and overseas institutional members	£30.00

Subscription year runs from 1st February to 31st January. Renewal notices are sent out each year.

All payments must be made in sterling or euros. Bank drafts should be drawn with banks that have a branch in the UK. We regret we are unable to accept payment by credit card. USA members can contact the membership secretary for details of an alternative way to pay their subscription.

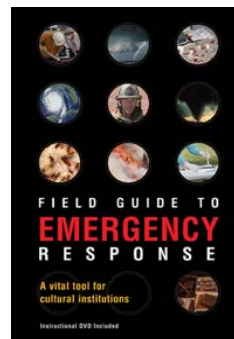
NatSCA, as a holder of personal information about its members, complies with the Data Protection Act. We hold this information on a database and in hard copy. This information is used only for NatSCA purposes (i.e. mailings of the Newsletter or other information to membership) and is not passed on to any other organisation. You can elect to have your name removed from the database but this will mean we are unable to mail you any information. Please inform us by contacting the membership secretary if you wish to have your name removed from the database.

To join, please visit our website at <http://www.natsca.org> or contact the membership secretary Maggie Reilly, Assistant Curator of Zoology, Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University, GLASGOW, G12 8QQ, United Kingdom; e-mail: mreilly@museum.gla.ac.uk

This space could be yours.....

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (ABentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2007

Guide Helps Cultural Institutions Cope when Disaster Strikes



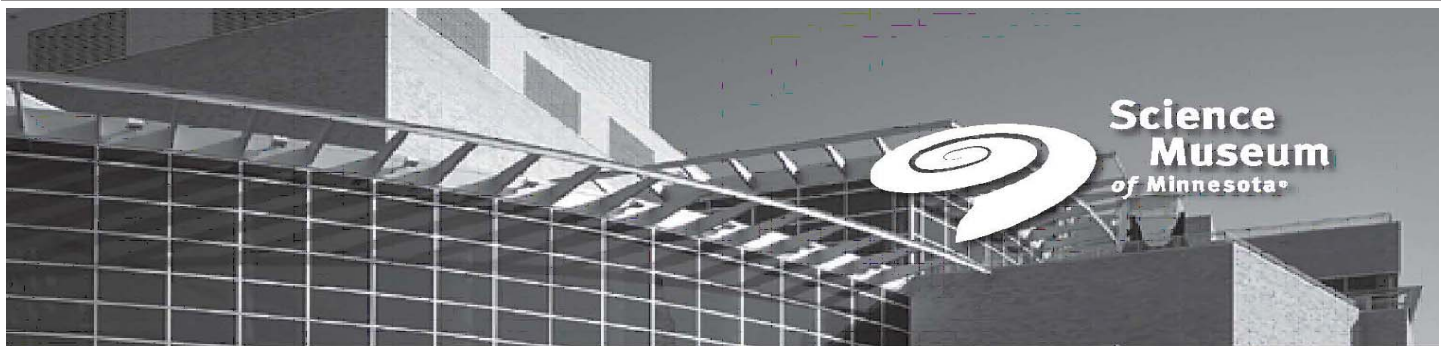
The new *Field Guide to Emergency Response* explains clearly and simply the steps to take in the first few hours of a disaster, enabling even those with no prior training to save collections without endangering themselves. It is the first resource for collections to combine a handy reference guide with video demonstrations. All Heritage Preservation members will receive a free copy of the Field Guide when it is released on August 1, 2006.

The *Field Guide to Emergency Response* distills the expertise of conservation professionals who have responded to disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and the recent flooding in the Northeast. Its interactive nature makes it unique. In addition to a readily understandable handbook, a companion DVD illustrates salvage techniques for typical problems like mud, mold, and soot. The DVD can be used on-site in a laptop or vehicle player, as well as for preparedness training. Also included are information panels that can be customized before disaster strikes, as well as helpful checklists such as a Disaster Supplies Shopping List organized by type of store.

The Field Guide has already won fans among early reviewers: "Every museum administrator should have a Field Guide handy at all times," said Jack Nokes, Executive Director, Texas Association of Museums. Randy Silverman, Preservation Librarian, University of Utah Marriott Library, said, "This straightforward primer is an invaluable tool for emergency planners and responders, small collecting institutions, and the public. The Field Guide is a real life saver!"

The Field Guide is available for \$29.95; it can be purchased with the Wheel for a special price of \$34.95. Both are available at Heritage Preservation's secure online Bookstore at www.heritagepreservation.org/catalog/ or by calling toll-free (888) 388-6789.

For over 30 years, Heritage Preservation has been the national, nonprofit advocate for the proper care of all cultural heritage - in museums, libraries, homes, and town squares.



SPNHC 2007

Building for the Future: Museums in the 21st Century

May 21-26, 2007

The 22nd annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections will be held on the banks of the Mississippi River in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The meeting will be hosted by the Science Museum of Minnesota. Collections managers, curators and conservators in the Twin Cities have joined together to make this a great meeting!

The theme of the meeting is Building for the Future and will focus on capital improvements: new facilities, expansions, rehabilitating old spaces. We will examine case studies and look at design considerations. We will talk about collection – exhibition interface in the 21st Century. Workshops being planned will provide practical hands on information on subjects like capital projects, and on practical application of adhesives.

Where better to explore these issues than the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis? For the past twenty years, there has been a plethora of new museum buildings and expansions in the area. New facilities include the Minnesota Historical Society (1992), Science Museum of Minnesota (1999), Mill City Museum (2002), and Walker Art Center (2005) while expansions were made at the Midwest Art Conservation Center (2005) and Minneapolis Institute of Art (2006). Not to be left behind, the Bell Museum of Natural History is in the early stages of planning a new facility – so this will be an opportunity to see the Bell Museum before it leaves its landmark 1930s building! You will have the opportunity to explore these and more!

For more information go to www.spnhc.org and follow the links to Annual Meetings or contact Gretchen Anderson at gretcha@smm.org.

Organized in association with:



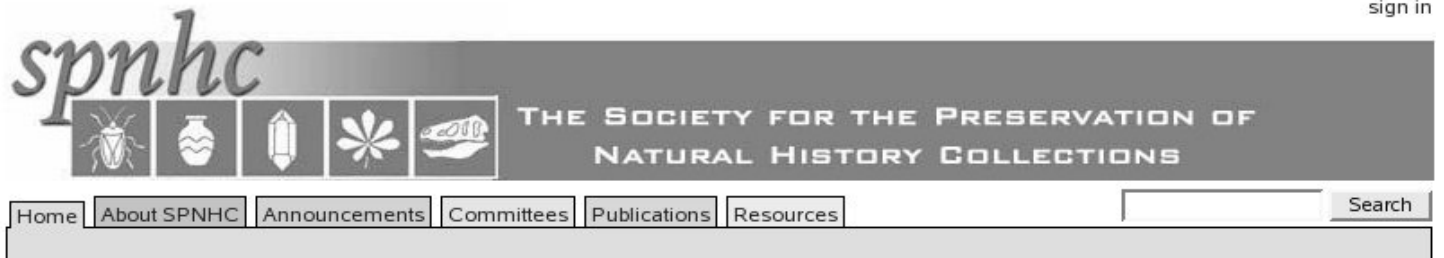
BELL MUSEUM
of Natural History



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**MIDWEST
ART
CONSERVATION
CENTER**





New website coming this Fall!

Old Address, new look, more content

www.spnhc.org

- Redesigned, user friendly interface including a 'News' section
- Enhanced searching capabilities
- Simplified menus with new and updated content
- Convenient access to publications and other on-line resources
- Member-only services with password control
- ... and much more

Watch for an official welcoming to our new site on NHCOLL-L

New to the Newsletter - “How To” Series

The “How To” series, produced as an insert to the newsletter, is intended to provide basic, introductory information regarding particular collections or specific collections management techniques. This information is intended to assist those who may be caring for one or more collections for which they may have limited or no expertise. Readers should seek out detailed information (as needed) to supplement what is provided as part of the “How To” series.

Please send submissions for this series to Carol Butler (butlcr@si.edu) or Linda Hollenberg (hollenbergl@si.edu). Submissions will be printed as an insert to the newsletter, so text should fit onto one side of a single sheet of paper.



Position Announcements

If you would like to submit job descriptions, please send postings to the Newsletter Editor. See the SPNHC web site, www.spnhc.org, for current postings

Collections Manager, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville, VA. Minimum Starting Pay: \$37,869; Position #00083: An exceptional job opportunity with the Virginia Museum of Natural History is now available. The Virginia Museum of Natural History is the official state repository of natural history specimens; current holdings include a total of several million specimens representing a wide range of disciplines and storage requirements: vertebrate and invertebrate biology (wet and dry), geology, invertebrate and vertebrate paleontology, and anthropology. VMNH is constructing a new 90,000 square foot purpose-built facility, which is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2006. More information about our institution and our new facility is available at www.vmnh.net. As Collections Manager, you will be responsible for day-to-day management of the collections; overseeing environmental monitoring and pest management; catalog data entry/editing; and the supervision of the Registrar, the Librarian, and volunteer staff. The position requires the ability to catalog a wide variety of natural history materials; experience in collections care and maintenance; attention to detail and accuracy; excellent written and verbal communication skills; excellent project management skills; and demonstrated proficiency with database software and Microsoft Office programs. Knowledge of collections software including Re:Discovery and Specify would be an advantage. A degree in biological or geological sciences and a Master's degree in Museum Studies is preferred. The Collections Manager will be heavily involved in assisting with the move of the collections to the new building. The move is expected to take a minimum of two (2) years to accomplish. The Commonwealth of Virginia online employment application is available at <http://jobs.virginia.gov>. Only online applications are accepted. For assistance please contact the Human Resources Office at (276) 666-8617. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. September 22, 2006.

Museum Preparator, University/Jepson Herbaria, University of Berkeley. Salary: Annual: \$23,484; Requisition: 004864. Job Description: Provide general collections data assistance to senior collections staff and herbaria researchers. In particular, assist with cryptogamic and vascular plant curation. 50% Cryptogamic Curation: Transfer specimens into new cabinets and assists with ongoing curatorial reorganization. Assist with the physical moving of herbarium cabinets (possibly weighing up to 600 lbs.), and other large objects. Prepare labels for new acquisitions and enters data into curatorial database. Insert new acquisitions into cryptogamic collections. 25% Collections Data Assistance (under the direction of the Manager of Data Collections): Perform routine data entry for the accessioning of new acquisitions and the retroactive data capture of existing specimens. Perform routine data entry of transaction records. Routine clerical filing of transaction paperwork. 25% Vascular Plant Curation (with priority given to material from California or otherwise addressing the Jepson Herbarium mandate, under the direction of the Manager of Vascular Plants): Inserts new acquisitions into vascular plant collection, using accepted cross-references and making new labeled folders after confirming that such are needed, referring problematic cases to more experienced curatorial staff. Assists with specimen preparation and mounting. Performs other routine curatorial tasks and assists with general vascular plant curation as needed.

Requirements & Qualifications: Required: Basic computer skills in Word and Excel. Skilled in making computer generated specimen labels with a high degree of accuracy, proven data entry skills. Ability to clearly understand and follow instructions in spoken and written English. Ability to perform routine tasks for extended periods of time with minimal error rate. Exceptional manual dexterity. Ability to handle archival material with care. Superior attention to detail. Physical ability to repetitively lift light objects to 6' height (using a step stool if needed). Desired: Prior experience with cryptogamic curation.

Other: This is a career position with an end date of January 2008. Employment beyond December 2007 is contingent upon funding.

Publications of Interest

This section is from the Citations Sub-Committee of the Conservation Committee and is chaired by Marcia A. Revelez. Citations were submitted by Victoria Book (VB), Diana Dicus (DD), Kimball Garrett (KG), Jennifer Holt (JH), Ann Pinzl (AP), Marcia Revelez (MR), John Simmons (JS), Steve Williams (SW), and Christina Wolfe (CW). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Marcia A. Revelez, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua, Norman, OK 73072; Tel: (405) 325-7988; Fax (405) 325-7699; mrevelez@ou.edu.

- Adrain, T. 2006. Endangered collections: legal obligations for museums holding endangered species. *Collections* 2(4):331-350. (SW)
- Agnew, N. and J. Bridgland, (eds.) 2006. *Of the past, for the future: integrating archaeology and conservation*. Getty Conservation Institute. 336 pp. (AP)
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Calendar of Events

The Calendar of Events is maintained by Christine Chandler of the Documentation Committee. Application deadlines, conferences and symposia relevant to collection management, computerization and conservation of natural history collections are listed. Notices may be submitted to Christine at Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804; (563) 324-1054 ext. 226; email: chandler@putnam.org or dinoceras@juno.com.

2006

August 2006

August 7 - September 1, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Materials for Storage and Display. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

August 23 - September 22, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Care of Textiles. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

August 28 - September 22, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Fundraising for Collections Care. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

September 2006

September 10 - 13, 2006. Florida Association of Museums Annual Conference and Exposition. University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. Check out www.flamuseums.org/fam/news/conferencenews.htm for more information.

September 10 - 14, 2006. CIDOC (Documentation) Annual Meeting, Wider Perspective - Broader Base, Gothenburg, Sweden. The conference will focus on our partners on the arena of documentation in Natural History and Science, Art and Landscape among others. It will also focus on the world of collaborative efforts and partnerships in output and collaboration with other paradigms like Library or Archival Systems. Contact: Hans Rengman, META - Kunskap an kunskap, Hovslagaregatan 11, 451 44

Uddevalla, Sweden; +46 (0)522 51 10 94 Phone; +46 (0)70 231 92 10 FAX; hans@meta.se; <http://cidoc06.se>.

September 10 - 16, 2006. ICMS (Security) Annual Conference, Thefts in Museums - Causes, Effects, Conclusions, Warsaw and Gdansk, Poland. Contact: Mr Hans-Jürgen Harras, Security Manager, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz, GD III 3, Referat Sicherheit, Stauffenbergstrasse 42, 10789 Berlin, Germany; +49 30 266 2900 Phone; +49 30 266 2969 FAX; h.j.harras@smb.spk-berlin.de.

September 11 - October 6, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Museum Environmental Control Systems. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

September 11 - December 10, 2006. University of Victoria, Continuing Studies, Distance Course, Collections Management. For more information: Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3N6, Canada; (250) 721-8462 Phone; (250) 721-8774 FAX; crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

September 11 - December 17, 2006. University of Victoria, Continuing Studies, Distance Course, Museum Principles and Practices I: Communities, Curatorship and Collections. For more information: Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3N6, Canada; (250) 721-8462 Phone; (250) 721-8774 FAX; crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

September 14, 2006. National Science Foundation (NSF), Informal Science Education Awards preliminary deadline, planning and proposal grants. For more information: www.nsf.gov.

September 18 - 22, 2006. Mountain-Plain Museums Association 2006 Conference, Taos, New Mexico, USA. For more information, check out www.mountplainsmuseums.org.

September 18 - 23, 2006. University of Victoria, Continuing Studies, On-campus, 6-day Immersion Course, Exhibition Design and Installation. For more information: Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3N6, Canada; (250) 721-8462 Phone; (250) 721-8774 FAX; crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

September 22 - 23, 2006. AAM seminar, Secrets of Accreditation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. Hosted by the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. Check out this and other seminars at www.aamus.org/getinvolved.

September 25 - October 20, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Storage for Infinity: Museum Storage Facilities and Furniture. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

September 26 - 29, 2006. Annual Conference of ICOM's International Committee of University Museums and Collections (UMAC) in association with ICOM Mexico, New Roads for University Museums, Mexico City, Mexico. Contact: Cornelia Weber, Humboldt University of Berlin Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin; +49 30 20 93 19 61 FAX; chair@umac.icom.museum; Gabriela Fong, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Insurgentes Sur No. 3000, Costado Sur de Rectoría, Ciudad Universitaria, México D.F., C. P. 4510, México; +52 55 56 22 03 99 FAX; gabfong@yahoo.com.mx; Lucy Villamar, cimu@servidor.unam.mx. More information is available at: umac.icom.museum.

September 26 - 29, 2006. Association of Midwest Museums Annual Conference, Building Bridges (Community, Collaboration, Celebration), a collaboration with the Illinois Association of Museums and the Iowa Museum Association, Quad Cities, Illinois & Iowa, USA. Check out www.midwestmuseums.org/conference.html for more information.

September 27 - 29, 2006. Oklahoma Museums Association Annual Fall Conference, Fulfill, Build and Create: Oklahoma Museums Focus on the

Next Century, Oklahoma City Zoological Park and Botanical Garden, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA. For more information, check out www.okmuseums.org/annu.html.

October 2006

October 2 - November 10, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Integrated Pest Management. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

October 3 - 7, 2006. 124th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in conjunction with the 4th North American Ornithological Conference, Veracruz, México. More information: www.aou.org.

October 4 - 6, 2006. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, Care of Metal Objects. Registration deadline 1 September. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX.

October 10 - 14, 2006. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, Biofilms (Mycology) for Conservators. Registration deadline 15 September. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX.

October 14, 2006. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies presentation, Water and Collection Spaces, a Structural Drying Overview. Registration deadline, 15 September. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX.

October 15 - 22, 2006. Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG) 2006 Annual Meeting, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri, USA. For information, see <http://tdwg2006.tdwg.org>.

October 16 - 17, 2006. In conjunction with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 2006 Annual Conference in Ottawa, CCI is offering a two-day Advanced Professional Development Workshop, Adhesives for Paleontology Collections. Registration deadline 7 September. Registration information is available online at www.cci-icc.gc.ca/learning-opportunities/svp/index_e.aspx.

October 16 - November 10, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Museum Artifacts. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

October 17 - 21, 2006. Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) 2006 Annual Meeting, Transforming Communities: Museums as Catalyst for Change, Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA. Check out www.semcdirect.net/education_and_programs/2006_annual_meeting/index.html for more information.

October 18 - 21, 2006. 66th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. More information: www.vertpaleo.org/meetings/index.html.

October 18 - 21, 2006. British Columbia Museums Association 50th Annual Provincial Conference 2006, Fit at Fifty - Grow Stronger, Live Longer, hosted by The Exploration Place & Two Rivers Gallery, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada. Check out www.museumsassn.bc.ca/content/home.asp for more information.

October 22 - 25, 2006. 2006 The Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting and Exposition, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. For more information: www.geosociety.org/meetings/2006/index.htm.

October 30 - November 4, 2006. University of Victoria, Continuing Studies, On-campus, 6-day Immersion Course, Building Knowledge: Museums and Research. For more information: Cultural Resource Management

Continued on page 22

... Continued from page 21

Program, University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3N6, Canada; (250) 721-8462 Phone; (250) 721-8774 FAX; crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

November 2006

November 1 - 3, 2006. Kansas Museums Association Annual Conference, Year of the Museum: Traditions & Transitions, Hays, Kansas, USA. For more information: www.ksmuseums.org/annualmeeting.html.

November 2 - 4, 2006. INTERCOM (Management) Annual Meeting, New Roles and Missions of Museums, Taipei, Taiwan. Contact: David Fleming or Françoise McClafferty at National Museums Liverpool, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN, UK; Tel: +44 151 207 0001; david.fleming@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk or f.mcclafferty@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk. For more information visit <http://intercom.icom.museum>.

November 6 - December 1, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Exhibit Fundamentals: Ideas to Installation. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

November 6 - December 15, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Disaster Planning II: Writing a Disaster Preparedness Plan. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

November 6 - December 15, 2006. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Storage for Infinity: An Overview of Museum Storage Principles. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

November 8 - 11, 2006. Museum Computer Network (MCN) Conference 2006 34th Annual Conference, Access to Assets: Return on Investment, Pasadena, California, USA. Check out www.mcn.edu/conferences/index.asp for more information.

November 13 - 18, 2006. University of Victoria, Continuing Studies, On-campus, 6-day Immersion Course, The New Web: Interactive and Collaborative Technologies in the Museum World. For more information: Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3N6, Canada; (250) 721-8462 Phone; (250) 721-8774 FAX; crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

November 27 - 30, 2006. NATHIST (Natural History) Annual Meeting Conference, Intangible Natural Heritage & Museums, Wellington, New Zealand. Contact: Gerhard Winter, Head of the Education Department, Naturmuseum Senckenberg (Senckenberg Natural History Museum), Seckenberanlage 25, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany; +49 (0)69 7542 356 Phone; +49 (0)69 7542 331 FAX; gerhard.winter@senckenberg.de. For more information: <http://nathist.icom.museum/fam.htm>.

December 2006

December 4, 2006 - January 12, 2007. Northern States Conservation Center Museum Studies Online class, Applying Numbers to Collection Objects: Materials and Methods of Object Numbering. For more information on this and other NSCC online offerings, go to www.museumclasses.org.

2007

January 2007

January 8 - April 22, 2007. University of Victoria, Continuing Studies, Distance Course, Museum Principles and Practices II: Programming, Exhibitions and Management. For more information: Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3N6, Canada; (250) 721-8462 Phone;

(250) 721-8774 FAX; crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

January 15 - April 22, 2007. University of Victoria, Continuing Studies, Distance Course, Caring for Museum Collections. For more information: Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3N6, Canada; (250) 721-8462 Phone; (250) 721-8774 FAX; crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

February 2007

February 26 - March 3, 2007. University of Victoria, Continuing Studies, On-campus, 6-day Immersion Course, Museum Information Management. For more information: Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3N6, Canada; (250) 721-8462 Phone; (250) 721-8774 FAX; crmp@uvcs.uvic.ca.

May 2007

May 13 - 17, 2007. AAM Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo™2007, Chicago, Illinois, USA. Check out meeting details at www.aam-us.org.

May 21 - 26, 2007. SPNHC 2007. Building for the Future: Museums in the 21st century. Hosted by Science Museum of Minnesota, Saint Paul, Minnesota. Organized in association with the Bell Museum of Natural History, Minnesota Historical Society and Midwest Art Conservation Center. For more information go to www.spnhc.org and follow the links to Annual Meetings or contact Gretchen Anderson at gretcha@smm.org.

July 2007

July 7 - 11, 2007. Botany 2007, Annual Meeting for the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, Botanical Society of America, American Society of Plant Biologists, American Fern Society, and Phytochemical Society of America, Chicago, Illinois, USA. For more information, periodically check the webpage for the meeting www.2007.botanyconference.org/index.htm.

July 11 - 16, 2007. Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (23rd Annual Meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society, 87th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, 65th Annual Meeting of the Herpetologists League, and 50th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptile), St. Louis, Missouri, USA. More information: www.dce.k-state.edu/jointmeeting/2007/index.shtml.

August 2007

August 19 - 24, 2007. ICOM 21st General Conference, Museum and Universal Heritage, Vienna, Austria. Contact: Armine Wehdorn, ICOM-Österreich, c/o Geldmuseum der Österreichischen Nationalbank, Otto-Wagner-Platz 3, A-1090 Wien, Austria; +43 1 404 20 6631 Phone; +43 1 404 20 6695 FAX; armine.wehdorn@oenb.co.at; <http://austria.icom.museum/2007/index.html>.

2008

April 27 - May 1, 2008. AAM Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo™2008, Denver, Colorado, USA. Check out meeting details at www.aam-us.org.

2009

April 30 - May 4, 2009. AAM Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo™2009, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Check out meeting details at <http://www.aam-us.org>.



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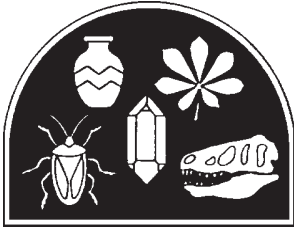
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