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SPNHC NEWSLETTER

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

March 2008
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OBITUARY

TERRY L. YATES

(1950-2007)

**President:
Natural Science
Collection Alliance
(NSCA)**

Terry L. Yates passed away on December 12, 2007, after a short, but intense, battle with glioblastoma (brain cancer). His enthusiasm for science and field research was infectious, and his ability to bring together scientists from many backgrounds to work together as an inter-disciplinary group was nothing short of remarkable. He lived life to its fullest, both professionally and personally, and left a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. The University of New Mexico, and especially the Museum of Southwestern Biology, which Terry devoted much to, has suffered a great loss with his passing.

Terry was born on March 17, 1950, in Mayfield, Kentucky. He completed a M.S. at Texas A&M University under David Schmidly in 1975,

and a Ph.D. at Texas Tech University under Robert Baker in 1978. Terry came to the University of New Mexico in 1978 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, where he subsequently became Associate and then Full Professor. He served as director of the Museum of Southwestern Biology at the University of New Mexico from 1993–1995, and was chairman of the Biology Department from 1995-1999. He was curator for genomic resources at the Museum from 1993 on. He also served two terms with the National Science Foundation, first in the Systematic Biology Program (1990-1992) and later as director of the Division of Environmental Biology (2000-2001). He was selected as Vice Provost for Research at the University of New Mexico in

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.....Terry Yates...

2001 and became the Vice President for Research and Economic Development in 2004, a position he held until his death.

Terry was active in teaching and mentoring students, with a total of 9 Master's and 19 Doctoral students. He published 131+ research papers, many of them with his students. He was best known for his ground-breaking research on the natural history of hantaviruses and their hosts, particularly in the southwestern United States. His research on hantaviruses began in 1993, when he suggested to the Centers for Disease Control that they use the large collection of frozen tissues available at the Museum of Southwestern Biology to examine the historical presence of Sin Nombre virus in native rodents. This resulted in a long and fruitful collaboration with the CDC, during which time many of the details of the ecology of Sin Nombre virus and its host, the deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), were revealed. This work, completed with collaborator Robert Parmenter, was named by the National Science Foundation to the "Nifty 50" list, which includes NSF funded inventions, innovations, and discoveries that have become commonplace in our lives.

Terry was named an honorary member of the Board of Life Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences in 2006, and also was elected an honorary member of the American Society of Mammalogists in 2007. He served as Vice President of the Natural Science Collections Alliance from 2000-2005, and as President from 2005 until his death.

Terry Yates had great vision and an infatigable enthusiasm for science, particularly field-based research. He was happier out in the field than he was behind a desk. His vibrance and humor were with him to the end. Of his final illness, he was determined that he would get several publications and patents out of it. Terry challenged us and inspired us and will be deeply missed. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Nancy, and his two sons, Brian and Michael.



WG-interactions, the official forum site of ICOM-CC is now ready to be explored and used. By inviting you to participate in this forum, ICOM-CC aims to stimulate more interactions between our multidisciplinary membership. You can raise topics/join discussions, private or with as much of your colleague-members or Working Groups involved, live, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, from every part of the world.

Please read the following info very carefully. The administrator of the site needs your support to turn this forum site into a success. Most of the info can also be found

on the forum site and should be seen as a comprehensive manual to get started and acquainted with the site.

Introduction

WG-interactions is a forum site that gives ICOM-CC members the unique opportunity to start discussions in their own Working Group or with members of other Working Groups on subjects that benefit from an interdisciplinary approach. Just post a topic to the listed Working Groups that you want to be involved. Members of those WG's can react and give their own opinion about the matter or provide you with their professional advice.

Important! Before you register, read this: Your registration will only be valid when following criteria are met: —1— You have to register with your last name as your username (in case of identical usernames, followed by a digit). Example: The username of John Smith will be entered as "smith" and that of Will Smith as "smith1". —2— Once you have registered and logged in, you have to click the "Profile" button in the top menu bar, enter your ICOM-number in the "Location" field, and finish by clicking the "Submit" button at the end of the form. Important: When one or both criteria are not met, the administrator will regard you as a non-member and remove you from the site.

What are moderators?

Moderators are individuals (in this case the WG-coordinators) whose job it is to look after the running of their forums from day to day. They have the power to edit or delete posts and lock, unlock, move, delete and split topics in the forum they moderate. Generally moderators are there to prevent people going *off-topic* or posting abusive or offensive material.

What can you expect from the administrator?

The administrator is assigned the highest level of control over the entire board. He can control all facets of board operation, which include setting permissions, banning users, creating user groups or moderators, etc. He also has full moderator capabilities in all the forums and is also there to assist you when you need help.

Help, is there a user's manual?

If you are afraid to push buttons without knowing what will happen next or feel uncomfortable without a manual explaining how to use the forum, please go to the "FAQ" button in the top menu bar of the forum site. It deals with all user's issues in a well-structured and explanatory way. For step-by-step help, a support site with very useful flash tutorials is available: <http://www.phpbb.com/support/tutorials/2.0/>

START NOW!

Please register now and go to the forum site **WG-interactions**: <http://icom-cc-wg.phpbb24.com>

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

This May we will be meeting in Oklahoma City, where we will be joined by the Natural Science Collections Alliance once again. Our hosts, the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma have been busy putting together an excellent program with field trips, an interesting array of technical sessions and a workshop program including one for those requiring training for the transportation of dangerous goods.

One of the sessions we will host will be the first of what we hope will be an annual session on Best Practices and Standards in Natural History Collections. We hope to have several presentations on broad discipline practices and programs. This session is being sponsored by the National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network (NSF RCN), *Building a Community of Natural History Collections*.

For those of us with NSF collection improvement grants, a very important survey is being circulated by NSF to review the status of museum collections and I urge you to complete this tool. These surveys are being distribute via email and can be completed in about 20 minutes.

This spring we have an election for President, Secretary and two Member-at-Large, and I encourage all to participate by voting. This is the one thing you can do that will have a positive affect on SPNHC...choosing your leaders.

This past December, SPNHC and the natural history collections community lost a very dear friend with the passing of Terry Yates. Terry was the Vice-President for Research and Technology at the University of New Mexico, and former President of the Natural Science Collections Alliance. Terry was very instrumental in promoting the value of natural science collections and championed several initiatives. It was great to be with Terry in Albuquerque in 2006 and share his love of the UNM and his passion for natural history. He will be missed by all.

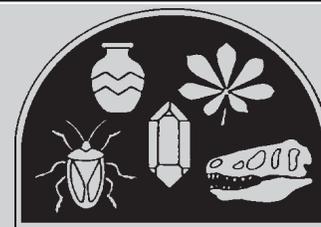
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conference Committee

Just a quick update from the Committee on three items:

2008 Annual Meeting – plan to attend! Be sure to visit the Meeting web site (<http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/nsca-spnhc/>). All important dates are now posted.

2009 Annual Meeting – the theme and dates for our gathering at Leiden, The Netherlands have been released: “Bridging Continents - New Initiatives and Perspectives in Natural History Collections” will take place on 6-10 July, 2009, with workshops scheduled on 11 July.



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, Planetarium Station, PO Box 526, New York, NY 10024-0526, USA.

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

Deadline for the next Newsletter is August 1, 2008.

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.....Conference Committee

2010: the 25th Anniversary meeting is being planned for Ottawa, Ontario.

2012: The Peabody Museum, Yale University, has expressed interest.

A presentation on the 2010 meeting, our 25th Anniversary Celebration in Ottawa, Ontario, will be made at the 2008 AGM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Rabeler, Chair

Conservation Committee

General Information

Jude will be completing her term as co-chair in May. Jude has served as co-chair of the Conservation Committee for eight years, and will continue to contribute by chairing the Adhesives Historical Research Committee. Thank you, Jude!

Several SPNHC members have identified themselves as Conservation Advocates and have generously offered practical advice to colleagues when queried. If you have expertise in a particular area and are willing to have questions forwarded to you, please contact Victoria Book (vbook@ou.edu).

Update your **Emergency Plan!** If you need guidance, would like to see some examples, or have a plan that may be helpful to other collections and institutions, please contact Victoria.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Resources Display Units Subcommittee
Subcommittee Co-Chairs:
Cindy Ramotnik (US) - ramotnik@unm.edu
Kelly Sendall (Canada) - ksendall@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

The US RDU will be at the Museum of the North, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK from April 21-25 for the Department of Interior *Curating Natural History Collections* class. It will also be in Oklahoma City, OK for the annual SPNHC meeting, 13-17 May.

General information on both the USA and Canadian Resources Display Units is available at <http://www.spnhc.org/resource/index.html>. A detailed list of the products on the Canadian Resources Display Unit is available at:

<http://www.spnhc.org/opencms/opencms/spnhc/resource/linkedddocuments/CDNresources.htm>.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Resources Display Units or to request a loan for collections-based meet-

ings, conferences, and workshops, please contact Cindy or Kelly at the addresses above. Also, if you have a suggestion regarding content please let us know.

2. Adhesives Historical Research Subcommittee
Subcommittee Chair:
Jude Southward - jude.southward@dmns.org

Topics for a survey of adhesive use in natural history collections have been identified. A pilot survey is in the works and will be distributed soon to selected museums.

3. Citations Subcommittee
Subcommittee Chair:
Marcia A. Revelez - mrevez@ou.edu

The committee welcomes Terri Jordan and Larissa Busch from the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History as new contributors. New reviewers are always needed. If you are interested, please contact Marcy Revelez. A database is currently under construction and will be searchable and comprise all citations previously listed in all newsletters.

Citations are included in this issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Jude Southward
Victoria Book, Co-Chairs

Documentation Committee

The Documentation Committee meeting in St. Paul was attended by 9 people (Julie Droke, Tim White, Richard Raebler, Carol Butler, Robert Huxley, Jessica Cundiff, Bonnie Szirtes, Paula Work, and James Macklin)

Brainstorm discussion followed on such topics as: the 2008 meeting, core pieces of best practices, interpretation of permitting, and also how other disciplines within SPNHC could help our committee.

Further discussion included the idea of creating a variety of checklists to be available on the website, such as, an "Acquisition Checklist," which could become a standard like the AAM's "Standard Facilities Report." Other checklists could include appraisals, all couched in best practices.

Final discussion concerned ideas for revisions for the new edition of the "New Museum Registration Methods" included destructive sampling, chain of custody and audits as subjects that should be included. A chapter entitled, "Permits versus Fish and Wildlife," as well as the suggestion to include a profile of a "natural history collections manager" were also suggested.

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.sphnc.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.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie A. Droke, Co-Chair

Election Committee

The Election for 2008 is under way and all ballots are to be returned to the ballot counters by **April 4, 2008**. We are voting for a President-Elect, Secretary and 2 Members-at-Large. You should have your ballot by now but if for some reason you did not receive one, let me know and I'll make amends.

I see from the membership list each year that our Society is growing quickly and becoming more international in its breadth. It is your responsibility to help assure good, effective governance. Your vote counts so please, if you haven't already sent yours in, find the ballot right now, make your marks, and return to the appropriate ballot counting centre. Don't forget that your vote is not valid if you do not include your return address on the envelope.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Sendall, Chair

Publications Committee

The next issue of Collections Forum is in the galley proof stage and will hopefully be in everyone's hands well before the annual meeting. This will be the first issue to have some color in it!

The museum safety book, which is being edited by Cathy Hawks, is moving along more slowly than we had planned, and we are looking into getting some outside help to speed up the process.

Some major changes were discussed at the last annual meeting, including renovation of Collections Forum to include a wider variety of article types and subjects. The look of the journal may also change, probably during SPNHC's 25th anniversary year. Tim White and Jean DeMouthe will be visiting Allen Press right before the annual meeting to discuss possible improvements to the journal. There may also be changes to the manuscript submission and processing routines. These will all be discussed at the Publications Committee meeting at the annual SPNHC meeting in May. Anyone interested is welcome to attend the meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, 13 May 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
J.F. DeMouthe, Chair & Managing Editor

Membership

Membership applications for Individuals (US\$35), Student, certified (US\$20), Subscription or Library (US\$45), Corporate/Commercial (US\$300) or Institutional (US\$65) may be submitted to:

*SPNHC Treasurer
Planetarium Station
P.O. Box 526
New York, NY 10024-0526
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) and by Word file available at: <http://www.sphnc.org/about/membership.html>.

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 US\$875. The fee is 25 times the Individual Membership rate, currently US\$35. Life Memberships may be paid in one of three ways:

- (1) one-time payment of US\$875;
- (2) two-year installments of US\$475/1st year and US\$400/2nd year;
- (3) three-year installments of US\$420/1st year, US\$280/2nd year and US\$175/3rd year.

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

Treasurer

Web Committee

In late 2007, a new version of the website was unveiled which now uses the popular content management software, Drupal. The new site does not look significantly different but will allow more flexibility in content presentation and make it easy for content to be added and kept up-to-date. You will likely see some more changes in design and organization of the site over the coming months, so check back often. The membership database has been set up and members will soon receive an e-mail requesting them to log in and verify their contact information. We will also shortly be reintroducing the Permit-L list in a new format, as it recently needed to find a new home.

The next phase of our website upgrades will focus on content. We will be seeking interested members to help manage and keep current the many different kinds of information that our site provides. We are also interested in new initiatives that provide resources to our membership and the general public. All ideas welcome!

I would like to thank Dan Mellott for all of his work on website development to date as well as the Harvard Herbaria IT staff for maintaining and upgrading the web server.

As always, we appreciate feedback from members and non-members about the site and have incorporated changes where possible.

Committee members: Lori Benson, Jean-Marc Gagnon, Bushra Hussaini, James Macklin, Ann Molineux, Jane Mygatt, Janet Waddington, Tim White

Respectfully submitted,
James Macklin, Chair

Call for the 2008 Faber Grant Proposals

The Recognition and Grants Committee is requesting proposals for the Faber Grant, 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 Grant 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 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. The Faber Grant must be submitted by 1 May 2008 to be considered for the current year.

Questions and proposals should be directed to the Chair of the Recognition and Grants Committee, Iris Hardy at 9 Beech Hill Drive, Fall River, Nova Scotia, Canada B2T 1H7. Nominations for the Carolyn Rose and President's Awards have been submitted to Council for approval and will be awarded at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Amherst College Building Recognition

Amherst College's Earth Sciences and Museum of Natural History building has been recognized by the Boston Society of Architects (BSA) and the New England Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for its exceptional design. The building's architectural firm, Payette, earned a BSA Honor Award and an AIA/New England Honor Award in the Education Category for the innovative facility.

Opened to the public in mid-2006, the Earth Science and Museum of Natural History Building houses both the Museum of Natural History and the college's geology department. The natural history collections at Amherst include Vertebrate and Invertebrate Paleontology (including unique vertebrates collected during Loomis's 1911 expedition to Patagonia), Paleobotany, Mineralogy and Ichnology (including the largest known collection of dinosaur tracks, the Edward Hitchcock Ichnology collection).

The Boston Society of Architects' design awards program recognizes and honors excellence in architectural design by all Massachusetts architects and architects throughout the world who wish to submit projects in Massachusetts. The AIA/New England Design Award Competition recognizes design excellence in projects from New England-based architects as well as projects located in New England.

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 August 1, 2008

President's Award

Lisa F. Palmer, collections care professional and past treasurer of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) will be honored with the President's Award at the Society's annual meeting in May 2008 in Oklahoma City.

This award recognizes superior, prolonged service to appointed offices, committees, and/or ongoing activities of the Society. Ms Palmer was Treasurer of the Society from 1997 to 2006, a highly demanding role, as well as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Dr. Stephen Williams of Baylor, Texas, recent recipient of SPNHC's Carolyn Rose Award, says of Lisa, "She was particularly useful to SPNHC because of her insistence of operating the organization's finances with the highest of professional and legal standards. Ultimately, her methods were very important not only in the day-to-day operations of paying bills, handling membership dues, and maintaining contact with Council, but also other activities such as protecting the tax status of the organization, legitimately incorporating large amounts of alternative income from publications, helping administer federal grants, and investing SPNHC assets."

Ms. Palmer has worked for the last twenty years in the Division of Fishes of the Smithsonian Institution caring for the world's largest collection of fish specimens and accompanying scientific images of fishes. She has served for ten years as an adjunct professor in the George Washington University Museum Studies Program in Washington, DC, co-teaching the course, *Collections Management: Practical Applications*, at the graduate level. She has received the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History's annual Outstanding Employee Performance Award 16 times, and has also received the Smithsonian Institution Special Act Award and the National Museum of Natural History Team Recognition Award.

A member of SPNHC since 1993, her transition into the Treasurer's role began in 1997 as she gradually took over the tasks of the office from Julia Golden. In 2006 she provided the same mentoring to the incoming SPNHC Treasurer, Barbara Brown, ensuring continuity of office despite considerable legal and administrative challenges faced in relocating the office. At the same time, she took on the task of chairing the Society's Membership Committee, and remains active on the Finance Committee and on a sessional committee reviewing the future of the peer-reviewed journal "Collection Forum".

Janet Waddington of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Ontario recalls, "Quite apart from my observation of Lisa's quiet competence as Treasurer while I was not on Council, I was privileged to work closely with her when I was Managing Editor from 2000 to 2006. Of all the SPNHC officers, the Treasurer and Managing Editor probably have the most con-

stant contact with one another. Lisa was always there to handle not just the billing and other financial affairs but also issues such as copyright. Lisa's "other life" as an instructor in Museum Studies also fulfills the aims of SPNHC. "

Catharine Hawks of Falls Church, Virginia points out: "Lisa did all this as a volunteer, while at the same time carrying out her position as a Museum Specialist at the Smithsonian, undertaking various assessments for museums in the Caribbean, conducting research on freshwater fishes of South America, doing ichthyology fieldwork, preparing publications, and coordinating grant-funded preservation projects. She also annually co-taught a graduate course collections management for The George Washington University, helping to train a new generation of museum professionals."

"The Society is indebted to Lisa for her diligence and her commitment to professionalism in financial operations. It is not only very fitting to honor her with the President's Award; we would be seriously remiss if we were to do anything less."

Rose Award

Museologist Dr. Stephen L. Williams and past president of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) will be honored with the Carolyn Rose Award at the Society's annual meeting in May 2008 in Oklahoma City.

Along with professional achievements, this award recognizes significant contributions to the objectives of the Society. Dr. Williams will be the first recipient of the recently renamed award, which pays tribute to the late Dr. Carolyn Rose who was active in SPNHC and much respected.

Dr. Williams has enjoyed a long-standing career in the study of museum collections care. From 1995 until his recent retirement, he was an assistant professor of museum studies at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, teaching courses in preventive conservation and modern management of collections. In addition, he managed the cultural and natural history collections at the Strecker Museum Complex, and published papers on collection management. He participated in the founding of SPNHC, and served as President from 1990 to 1992.

"During his years as President, his great motivation for building SPNHC carried the Society toward ever-increasing inclusiveness, through contact with people in small domestic collections as well as key international museums" said Carolyn Leckie, conservator at the Canadian Museum of Nature. "For the past 20 years, Steve has actively insured through his own research, publications, leadership and personal interaction that SPNHC would provide not only formal mechanisms that fostered better collection care but an informal network of newly found friends helping each other to learn better ways of taking care of museum collections."

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Advertisement



Museum labels for wet collections

A material long used in the harsh world of chemical drum labeling has properties that are beneficial to the way collections are tagged and identified. Alpha Systems has brought this exciting material to the museum environment. Now collection tags can be printed on demand and submerged in ethanol, methanol, formaldehyde, and other chemicals for an indefinite period of time. The image is excellent quality plus the tag itself is extremely durable – temperature, chemical, tear, scratch and smear resistant. Alpha Systems provides the complete collection package of thermal transfer printer, preservation tag stock and ribbon.

Alpha Systems, 13509 East Boundary Road, Midlothian, Virginia 23112.

Tel: (804) 744-9870

Email: info@alphasystems.com

On the web at www.alphasystems.com.

Continued from page 7:

.....Rose Award

"In 1999, Dr. Williams received the SPNHC President's Award for distinguished service to the organization, which indicates to me that the membership already realizes that Steve has been a prime factor in the success of SPNHC," said Hugh H. Genoways, Professor Emeritus of the University of Nebraska.

Past professional positions included managing the operations of the vertebrate research collections at Texas Tech University from 1990-1995 where he taught collection-related courses in the Museum Science Program. From 1976 to 1990, Dr. Williams was collections manager at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. During that time he participated in the development of the SPNHC, the Bay Foundation pilot training program in Los Angeles, and various initiatives with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Institute for Conservation.

"Beyond SPNHC, Steve has been active in a number of national and international organizations that have helped promote the care and management of collections," said Catharine Hawks, who has known Steve since his early days at the Carnegie Museum.

"But it is perhaps teaching that has been of greatest importance to Steve. He has worked tirelessly with graduate students on their research and theses projects, and encouraged

their participation in professional organizations and activities. In essence, he has taught them what it means to be a professional in the museum world. Given Steve's commitment to mentoring, it was no surprise to learn that he was named, not once but twice, as Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member by the Baylor Graduate Student Association."

SPNHC Best Practices Symposium

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections is hosting a Best Practices Symposium at the NSCA-SPNHC Annual meeting May 13-17, 2008, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This session will focus on community practices and standards and is the first of what we hope will be an annual session on best practices and standards in managing and caring for natural history collections.

In addition to several invited speakers, we are planning to include several 15-minute contributed papers and would like to invite the community to submit abstracts for this symposium. Instructions on submitting an abstract for the meeting can be found at: <http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/nsca-spnhc/abstract.htm>. The deadline for receipt of the abstract is 14 March 2008. Please indicate that you wish the abstract to be considered for the Best Practices Symposium.

SPNHC is a participant in the National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network (RCN) for *Building a National Community of Natural History Collections*. One of the goals of the network is aimed at enhancing communication among the personnel managing and using collections, as well as providing resources on best practices that should be used in managing and caring for collections.

Please direct any questions to James Macklin at jmacklin@oeb.harvard.edu

NatSCA publications online

You can now find scanned copies of the Natural Science Conservation Group (NSCG) newsletter on the website: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/natSCA/publications/nscg.html

They will be putting back issues of Biology Curators Group (BCG) publications in the near future, and we will let you know when they are available; back issues of NatSCA News are there as well, as usual, but in a slightly different place, so if you had bookmarked it please update to this link, http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/natSCA/publications/index.html

You can search for a specific article or contributor in the author and subject index for each group, or email the new Editor, Jan Freedman, (Jan.Freedman@plymouth.gov.uk) if you have any questions or contributions.



Encyclopedia of Life

The Encyclopedia of Life is an unprecedented global effort to document all 1.8 million named species of animals, plants, and other forms of life on Earth. For the first time in the history of the planet, scientists, students, and citizens would have multi-media access to all known living species, even those that have just been discovered.

The Field Museum, Harvard University, Marine Biological Laboratory (Woods Hole), Smithsonian Institution, and Biodiversity Heritage Library joined together to initiate the project, bringing together species and software experts from across the world. The Missouri Botanical Garden has become a full partner, and discussions are taking place this week with leaders of the new Atlas of Living Australia. The Encyclopedia also announced the initial membership of its Institutional Council, which spans the globe, and whose members will play key roles in realizing this immense project. An international advisory board of distinguished individuals will also help guide the Encyclopedia.

The effort is spurred by a \$10 million grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and \$2.5 million from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and will ultimately serve as a global beacon for biodiversity and conservation.

Over the next 10 years, the Encyclopedia of Life will create Internet pages for all 1.8 million species currently named. It will expedite the classification of the millions of species yet to be discovered and catalogued as well. The pages, housed at www.eol.org, will provide written information and, when available, photographs, video, sound, location maps, and other multi-media information on each species. Built on the scientific integrity of thousands of experts around the globe, the Encyclopedia will be a moderated wiki-style environment, freely available to all users everywhere.

Scientists began creating individual web pages for species in the 1990s. However, Internet technology needed to mature to allow fast and efficient creation of a comprehensive Encyclopedia. While specific Encyclopedia of Life efforts, including the scanning of key research publications and data, have been underway since January 2006, work has accelerated due to the support provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the recent discussion of the Encyclopedia of Life by renowned biologist Edward O. Wilson at the March 2007 Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) Conference.

One of the world's foremost scientists and environmentalists, Wilson, professor emeritus at Harvard University, "wished" for the establishment of the Encyclopedia of Life during his TED Conference address. Noting that "our knowledge of biodiversity is so incomplete that we are at risk of losing a great deal of it before it is ever discovered," Wilson called for a contemporary, dynamic portrait of the living Earth.

Ultimately, the Encyclopedia of Life will provide users the opportunity to personalize the learning experience through its "my eol" feature. The site can be made available in all major languages and will connect scientific communities concerned with ants to apples to zebras. As part of its work, the Encyclopedia of Life will collaborate and partner with a wide range of organizations, individuals, and experts to help strengthen the Encyclopedia and its impact on communities throughout the world.

While initial work will emphasize species of animals, plants, and fungi, the design can be extended to encompass microbial life.

To provide depth behind the portal page for each species, the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), a consortium that holds most of the relevant scientific literature, will scan and digitize tens of millions of pages of the scientific literature that will offer open access to detailed knowledge. In fact, the BHL now has scanning centers operating in London, Boston, and Washington, DC, and has scanned the first 1.25 million pages for the Encyclopedia.

<http://www.eol.org>

COLLECTIONS WEB

Building a Community of Natural History Collections

Announcing a NSF-RCN for Natural History Collections and the RCN Website

The US National Science Foundation has awarded a Research Coordination Grant entitled: Building a National Community of Natural History Collections. The purpose of the Research Coordination Network (RCN) is to build a strong scientific community to better serve researchers in systematics, biodiversity, and other fields that use natural history collections. Three professional organizations, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the Natural Science Collections Alliance, and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections will provide strong support as partners in the RCN, and many other societies have already built ties with the RCN by appointing Core Participants.

The RCN has the following objectives:

- 1) Identify the institutions and people that will define our community and facilitate dialogue among them about how to better serve the needs of researchers,
- 2) identify major opportunities and challenges in the current environment and foreseeable future and develop a strategic plan for the future of collections research,
- 3) determine how to strengthen and modernize the role of collections in education and outreach, and
- 4) identify the primary needs of collections regarding care, curation, storage, and accessibility.

The objectives will be met with a series of workshops, symposia, internships, and a website, www.CollectionsWeb.org, which will provide a forum for interaction, host workshop reports, provide information on ways to become involved in the RCN, and provide links to resources for NHC. Several major community resources will be developed, including a catalogue of NHC, a survey of the status of NHC, a register of curatorial expertise, and an inventory of innovative and successful educational programs. Broadening minority participation in collections activities is a goal of the RCN.

The initial steering committee members are Henry L. Bart (Tulane University, vertebrate systematics), Meredith Blackwell (Louisiana State University, fungal systematics), L. Alan Prather (Michigan State University, plant systematics) and James B. Woolley (Texas A & M University, invertebrate systematics).

Announcements of upcoming events, opportunities to get involved, and reports will be posted to the website, so please check back often. Your input is essential! Contacts at http://www.collectionsweb.org/about/steering_committee.html.



The Biodiversity Collections Index

What is “The Biodiversity Collections Index”?

Research into **biodiversity** relies on the use of specimens. These specimens are held in reference **collections** around the world. BCI is a central **index** to these collections.

The Problem

The Convention of Biological Diversity obliges governments to conserve their biodiversity. To do this researchers must find and utilize voucher specimens and other biological materials located in museums, universities and research centers around the world. All biodiversity research ultimately relies upon these artifacts and the collections they are stored in.

Artifacts are widely distributed between collections and a large proportion are not stored in their countries of origin - so locating them is far from straightforward. Researchers have to rely on historical knowledge, specimens cited in extant publications and word of mouth to find research materials. They cannot know if they are missing anything significant. Governments cannot know what assets are available to help them understand and conserve their biodiversity even at a high level.

It is only through exploiting informatics techniques that the taxonomic impediment is likely to be overcome and our natural resources managed successfully but only a tiny proportion of artifacts have been digitally catalogued. Most are invisible from the point of view of information technology. Until now there hasn't even been a central index to the collections that hold the artifacts.

The Solution

A single internet-based, shared resource: the Biodiversity Collections Index.

- Data about the collections not the artifacts.
- Covering all taxonomic groups.
- Created by a consortium of major institutions.
- Contributions from all institutions globally.
- Issues Globally Unique Identifiers and metadata for each collection.

Aims

The Biodiversity Collections Index aims to facilitate the understanding, conservation and utilization of global biodiversity by creating a single annotated index of all collections of biodiversity materials used in research. BCI intends to do this by collaborating with the organizations and individuals who curate these collections and the information about them.

Continued on page 15



3rd Joint Annual Meeting of NSCA and SPNHC
13-17 May 2008
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

www.snomnh.ou.edu/nsca-spnhc



Please join us for this year's meeting hosted by the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. The meeting will be held at the historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel, located in the heart of the Bricktown area of Oklahoma's capital city. May can be bumpy...bring your tornado-chasing gear!!

The 2008 joint meeting between the NSCA and SPNHC is a reflection of the common goals of these two professional societies. The theme of the meeting is: *Collection Stewardship: Challenges in a Changing World*, with a focus on subjects and topics relevant to the challenges faced by natural history collections, museums, and the museum community in fulfilling their mission. **Deadlines for early bird registration and submission for abstracts is March 14, 2008.**

Pre-conference tours and field trips will be held on Wednesday, May 14th. They include two all-day field trips to either the scenic Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, or the Arbuckle Mountains Geology and White Mound. Museum tours will include a behind-the-scenes look at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Robert Bebb Herbarium, History of Science Collections, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, and Oklahoma History Center.

This year's social events will again include an Ice Breaker Reception, Wednesday, May 14th, on the top floor of the historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel. Please join us for a memorable evening that includes fine dining, drinks, music, and a spectacular night's view of downtown Oklahoma City. The banquet will be held in the Great Hall of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. Come and immerse yourself in the rich world of Oklahoma's natural history, experiencing all of the museum's exhibit galleries. After a full-course dinner and an evening of drinks, let loose and dance the night away!

We are fortunate to have as this year's plenary speaker, Dr. Cristián Samper, Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The two-day conference of both oral and poster presentations will take place along with the trade show on Thursday and Friday, May 15-16. A complimentary lunch will be held each day. Thursday, the vendor luncheon will provide an opportunity to speak one-on-one and in-depth with trade show vendors about product needs. Friday, the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) lunch will include topics on hazardous materials specimen shipping, volunteers and interns in collections, funding opportunities in collections, permit issues for life, earth, and social sciences, integrated pest management, training and education in professional development, and a student member roundtable discussion. **Spacing is limited for both of these lunches, so reserve your spot!**

Five workshops are scheduled for Saturday, May 17th. Workshops 1-4 are full day and Workshop 5 is half-day, in the morning. All workshops will include both morning and afternoon snacks as well as a complimentary lunch. For those interested, there is a separate, lower-cost registration fee that will allow participants to attend the workshops on Saturday only, instead of the entire conference.

Workshop 1. Best Practices in Collections Stewardship: Writing a Collections Management Policy (full day) Organizers: John E. Simmons and Elizabeth E. Merritt.

This workshop will cover the full range of the issues a collections management policy should address and the pros and cons of choosing one policy option over another. These experts will provide advice on how various policy choices made by museums

Continued from page 11:
.....SPNHC 2008

play out in reality and which ones tend to be successful or problematic. Receive step-by-step instruction on who to involve in the policy development, writing, and review process as well as techniques for getting buy-in and ensuring a successful outcome. Take home sample policies and insight as to what makes each effective.

Workshop 2. Hazardous Material Specimen Shipping (full day) Organizers: Andy Bentley and Carol Butler.

The shipping and handling of natural history specimens in wet collections has been affected by the more rigorous enforcement of shipping regulations, which has impacted the methods and frequency with which museums and other collection-holding institutions can send loans and gifts of materials to others. There is a great deal of confusion concerning the application of these regulations that along with a lack of knowledge has resulted in serious misinterpretations of the regulations within the natural history community.

The workshop will aim to provide training in packing, shipping and handling of dangerous goods according to the standards of both DOT and IATA. It will also include an outline of present legislation together with natural history museum specific solutions to various common shipping and packing issues. Participants of this workshop will receive official certification for the handling and transportation of dangerous goods.

Workshop 3. Lighting in Museums: Challenges of Balancing Collection Stewardship and Technology (full day)

Organizer: Steven Weintraub.

The workshop will cover museum lighting issues such as risk assessment, preventive conservation, lighting design, current and emerging technologies in lighting, and the challenges of integrating conservation requirements with interpretive and aesthetic concerns, cost efficiency, and energy conservation.

Workshop 4. Museum Cleaning Basics in a Changing World (full day) Organizers: Gretchen Anderson, Helen Alten, and Rebecca Newberry.

Museum Cleaning Basics explores everything you need to know about cleaning in your collections. Topics range from basic housekeeping to safe specific techniques for objects. Participants will receive samples of cleaning materials, a recommended outline for a housekeeping manual for their institution, and will have time to experiment with the cleaning materials that are provided.

Workshop 5. Making Sense of Making Mounts (half-day) Organizers: Scott Jones and Yvonne Lever.

Mounts enhance the beauty and drama of the objects and protect the objects on exhibit. The objective of this workshop is to a) demystify mount making and b) suggest safe but inexpensive solutions for displaying objects. Each participant will receive material samples and discuss methods to create a mount. Each participant will have the opportunity to make supports from mount blanks or mat board and practice painting for mount finishing.

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History welcomes all participants to the great state of Oklahoma, the most biologically diverse land-locked state in the country. Come visit and let us introduce you to the monuments, museums, parks and other attractions in the Oklahoma City area.



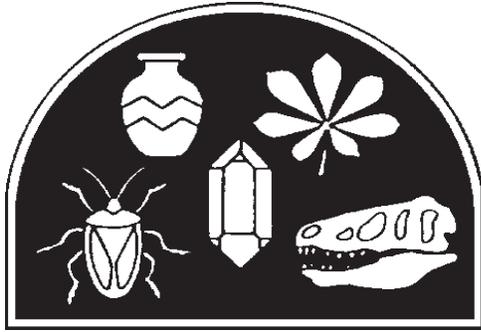
The Skirvin Hilton Hotel, Oklahoma City's oldest existing hotel, was completely renovated and restored, reopening in 2007. The adjacent Bricktown historic commercial district has restaurants, shopping, and various attractions.

For additional information or details on any of these exciting events and activities, please visit our website or contact any one of the local committee members. The website will be updated regularly as more information becomes available...so check back frequently!

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for this year's meeting. Please visit our website for a complete listing.

See you in May!

Janet Braun, Marcy Revelez, Liz Leith, Terri Jordan, Joan Harrel, Local Committee



Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

07 March 2008

Dear SPNHC Member

Let your vote be counted at the SPNHC AGM on Friday 16 May 2008, at 10:30 am at Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK, USA.

If you can't attend, send in your vote by proxy!

You can't attend the SPNHC meeting in Oklahoma City? No problem! Make your vote count by giving your proxy to someone else.

First, you must be a voting member of SPNHC. We will check your status when you send in the form overleaf, so don't worry about the details. However, you **MUST** send it to us by either mail or fax before 1 May 2008 so your form can be presented at the AGM. If you miss this deadline, your proxy voter may present this form to the SPNHC Secretary **NO LATER** than noon on Thursday, May 15, 2008.

Simply fill out the form (see over) to make your vote count!

Thanks!

Mail the form:
Judith C. Price
Secretary, SPNHC
Canadian Museum of Nature
PO Box 3443, Station D
Ottawa, ON K1P 6P4
Canada

OR

Fax the form:
613 364-4027

Announcement of Annual Business Meeting and Instrument of Proxy

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The 21th Annual Business Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections will be held on Friday 16 May 2008, at 10:30 am at Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK, USA.

Please visit: <http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/nsca-spnhc/>

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the 2007 General Business Meeting
3. Report of the Treasurer
 - 3.1 Financial Report
 - 3.2 Appointment of Auditor
4. Report of Council meetings
5. Report of the President
6. Reports of the Standing Committees
7. Reports of the Sessional Committees and Representatives
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
10. Recognition and Grants
11. Change of Office
12. Announcements
13. Adjournment

If you cannot attend the meeting, you may designate another member in good standing to act on your behalf. Please fill out the form of proxy below and give it to the person named or forward it by 1 May 2008 to:

Judith C. Price, SPNHC Secretary
PO Box 3443, Station D
Ottawa, ON K1G 6P4
CANADA

INSTRUMENT OF PROXY

I, the undersigned member of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), hereby appoint _____ (please name a SPNHC member in good standing who can represent your views at the meeting) or, failing him/her, Judith Price, Secretary of the Society, to vote on my behalf at the Annual Business Meeting of the Society on Friday 16 May 2008, at 10:30 am at Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK, USA.

Date _____ Signature _____

Name (please print) _____

Continued from page 10:
.....Collections Web

Supporting Organizations

Supporting organizations recognize the value of establishing a single index of biodiversity collections and publicly support BCI in its aims. Current supporting organizations include:

- Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) is an international not-for-profit group that develops standards and protocols for sharing biodiversity data. TDWG includes the NCD Interest Group which has been active in developing standards for the description of all types of collections of natural history material, including specimens, original artwork, photographs, archives and published material. BCI is a natural extension of this work.
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). Access to accurate metadata regarding biodiversity collections is essential for GBIF in assessing the task of integrating data on specimens held in the world's natural history collections, and in providing tools to simplify the discovery and interpretation of these data.
- Natural History Museum (London)
- Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) is an internationally renowned centre of excellence in plant biodiversity research and biodiversity informatics. BCI is an opportunity for RBGE to share this expertise with the wider community.
- Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History
- Biodiversity Heritage Library

To learn more and register interest go to www.biodiversitycollectionsindex.org.

Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium

A symposium will be held at Petrified Forest National Park near Holbrook, Arizona, from April 10th through 12th, 2008. The symposium will include both invited and volunteered platform and poster presentations. Fossil preparators and collections professionals will present papers regarding care and preservation of fossil resources, to compliment a day of workshops and field trip through the park and collections facilities. Conference attendees will receive a copy of a proceedings volume, including papers generated by the meeting.

Petrified Forest National Park was established in 1906 to protect petrified wood and other fossils from the Upper Triassic Chinle Formation in northeastern Arizona. These fossils have been researched for over 100 years resulting in the publication

of hundreds of papers, forming a cornerstone for Late Triassic paleontological studies in North America.

Conference Events:

April 10, Paleontological Resources field trip.
Evening: Welcome Reception in Holbrook, AZ.

April 11, Preparation and Collections Symposium, Petrified Forest National Park.
Evening: BBQ Social, Petrified Forest National Park.

April 12, Choice of Morning and Afternoon Workshops.
Evening: Dinner Reception, Holbrook, AZ.

Registration Fee: \$65. Covers all events and includes a copy of proceedings volume. Mail or Fax registration to, or for more information contact:

Matthew Brown, Fossil Preparator, Petrified Forest National Park, Box 2217, Petrified Forest, AZ 86028; Phone: (928) 524-6228 ext. 281; Fax: (928) 524-3567; E-mail: Matthew_A_Brown@nps.gov

William Parker, Park Paleontologist, Petrified Forest National Park, Box 2217, Petrified Forest, AZ 86028; Phone: (928) 524-6228 ext. 262; Fax: (928) 524-3567; E-mail: William_Parker@nps.gov

REGISTRATION FORM CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT:
<http://www.nps.gov/pefo/naturescience/fossil-prep-symposium.htm>



SPNHC Newsletter Advertising

Why Advertise in the SPNHC Newsletter?

Members of SPNHC are the people who use your products and services. They are often the decision makers about products and procedures that will be used in their institutions. These people want to know about products and services that will help them do their jobs more effectively. They are interested in the latest techniques and materials available, as well as educational and travel opportunities, new publications, and events and programs related to natural history and collections.

All advertisements should be submitted as .tif or .pdf files, formatted for a PC. Ads can be placed in one sixth, quarter, half or full page. It is recommended that image resolution be 300 dpi. Electronic files may be e-mailed or sent on a disk to the newsletter editor, at abentley@ku.edu. Any necessary printers charges will be billed to the advertiser. Payment must accompany the insertion order and tear sheets will be sent after publication.

There is limited space in each Newsletter (maximum two full pages of advertising total), and space will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Ad placement is at the discretion of the editor. So do not delay, and send your ad today! More information can be found on the SPNHC website - www.spnhc.org.

“How To” Series

SPNHC is looking for contributions to our “How To” leaflet series. This series is designed to give introductory advice to people in small museums, libraries, and schools who may have specimens or collections, on the care and preservation of these objects. The goal is to give people who find themselves in a position to care for natural and cultural history objects good information and help them better manage these assets. The leaflets can be two pages (front and back), may be written in a popular style, but should cover basic issues of proper handling, mounting, labeling, and prevention against agents of deterioration.

We are seeking contributions in the following topics:

1. Rocks and Minerals (geared toward a small reference-type collection)
2. Herbarium (the ‘basics’ on how best to prepare a quality herbarium sheet, and what storage pitfalls to watch out for)
3. Conchology (everybody’s got some, but what do you do with them?)
4. Invertebrate Fossils, and
5. Small Mammals (hides and mounts).

Please contact Jeff Stephenson at Jeff.Stephenson@dmns.org for more information or to submit material.

The “How To” series 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.

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.

Collection Manager, Invertebrate Paleontology: The University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute seeks a collection manager to oversee its world-class research collections in invertebrate paleontology. The collections consist of extensive invertebrate fossil and micro-fossil specimens, along with archives and library holdings. The collections have strengths in Cambrian, Carboniferous and Cretaceous fossils, microfossils, echinoderms and arthropods, and fossils from Antarctica. University curators and students and national and international scholars use the collections extensively for research and education. The collections manager is responsible for day-to-day activities in the collection and reports to the curator-in-charge. This is a full-time (12-month appointment), academic, non-tenure track position.

Duties include:

- Collections management and conservation of the various collections
- Acquisition and collection development in conjunction with curators and students
- Museum operational service including day-to-day care and use of the collections
- Supervision of graduate and undergraduate research assistants and students
- Professional development to maintain currency in and advance the field
- Other duties as appropriate

Required qualifications include:

- Master’s degree or Ph.D. in museum studies, geology, or paleontology from an accredited university or a bachelor’s degree plus 5 years experience working with museum collections in a position with similar responsibilities

- Working knowledge of the taxonomy and identification of invertebrate fossils
- Demonstrable knowledge of care and management of natural history collections
- Familiarity with biodiversity informatics
- (Five+ years of successful service in the assistant rank is required, though not sufficient for appointment to the associate rank.)

And preference will be given to applicants with: Previous collection-management experience, expertise in one or more taxa that constitute divisional strengths and programmatic priorities, field experience, experience preparing invertebrate fossil specimens.

A complete application will include a letter of application addressing qualifications, CV, statement of collection management philosophy, and representative publications (the latter is optional). More information and a complete position description may be obtained by contacting: Jordan Yochim, Assistant Director, Biodiversity Institute, jeyochim@ku.edu; or Dr. Bruce Lieberman, Curator, Division of Invertebrate Paleontology, Biodiversity Institute, blieber@ku.edu.

Send application materials to: Jordan Yochim, KU Biodiversity Institute, 1345 Jayhawk Blvd., Lawrence, KS 66045; (785) 864-4540.

The workplace is located in Lindley Hall and PSB on the university campus. The Biodiversity Institute is a healthy, dynamic, nourishing intellectual environment that values creativity, professional growth and collaborative interaction. The University of Kansas offers a fine benefits package for this permanent full-time position. Application review begins 1 May 2008. EO/AA. We celebrate diversity in all life forms.

Collection Manager, Bird Department: The Delaware Museum of Natural History, located in the culturally rich Brandywine Valley area of Greenville, Delaware seeks an experienced professional to serve as Collection Manager in our Bird Department. This position reports to the Curator of Birds and is responsible for daily operation and management of the collections. Duties include care of the collections, database management and improvement, documentation and processing of loans, pre-

paring and cataloging new specimens, assisting visitors, assisting with supervision of volunteers and interns, and participation in other museum programs as appropriate. We invite you to visit the DMNH web site, www.delmnh.org for information about the collections and a complete job description.

Qualifications: B.A./B.S. degree in biology, museum studies, or related field required (M.A./M.S. preferred) plus 12-24 months experience in collection management. Applicants should also have experience with bird identification, preparing study skins & skeletons, and operating a dermestid colony. Good oral and written communication skills and experience with collection care and collection database systems also required. Must have a valid driver's license, be able to work with ethanol and other chemicals, be able to lift 50 lbs, and be able to stoop and climb ladders to access collections storage areas.

Please send application letter, CV or resume, and names of three professional references by mail to: Delaware Museum of Natural History, ATTN: Human Resources, 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19807. Deadline for consideration is March 17, 2008. DMNH is an equal opportunity employer.

Collections Manager for Paleobotany, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University: The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History is soliciting applications for the position of Collections Manager for Paleobotany. The fossil plant collections are housed in the Class of 1954 Environmental Science Center, a purpose-built facility on the Yale University campus for collections, research and teaching. The Peabody is a multi-faceted natural history museum with collections spanning anthropology, biology, geology and paleontology. Additional information on the fossil plant collections and the Peabody can be found at: <http://www.peabody.yale.edu/>.

The Paleobotany Collections Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of the fossil plant collection, including all aspects of the preservation, improvement, development and use of the collections. Duties include oversight of relevant budgets, staff, students, and volunteers, maintenance of the collections, processing of materials, care and conservation, documentation, and databasing. The Collections Manager will represent the Botany Division within the Peabody and Yale, nationally, and internationally, to promote the collection and to maximize its use. The Collections Manager will also promote knowledge of the collection through exhibitions, public education initiatives and presentations at meetings, and will pursue grant funding and carry out research that relates to collections improvement and development, including, as appropriate, collecting expeditions.

Please note that applications must be submitted via the following web site: <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/stars/application/external/index.html> (Use the keyword "Peabody" to go directly to the relevant information).

The due date for applications is April 15, 2008. Please contact Sharon Rodriguez (sharon.rodriguez@yale.edu) for any further information about this position.

Collection Manager, Vertebrate Paleontology: The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (SNOMNH) is soliciting applications for a Collection Manager in the museum's Department of Vertebrate Paleontology. SNOMNH is a new (opened in 2000), state-of-the-art, comprehensive museum facility of the University of Oklahoma, with a large research and collections staff covering various disciplines of natural history. The Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, which includes four full-time staff, a number of graduate and undergraduate students, volunteers, and research associates, maintains well-equipped, modern laboratories and its own field vehicle, and receives supplemental support through a dedicated endowment.

The Collection Manager in Vertebrate Paleontology will assume responsibility for one of the larger and better-curated collections of fossil vertebrates in the United States. The successful applicant will be part of a team of vertebrate paleontologists including a preparator and two curators. Representative duties for the position include specimen conservation

and curation, maintaining computerized records and archives, fieldwork, and assisting in education, exhibits, and interacting with the public as needed. Minimum qualifications for the position include a Bachelor's degree in Zoology or Geology and experience in working with a systematics collection. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in vertebrate anatomy, computerized data management (especially Specify) and GIS, paleontology, and stratigraphic distributions. A class D (general) driver's license is required. We seek a motivated candidate who can successfully work as part of a team in an active and growing field, lab, and collection program. We are looking for a person willing to exercise initiative in bringing forward new projects to enhance the research utility of the VP collection, such as interfacing web with collection data and images. Salary begins \$28k/year, with full university benefits.

Interested persons must submit (A) application, (B) cover letter summarizing background, interests, career goals, and reference list, (C) brief resume or curriculum vitae, and (D) three letters of recommendation. Application must be made through <http://jobs.ou.edu>; letters of recommendation can be sent to: Salina Wall, Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Avenue, Norman, OK 73071 <salinawall@ou.edu>. Application by women and minorities is encouraged.

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. For additional information, contact Salina Wall, Human Resources Specialist (salinawall@ou.edu; 405.325.0573).

AMNH intern opportunities: The Division of Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History is offering a small number of full-time, 8-week internships for graduate or undergraduate students in paleontology, life sciences, museum studies, or related fields (June 30 start). The interns will participate in an NSF-funded project to upgrade the fossil mammal collections at AMNH.

Details of the project can be found on the Division of Paleontology website via the following link: <http://paleo.amnh.org/projects/ProjectFMPeris.htm>.

The interns will work with collection management, preparation, and conservation staff to carry out collection inventories; construct archival quality housings for specimens and associated labels; georeference specimen localities; and upgrade on-line collections data.

A stipend will be provided as support over the internship period. Interested parties should email a CV and cover letter to be received no later than March 28, 2008 to:

Dr Christopher A. Norris, Director of Collections & Archives, Division of Paleontology; e-mail: Norris@amnh.org

Curatorial Assistant, Marine Biodiversity: The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is inviting applications for the position of *Curatorial Assistant* in our Marine Biodiversity Processing Center. We seek an individual with expertise in crustaceans, mollusks, echinoderms, or other marine invertebrate groups. This position will complement existing staff and reflect the institution's commitment to the Center. The successful individual will assist with curation, sorting, databasing, and physical integration of collections into the museum's marine invertebrate collections. Applicant should have a B.S. degree in Biology, at least one year of experience with one of the taxonomic groups noted above and knowledge of contemporary museum collection and specimen conservation techniques. Good oral and written communication skills are essential and experience with collection databasing is desirable. Learn more about the Museum by visiting <http://www.nhm.org>. For an overview of the Center visit <http://collections.nhm.org>. This position is full-time and available immediately. Salary: \$36,500/year plus full benefits. Please send your curriculum vitae, name, and contact information for three referees, and a cover letter that describes your curatorial experience to:

Regina Wetzler, PhD., Director, Marine Biodiversity Processing Center, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007.



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), Larissa Busch (LB), Diana Dicus (DD), John Simmons (JS), Elizabeth Leith (EL), Barbara Moore (BM), Ann Pinzl (AP), Marcia Revelez (MR), and Janet Waddington (JW). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Marcia A. Revelez, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua, Norman, OK 73072; (405) 325-7988 (voice); (405) 325-7699 (fax); mrevez@ou.edu (e-mail).

Allington, L. and E. Sherlock. 2007. Choosing a microscope slide sealant: a review of aging characteristics and the development of a new test, using low oxygen environments. *NatSCA News* 12: 4-14. (JS)

American Museum of Natural History. 2007. It's not easy being clean. *Natural History* 116(8): 52. (AP)

"On regular cleaning of specimens on exhibit, without protective glass covering."

Anon. 2007. The Insect Collection Managers Group [ICMG]. *NatSCA News* 13: 14-15 (JS)

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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; chandler@putnam.org or dinoceras@juno.com.

2008

March 2008

March 10, 2008. **22nd Annual Preservation Conference, The ABCs of Modern Fire Suppression in Cultural Institutions**, Washington, DC, USA. For more information: <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/conferences/2008>.

March 15, 2008. **IMLS 21st Century Museum Professionals Grants** deadline. For more information: <http://www.imls.gov>.

March 31-April 5, 2008. University of Victoria Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program course (on campus), **Exhibition Design and Installation**. For more information, check out the website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/upcoming.aspx>.

April 2008

April 1, 2008. **Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Grants** deadline. For more information: <http://www.imls.gov>.

April 2-4, 2008. **Legal Issues of Museum Administration**, Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Go to <http://www.aam-us.org> for more information.

April 7-10, 2008. Spring Course on **Fluid Preservation of Biological Specimens**, Norfolk Museums and Archaeological Service, Norwich, England. Info at: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/natSCA/news/fluid.pdf.

April 14-19, 2008. University of Victoria Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program course (on campus), **Conserving Historic Structures**. For more information, check out the website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/upcoming.aspx>.

April 19-20, 2008. **Opportunities and Challenges of Small Collections**, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee, to be held at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA. For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

April 21-24, 2008. **The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) 36th Annual Meeting: Creative Collaborations**, Denver, Colorado, USA. More information: <http://aic.stanford.edu>.

April 24, 2008. Collections Management Seminar, **Where next for collections management? A discussion of collections management as a profession**, Natural History Museum, London, England. For more information: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/natSCA.

April 26, 2008. **Save America's Treasures Grants** deadline. For more information: <http://www.imls.gov>.

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

May 2008

May 12-13, 2008. **Preparing for the Unexpected: Protection and Security for Cultural Collections**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, presented by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts and cosponsored & hosted by the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. For more information, call (215) 545-0163, email psoc@ccaaha.org or visit <http://www.ccaaha.org>.

May 12-17, 2008. University of Victoria Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program course (on campus), **Heritage Conservation Planning**. For more information, check out the website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/upcoming.aspx>.

May 13-17, 2008. Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA)–Society

for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) Joint Meeting, **Collection Stewardship: Challenges in a Changing World**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA. For more information check out: <http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/nsca-spnhc>.

May 15-16, 2008. **NatSCA Conference & AGM**, Glasgow University & Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow, Scotland. For more information: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/natSCA.

May 19-24, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Chemistry for Book, Paper, and Textile Conservators**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

May 26-28, 2008. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of Canada**, Quebec City, Canada. For more information: <http://www.gac.ca/activities>.

June 2008

June 2-6, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Introduction to Exhibit Development & Design**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

June 2-7, 2008. University of Victoria Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program course (on campus), **Managing Archival Collections**. For more information, check out the website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/upcoming.aspx>.

June 4-7, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

June 6-8, 2008. **Symposium on Archaeological Storage** hosted by UCLA/Getty Master's Program in Archaeological and Ethnographic Conservation, Los Angeles, California, USA. To access more details, download information at http://ioa.ucla.edu/conservation/Stirage_Symposium.pdf.

June 7, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Exhibit Lighting Workshop**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

June 9-12, 2008. ICOM NATHIST Annual Meeting, **Presentation of Evolution in Museum Exhibitions**, State Darwin Museum, Moscow, Russia. For information: <http://icom-nathist.de/icom/fam.htm>.

June 9-12, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Design and Construction of Mounts for Exhibits**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

June 18-21, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Environmental Monitoring & Control**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

June 9-12, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course,

Packing and Shipping. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

June 20-21, 2008. **Learning in Museums Seminar**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Go to <http://www.aam-us.org> for more information.

June 22-25, 2008. **The 2008 Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists**, Brookings, South Dakota, USA.

June 24-25, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Storage Solutions for Small Museums**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

June 26-28, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Inorganic & Organic Materials**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

July 2008

July 14-17, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Photo Documentation & Digital Imaging of Museum Collection**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

July 14-18, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Rigging and Moving of Fine Arts/Artifacts**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

July 23-28, 2008. **Joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) and the American Elasmobranch Society (AES)**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. For more information: <http://www.asih.org> or <http://elasmobr.org>.

July 24, 2008. Collections Management Seminar, **Housekeeping Strategies in National Trust Properties**, Natural History Museum, London, England. For more information: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/natSCA.

August 2008

August 4-6, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Photographic Collections I**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 7-9, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Photographic Collections II**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 7-9, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Computer Software for Collections Management**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone;

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(815) 244-1619 FAX; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>

August 11-14, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Paper Artifacts**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 11-15, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Collection Management in Storage**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 18-19, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Grant Writing Workshop**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 18-20, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Oversized Paper Artifacts**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 2008

September 3-6, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Textiles I**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 8-11, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Textiles III**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 12-18, 2008. **Annual Conference of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums**, Milwaukee County Zoo, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. See <http://www.aza.org> for more information.

September 15-18, 2008. **The Digital Curation of Cultural Heritage, ICOM/CIDOC Annual Conference**, Athens, Greece. For more information, see the conference web site, www.cidoc2008.gr.

September 17-21, 2008. **2008 WAM Annual Meeting**, Anchorage, Alaska, USA. More Information: http://www.westmuse.org/future_conf.htm.

September 23-25, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Ethnographic Collections**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

October 2008

October 5-9, 2008. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America**, Houston, Texas, USA. For more information: <http://www.geosociety.org>.

October 6-9, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Repair & Maintenance of Book Collections**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

October 6-10, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Biofilms for Conservators**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

October 8, 2008. **NatSCA Adhesives workshop**, Natural History Museum, London, England. For more information: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/natSCA.

October 10, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Water and Collection Spaces: a Structural Drying Overview**. 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; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

October 15-18, 2008. **68th Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology**, Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Information available at <http://www.vertpaleo.org>.

October 18-21, 2008. **Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) 2008 Annual Conference**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Conference information: <http://www.astc.org/conference/future.htm>.

2008–2009

Enhancing the Interface between Collections and Systematists, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee, date & location to be determined. For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

New Research Opportunities Emerging from Integrating Data across Different Taxonomic Collections, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee, date & location to be determined. For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

Strengthening Connections between the Collections Community and database Initiatives and Programs, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee and The Natural Science Collection Alliance (NSCA), date & location to be determined. For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

Developing New Strategies for Integrating Collections into Education, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee, date & location to be determined. For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

2010–2011

Enhancing the Relationship between Collections and Stakeholders, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee and the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), in Washington, DC, USA (date to be determined). For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

Visit SPNHC on-line at:



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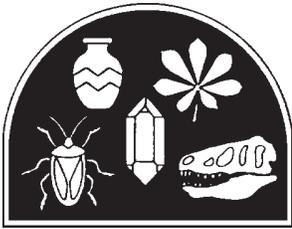
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Cultural Institutions Will Observe MayDay

Do One Thing for Emergency Preparedness

Archives, libraries, museums, and historic preservation organizations across America are setting aside May 1, 2008, to participate in MayDay, a national effort to protect collections from disasters. In 2005, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma provided a wake-up call. More recently, severe storms reminded us that disaster can strike with little warning. The Heritage Health Index, released soon after the hurricanes, reported that few institutions are really prepared. It's easy to put off disaster planning, but you can take one simple step to prepare for disaster this MayDay.

Here are some ideas from the Heritage Emergency National Task Force:

- If you have a disaster plan, dust it off and bring it up to date.
- If you don't have a plan, make a timeline for developing one.
- Get to know your local firefighters and police. Invite them to tour your institution and give pointers on safety and preparedness. A poster outlining tips for working with emergency responders (www.heritagepreservation.org/catalog/) is available from the Task Force.
 - Identify the three biggest risks to your collection or building (such as leaking water pipe, heavy snow, or power failure) and outline steps to mitigate them.
- Conduct a building evacuation drill and evaluate the results.
 - Update your staff contact information and create a wallet-size version of your emergency contact roster. See the Pocket Response Plan (PReP™) at www.statearchivists.org/prepare/framework/prep.htm.
- Eliminate hazards such as storage in hallways, blocked fire exits, or improper storage of paints or solvents.
- Provide staff with easily accessible disaster response information, such as www.heritageemergency.org.
- Join forces with nearby institutions and agree to assist each other in a disaster.
- Establish a method of identifying objects that are most important to your mission, irreplaceable, or most fragile, making evacuation simpler when disaster hits.
- Register for a free course to learn how your institution fits into existing emergency response protocols. A list is available at www.heritagepreservation.org/lessons/courses.html.

Any organization can participate in MayDay. Last year, the registrar of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art in Laurel, Mississippi, wrote an article about the museum's emergency preparedness activities for the local newspaper. She included readiness tips for the homeowner and tied it all into the MayDay message (http://livefromlrma.blogspot.com/2007_04_01_archive.html). Let Heritage Preservation know what you do for MayDay this year by e-mailing taskforce@heritagepreservation.org. You'll receive a free *Working with Emergency Responders: Tips for Cultural Institutions* poster. Heritage Preservation is offering its popular *Field Guide to Emergency Response* and *Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel* at special MayDay sale prices from April 15 to May 31. You can make a difference - help save our heritage!

About the Task Force and Heritage Preservation The Heritage Emergency National Task Force is making disaster preparedness and response a higher priority for cultural heritage organizations across the country. The Task Force—an initiative of Heritage Preservation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency—is a partnership of 41 government agencies and national service organizations. For more information, visit www.heritageemergency.org/. Heritage Preservation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our nation's heritage. Its members include libraries, museums, archives, historic preservation organizations, historical societies, conservation organizations, and other professional groups concerned with saving the past for the future. For information on its programs visit www.heritagepreservation.org/.

