

SPNHC Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to begin this newsletter by thanking those members who agreed to run for Council this year. They are: Christopher Collins, Diana Dicus, Ann Pinzl, and Elizabeth Merritt. It is through the volunteer services, hard work, and dedication of members such as these that SPNHC progresses and continues to grow. Members also contribute through their participation on committees; by attending annual meetings; through the submission of journal and newsletter articles; and by providing suggestions for improvements, new approaches, and strategies for the future.

Along these lines, I would like to thank each of you who responded to my questions concerning long-range planning for the society. Grant Hughes, who will be chairing the Long-Range Planning Committee, and I received very thoughtful, thorough responses to the questions from a membership which sincerely cares about the future of the organization. These commentaries have been compiled and distributed to Long-Range Planning Committee members in preparation for a day-long planning session prior to the Annual meeting in Toronto. I am pleased to announce the names of those who have agreed to become members of this committee. They include: Gerald Fitzgerald, Hugh Genoways (tentative), Kris Haglund, Jackie McConachie, Scott Lanyon, James Solomon, Stephen Williams, and myself. This group represents a range of interests and experiences in various museum functions. This sessional committee will develop a set of recommendations and strategies to strengthen the structure and role of SPNHC as our membership matures and institutional challenges increase and change. Based on these recommendations, the Council, in consultation with the membership, will then determine directions and various phases of implementation. Your participation in this process is essential. Please contact Committee and Council members with your suggestions.

I also encourage you to participate in our upcoming TENTH ANNIVERSARY Annual Meeting from June 3-4 at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Our Annual General Business Meeting also will take place at this time, from 10:30 to 12:00 on Sunday, June 4. Plans are well underway for this momentous meeting that marks the beginning of a new era for collections management and care. Because the meeting is shorter this year and takes place over the weekend, we hope that most of our members will be able to attend the celebration. By this time, you should have received your registration packets with the preliminary schedule. Please contact Janet Waddington if you need more information.

The Education and Training Committee has been working hard to prepare for this event as well. A two-day workshop on "Managing the Modern Herbarium" is offered

after the meeting for all those interested in the preservation, care, maintenance, and use of collections of plants and fungi. As our membership is generally knowledgeable about the basic care and management of collections, we are now offering more specialized and detailed workshops each year. These training opportunities also can provide members with additional sources of support to attend annual meetings.

Other SPNHC committees have been working equally diligently this year in developing new information sources, services, and opportunities for SPNHC members. For example, Resources Committee members not only prepared a new travel case and banner for the SPNHC supplies and equipment display, but also ensured the safe travel and set up of the complex display at conferences in Nevada and Ottawa, Canada, and at a training course in San Diego, California. Other committee members continue to work out the details for a cooperative purchasing plan that should greatly reduce costs for collection materials and supplies.

Publication Committee members have carried a heavy load this year with the additional task of reviewing the 30 chapters submitted for the new storage book in addition to their regular duties in assembling and producing the Journal. Their efforts have made a tremendous difference in moving the storage book to completion, and I especially thank each one for the contribution that they have made.

Members of the SPNHC Sessional Committee for Liaison with the WCCR have been assisting with the organization of the second World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections. Following four years after the Madrid Symposium and Congress, this conference, called "Natural History Collections -A Resource for the Future", will be held in Cambridge at the Department of Earth Sciences. Chris Collins is the key organizer for the conference which is detailed on page 5.

SPNHC also was represented at several key meetings and conferences this year. In one case, we were invited to participate in developing funding recommendation for one of the major U.S. granting agencies. In December, we were one of only a few international organizations that were invited to participate in a U.S. National Summit on Emergency Response that was sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the National Institute for Conservation. David von Endt, our NIC representative, represented the Society. His report on this important leadership conference will appear in our annual report.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for improving communication and for strengthening the efforts of SPNHC. Contact me at: voice 202-786-2931; FAX 202-357-2208; email: mhan150@sivm.si.edu. I look forward to seeing you in Toronto.

NOTICE OF 1995 ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Ninth Annual General Business Meeting of the Membership of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections will be held on Sunday, June 4, 1995, at 10:30 a.m. at the Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario, Canada.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the 1994 Business Meeting of the General Membership.
3. Report of the Treasurer
 - 3.1 Financial Report
 - 3.2 Appointment of Auditor
4. Report of the President
5. Reports of the Standing Committees
6. Reports of the Sessional Committees and Representatives
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Awards and Recognitions
10. Announcements
11. Adjournment

If you cannot attend the meeting, you may designate another member in good standing to act on your behalf. Please fill out the proxy form below and give it to the person named or forward it by May 15th to: Elizabeth Taylor, SPNHC Secretary, Royal British Columbia Museum, 675 Belleville St., Victoria, BC, CANADA V8V 1X4.

Instrument of Proxy

I, the undersigned member of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), hereby appoint Carolyn Rose, President of the Society, or, failing her,

(please name an alternative, a member in good standing) to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Business Meeting of the General Membership of the Society on the 4th of June, 1995 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name (please print): _____

1995 ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

SPNHC '95 - Preserving The Record Of Nature Through Countless Ages. June 2-6, 1995, ROYAL Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The ROM looks forward to welcoming SPNHC members and others to the 10th Annual Meeting in June. Our Keynote Speaker will be Stephen Jay Gould, speaking about the Value of Collections. The deadline for abstracts

is March 31, so get yours in without delay. This is your meeting. If botany is not your bag, don't be deterred by the title of the workshop, "Managing the Modern Herbarium." There will be plenty to interest non-botanists as well, from bar coding to destructive sampling for DNA.

The Call for Papers and Registration packages were mailed to all members in mid-January. If you did not get yours please request one from Janet Waddington, SPNHC '95, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C6; voice: 416-586-5593, FAX 416-586-5863) or by email from erlingh@rom.on.ca

Important Changes:

In the Call for Papers for the SPNHC Annual Meeting the wrong telephone and FAX numbers were given for the Victoria University Residences. The correct numbers are: voice: 416-585-4523; FAX: 416-585-4530. We are trying to ensure that all faxes get forwarded; however, if you have already faxed your reservations to the University, please fax again to the correct number with a note that this is a confirmation of an earlier reservation. Please do not phone for confirmation. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Please note this schedule change: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the dinner has been rescheduled to Sunday night (June 4) instead of Saturday.

TREASURER'S NOTES

1995 Renewals: Have you renewed your membership? Check your mailing label. If an "R" appears in the upper right corner your payment was received and credited. The labels are accurate as of February 8. If you mailed your payment after February 3 you will be credited for 1995 and continue to receive 1995 publications. Those members and subscribers that do not renew by March 15 will be dropped from the current mailing list.

If you have not renewed, please do so now. A \$5 penalty will be levied on those members who are delinquent on March 15 when reminders will be mailed. Please save the Society the expense of sending a second billing. Dues are: Individuals \$25, Associates \$50, Libraries \$30.

Storage Book: The SPNHC book, "Storage of Natural History Collections: Ideas and Practical Solutions" edited by Rose and de Torres is almost out of print. There are fewer than 50 copies available. You may order the books from the Treasurer. Price \$30 plus shipping (\$4 in US; \$6 Canada; \$9 Mexico; \$6 International).

Book orders and dues should be mailed to: SPNHC Treasurer, 121 Trowbridge Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1379; voice: 319-335-1822 or e-mail: j-golden@uiowa.edu

Storage Book Update: The second storage book containing basic information on planning, design and on materials and equipment selection is almost complete after more than two years of work. Because of the problems with transporting sale materials into Canada, we will not be

selling the book at the meeting, but order forms will be available. As an aside, one of the granting agencies has encouraged us to move ahead with a grant application to translate the first book, *Storage of Natural History Collections: Ideas and Practical Solutions*, into Spanish. If the grant is funded, the translation will be undertaken by the *Asociación para la Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural de las Américas (APOYO)*.

SPNHC/ASC LISTSERV

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new listserv, NHCOLL-L (Natural History Collections listserv). The list is co-sponsored by the Association of Systematic Collections (ASC) and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC).

NHCOLL-L is a result of the joint annual meeting held in 1994 by ASC and SPNHC and a project to improve the policies and practices of natural history collections sponsored by a grant to ASC from the Institute of Museum Services. Both organizations are dedicated to the preservation and care of natural history collections. NHCOLL-L gives those working with these collections a place to discuss the issues they have in common, such as collections care, management, administration, and development. Both policy and practical discussions are appropriate.

NHCOLL-L is an unmoderated list, therefore we are dependent on the list members to provide only those postings that are appropriate to the subject matter. While the list is sponsored by ASC and SPNHC, all individuals interested in the care of natural history collections are invited to participate. Information of all kinds is welcome, however, advertising is inappropriate.

This list is hosted by the University of California - Berkeley Museum of Paleontology. The ASC and members of SPNHC wish to thank Dr. Jere Lipps and the staff of the Museum of Paleontology for providing the expertise and the equipment to host this list.

To subscribe, send an email message to listproc@ucmp1.berkeley.edu. In the text field, type: SUBSCRIBE NHCOLL-L followed by your full name. That's it. You will get an automatic acknowledgement of your subscription. You then can receive notes.

Please post messages and comments by sending them to nhcoll-l@ucmp1.berkeley.edu. To cancel your subscription, send an email message to listproc@ucmp1.berkeley.edu. In the text field type: UNSUBSCRIBE NHCOLL-L followed by your full name.

The list manager is Paula M. Sumpter (ps@mpm1.mpm.edu) of the Milwaukee Public Museum, Inc. Please address questions regarding the list to her. The position of list manager will rotate to other individuals. List members will be notified when the contact person changes.

SPNHC RESOURCES COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Resources and Conservation Committees are attempting to develop a cooperative purchasing plan on behalf of the SPNHC membership. However a number of technical and legal issues raised make it difficult to determine our real needs for a cooperative venue of this kind. For these reasons, we would appreciate your input by completing the questionnaire below. This would greatly facilitate the initial organization of this process and whether or not we should proceed. Forward completed questionnaires to: Iris Hardy, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 4A2; FAX: 902-426-4465; email: Iris=Hardy%AGC%GSC=HALIFAX@agcban1.bio.ns.ca. These responses will be reviewed, collated and summarized for the next SPNHC Newsletter. Please forward your completed questionnaire no later than 31 March, 1995.

1. What do you identify as a major issue in the purchase of commodities for the maintenance of the natural history collection for which you are responsible?
2. Do you think that you could benefit from a SPNHC cooperative purchase plan?
3. What time schedules would you be restricted to? e.g. fiscal/calendar year end.
4. Do you think that a plan should be developed for each collection type? ie. documentation needs: most members have similar documentation material needs regardless of collection type.
5. What collection care supplies and materials are you buying routinely at present and in what quantities?
6. How does your organization purchase your collection consummables at present?
7. What do you think a vendor should require to participate?
8. What legal issues if any govern your purchasing arrangements?
9. Do you think you could assist this group in developing cooperative purchasing procedures for SPNHC?

MEMBER NEWS

We were saddened to hear of the death of Hugh H. DeWitt (University of Maine, Orono) on January 5, 1995. The DeWitt family has kindly and generously arranged for donations in Hugh's memory to be made to SPNHC. We send our deepest sympathy and sincerest thanks to Hugh's family, friends and colleagues.

The University and Jepson Herbarium of the University of California at Berkeley are again accessible in the renovated Valley Life Sciences Building on campus. Eastern hemisphere material previously in a separate annex has also been reintegrated. New case labels are still being prepared, and work areas are still being rearranged, but visitors can otherwise be fully accommodated. However, there will continue to be delays in incoming and outgoing shipments and correspondence until we catch up on

backlogged routine curation.

Use the following address format for most efficient delivery of mail: University of California, Berkeley, University Herbarium OR Jepson Herbarium, OR University and Jepson Herbaria, 1001 Valley Life Sciences Building #2465, Berkeley, CA 94720-2465

Two curatorial/research staff have new direct phone lines (messages can still be left at 510-642-2465): Barbara Ertter 510-643-0600, and Alan Smith 510-643-1000. All staff whose e-mail addresses were formerly @quercus or @ribes are now @ucjeps.herb.berkeley.edu. For more information, contact Barbara Ertter (ertter@ucjeps.herb.berkeley.edu).

Computerization of a Large Land Snail Collection

The Field Museum's Division of Invertebrates recently completed an NSF funded project to rehouse and computerize over 40,000 lots (several million specimens) of Eastern North American terrestrial mollusks collected by Leslie Hubricht over a 60 year period from the 1920's to the 1980's. Long series of nearly every terrestrial mollusk from this area are represented, including paratypes of many of Mr. Hubricht's species. Information requests and loans are available to the research community. Inquiries should be addressed to: John Slapcinsky, Division of Invertebrates, The Field Museum, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605, U.S.A., voice: 312-922-9410 extension 577, FAX: 312-663-5397, email: slapcin@fmmh785.fmmh.org.

SVP Announcement

The Outreach Committee of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology was established in 1992 with the express purpose of bringing amateur and professional collectors of fossil vertebrates into productive working partnerships. In the two years since its founding, SVP Outreach has produced a traveling poster presentation on the contributions of amateur collectors to field work in vertebrate paleontology, drafted a brochure which will provide details on opportunities for amateur collectors who are looking for courses or projects, and presented a statement on the responsibilities of professional vertebrate paleontologists to the amateur community which has been adopted by unanimous vote of the SVP membership and executive committee.

SVP Outreach is a dynamic committee looking for information on training and certification programs, field projects, and other opportunities for responsible amateurs. We are interested in finding out if anyone is interested in the following: email posting or snail mail copy of the "Responsibilities" statement; suggesting programs and organizations to be included in the brochure; hosting the traveling poster at local lectures, shows, or other indoor-based activities.

Starting in January, SVP Outreach will distribute an informal monthly newsletter connecting amateur and professional activities in vertebrate paleontology.

Contributions are encouraged. We want to publicize discoveries, field work, classes and courses, and other activities that reflect the positive work being done by amateur and professional paleontologists. This will go out by both email and snail mail; send me your preferred address, as well as the addresses of other persons or organizations who may be interested.

Please send information, comments, suggestions, contributions, notices of upcoming meetings, and anything else you think would be useful to me at the following addresses: Sally Shelton, SVP Outreach Chair; Director, Collections Care and Conservation, San Diego Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112; voice 619-232-3821, x 226; FAX: 619-232-0248; email: LIBSDNHM@CLASS.ORG.

EMPLOYMENT/INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Head of Research and Collections.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County comprises five separate institutions of natural and cultural history. In size, diversity, quality, and significance, its collections are among the strongest in the world. The Museum operates under new leadership and under a new strategic plan in which research and collections are key. The Museum seeks a Head of Research and Collections to lead its curatorial staff.

The Head should have a distinguished record of scholarship and be able to explain and support the importance of collections to many audiences. He or she should be able to secure outside funding for research and collections, to implement new partnerships, and to work with the Museum's exhibits and education departments to achieve effective and integrated programs. Evidence of administrative skills and leadership ability is essential.

Send letters of application or nomination to Dr. James Powell, President and Director, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007; FAX 213-746-7538. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) invites applications and nominations for Director, University of Nebraska State Museum. The University of Nebraska State Museum is a natural history museum with a staff of 60 people, a budget of two million, and research collections numbering approximately 14 million specimens. The Museum includes facilities in Lincoln, the Trailside Museum at Fort Robinson and Ashfall Fossil Beds State Park.

The successful candidate will report to the Vice Chancellor for Research and have primary leadership and fiscal responsibility in furthering the mission of the Museum in research, teaching, and public service. Candidates for the position must possess an earned doctorate in science or other appropriate academic

discipline, have a record of scholarly achievement and experience in management and administration, and faculty credentials consistent with those of a tenured full professor.

This position is also responsible for the vigorous pursuit of extramural funding to support Museum research and public outreach activities. The Director works with non-university groups and individuals to develop statewide support for the Museum.

The Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum will work in cooperation with the Friends of the State Museum, Friends of the Trailside Museum, Friends of Ashfall, the University of Nebraska Foundation, the Director of the Museum Studies Program and the Dean of Graduate Studies and other external constituencies. The Director also cooperates with the academic units and university administrators in carrying out the mission of the Museum.

Screening of applications will begin on March 15, 1995. Persons interested in becoming a candidate should forward a letter of interest, an up-to-date vita and the names and addresses of five references. References will not be contacted without prior approval of the candidate. Nominations and applications should be sent to: Professor Raymond B. Hames, Chair, UN State Museum Director Search Advisory Committee, 302 Administration Building University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0433; voice: 402-472-2411; FAX: 402-472-9642.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is committed to a pluralistic campus community through Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity and is responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We assure reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Contact Raymond B. Hames at the above address for more information.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania has the following internships available June 1995 - June 1996. Conditions: \$5.25/hr. plus Univ. of Penn. benefits, graduate credit weekly classes, seminars and field trips independent study project.

The Flora of Pennsylvania Internship is a joint position with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. It offers an opportunity to contribute to the preparation of a modern state flora database and gain experience working in a major herbarium. Requirements: undergraduate degree in biology with course work in botany.

IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Internship: This intern assists the Arboretum's plant pathologist in implementing an IPM program. Duties include regular monitoring of the living collection, diagnosing pest and disease problems, research on control strategies. The intern also participates in daily operation of a Plant Clinic. Requirements: undergraduate degree in biology or horticulture with course work in entomology and/or plant pathology.

Application procedure: Send letter stating interest,

official transcripts and 3 letters of recommendation to the Internship Coordinator, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, 9414 Meadowbrook Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19118.

Deadline for applications: March 30, 1995. For more information on either position contact: Dr. Ann F. Rhoads, 215 247 5777 x134, rhoadsaf@pobox.upenn.edu

Smithsonian Fellowships

The Fellowships in Museum Practice program enables museum professionals to undertake original research in museum theory and operations, while in residence at the Smithsonian Institution. The program addresses the gap for studies at advanced levels that focus on issues of museology.

Fellowships can range from two to six months in duration. Fellows receive a stipend of up to \$4,000 to help support expenses during the residency. Projects may begin after October 15, 1995. Applicants design research projects in partnership with Smithsonian staff who agree to be sponsors. Projects must be mutually beneficial to fellows and sponsors.

Application to the program is a two-part process. First, submit a proposal seeking sponsorship from Smithsonian staff. Applicants who secure sponsorship then submit a formal application. Applications are welcome from mid- or senior level staff who work in museums or allied cultural and educational institutions.

For detailed information contact Nancy J. Fuller, Research Program Manager, Office of Museum Programs, Arts and Industries Building, Room 2235 MRC 427, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560; voice: 202-357-3101; FAX 202-357-3346; email: ompem002@sivm.si.edu.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Natural History Collections - A Resource for the Future: The Second World Congress and International Symposium on the Conservation and Preservation of Natural History Collections. 20-24 August, 1996, Cambridge University.

The mission of the conference is to develop the challenges inherent in preserving natural science collections to the year 2000 and beyond and to push forward philosophies and strategies to meet these challenges. Natural science collections document the range and abundance of species through time, providing a valuable and irreplaceable record of the planet's natural history. These collections are a valuable and unique resource which is becoming increasingly neglected while at the same time of an increasing value as an international tool for research and industry. An important purpose of the conference is to develop resolutions initiated at Madrid and in particular to set up a World Council on the Conservation of Resources.

The lectures, poster displays, exhibitions and workshops will be held in the Department of the Earth

Sciences. Conference accommodations will be at St. John's College.

Additional information will appear in future issues of the SPNHC Newsletter.

1995 BAM Meeting Bay Area Malacologists, 1995 Gathering, 1st Announcement:

In keeping with the success of the 1994 gathering, we will meet again in 1995 at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The meeting date is Saturday, March 18, 1995, from approximately 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Mark your calendars and plan to give a presentation if you attend. Terry Gosliner and I hope that the phylogenetic theme pursued last year will be continued this year. Additional information on attending and giving a talk will be posted to MOLLUSCA and TAXACOM shortly. For further information, or to RSVP, contact: Matthew J. James, Department of Geology, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928; email: matt.james@sonoma.edu voice: 707-664-2301, FAX: 707-664-2505.

Course Announcement: Taxonomy: Principles and Practices, A 12-day Short Course sponsored by NERC & the Systematics Association July 3 - 14, 1995

The aim of this course is to provide both background theory and hands-on experience of a wide range of modern taxonomic methods, from molecular techniques to morphometric analysis, with examples of applications in both living and fossil organisms.

The overall objective is to provide participants with sufficient understanding of the underlying concepts and day-to-day practicalities of modern systematics to allow them to make balanced, reasoned decisions about the most appropriate way of resolving their own taxonomic problems.

The course forms part of the NERC Taxonomy Initiative, and will be co-sponsored by the Systematics Association. It will be taught by a range of experts in different branches of taxonomy, including contributions by various outside experts.

Topics considered in the course include acquiring and analyzing molecular data, the use of morphometric methods for species recognition, and a selection of approaches to phylogenetic inference. Extensive use will be made of computers, and training will be provided in a various tools for phylogenetic reconstruction, morphometric analysis, database searching, etc. A major feature of the course will be to emphasize the advantages and pit-falls of the various methods of species recognition and phylogenetic reconstruction. The course will end with an overview of the application of taxonomy in the last decade of the twentieth century, from environmental issues to biogeography, and conservation biology to molecular fingerprinting.

The cost of the course will be £500, to include Bed & Breakfast Accommodation (in University Halls of Residence), Course Manuals, Use of Equipment, Laboratory Consumables, etc. Because of the emphasis on

practical work, the number of participants is strictly limited to 25; places will be allocated on a "first-come, first-served basis" and a deposit of £100 will secure a place. NERC will pay the fees of ten NERC-funded Ph.D. students. A limited number of partial scholarships will be available for Non-NERC students. The course is not restricted to Ph.D. students, but is open to all who are interested in taxonomy.

For further details, contact: Zoe Badcock, Taxonomy Course, IBL, Botany Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, UK
FAX: 041-330-4447, voice 041-339-8855 Ext. 6207
email: taxon@geology.glasgow.ac.uk

7 March 7, 1995, 10:00 am -1:00 pm

"Getting It Right II: Good In-House Repairs for General Collections": Sponsored by the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System; Speaker: Gregor Trinkaus-Randall; Location: Waltham Public Library, Waltham, MA; Registration: Limit of 25, open enrollment. Contact EMRLS, Ellen Rauch, 617-536-4010.

April 13, 1995, 9:00 am -5:00 pm

"School for Scanning: A Conference on Digitization, Micro-filming, and Preservation"; Sponsor: Northeast Document Conservation Center; Speaker: Anne Kenney (Cornell Univ.), Paul Conway (Yale Univ.), Richard Ekman (Mellon Found.), Deanna Marcum (Council on Library Resources), George Farr (NEH), and others.; Location: John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston, MA; Registration: Fee is \$70, including lunch. Registration materials will be mailed in March. For more information, send a SASE to Gay Tracy, NEDCC, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810-1494.

Collection Risk Assessment and Management Workshop, 11-12 September, 1995, University of Leicester, UK. A two day interactive workshop running as part of the Museums Association Annual Conference will cover topics including agents of deterioration, types of risk and risk reduction. The workshop will be led by Robert Waller of the Canadian Museum of Nature and is being organized by the UKIC Natural Sciences Section. Costs will be in the region of £110-£150. For more information contact Maggie Reilly, Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK; voice: 0141 339 8855 x4772, FAX: 0141 330 5971, email: mreilly@museum.gla.ac.uk or Kate Andrew at 0299 896625.

IIC-CG 21st Annual Conference and Workshop: 24-28 May 1995, Calgary, Alberta Canada.

The 21st Annual IIC-CG conference and general meeting will be held May 26-28 at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta. Receptions and tours of several local museums are scheduled as well as a western theme banquet at Heritage Park Historical Village. Details of hotels and low-cost university accommodation will be forthcoming with the registration package. For further information, contact

the Conference Chair, Gail Nimina at: 25 Cathedral Road NW, Calgary, Alberta, T2M 4K4 CANADA; voice/FAX: 403-282-5320.

The pre-conference training session, Conservationally Correct; Realities and Innovations for Exhibitions, will be held May 24-25 at the University of Calgary. The two day workshop will focus on the conservation aspects of mounting exhibitions. Sessions will be held on materials used in displays, case design and construction, lighting systems, mounting techniques, and security. The format will be a combination of presentations, demonstrations, and hands-on sessions. For further information on the workshop, contact James Engelbert at 403-662-3640, FAX: 403-662-3273, or write c/o 3912 - 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6S 1R4 Canada.

IIC Congress 1996 Call for Papers

The sixteenth international congress of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works will take place at the Falconer Center in Copenhagen, 25-30 August 1996, in association with the Danish National Museum. Under the title Archaeological Conservation and its Consequences, the Congress will offer new perspectives on the conservation of archaeological sites and finds, both on land and under water.

The Congress aims to bring together conservators and archaeologists, conservation scientists and historians, curators, collections managers, educators and students. Materials under discussion will range from ceramics to shipwrecks, from metals to mosaics and from waterlogged wood to wall paintings and should be of interest to specialists in many fields. The official language of the congress will be English.

Those wishing to present a paper should submit a provisional title and 150-word abstract by 30 April 1995. Authors will then be invited to submit a draft text of their full paper by 30 September 1995. The drafts will be reviewed by a Technical Committee, who will make a selection of papers to be accepted for publication in the preprints and presentation at the Congress. Definite acceptances for the technical program will be made only after review of the draft texts. Proposals are also invited for posters. Titles and 150-word abstracts should be submitted by 30 June 1995. Selection of posters for presentation at the Congress will be made by the Technical Committee.

Send you abstract to IIC, 6 Buchingham Street, London WC2N 6BA, UK, or by FAX to +44 171 976 1564 (0171 976 1564 with the UK).

AAM Meeting Announcement

A meeting of the Museums Heritage Group roundtable will be held at the 90th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Museums in Philadelphia, PA. The group will meet Wednesday, May 24, 1995 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. This roundtable will bring together representatives of institutions having some of the nation's

oldest collections, utilizing original museum buildings and exhibit installations, to discuss common issues of preservation, interpretation, programming, funding, etc. The meeting is open to all AAM delegates.

RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

"Guidelines" now on CoOL: Walter Henry has mounted an electronic copy of "Guidelines for the Care of Natural History Collections", (published Collection Forum, 10(1), 1994, pp.32-40) on CoOL. It has been marked up and added to the WWW server, where it can be retrieved as <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byorg/spnhc/spnhc1.html>. It has also been prepared as plain text and mounted in the Gopher server where it appears under two headings: Browse by Organization Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections and Browse by subject Natural History

Flora Mesoamericana Online: Flora Mesoamericana is now available on the Internet via Gopher and the World Wide Web. Visit these resources at http://straylight.tamu.edu/MoBot/FM/fm_introduction.html or [gopher://gopher2.nhm.ac.uk:70/11botany/.florames](http://gopher2.nhm.ac.uk:70/11botany/.florames)

The Flora Mesoamericana Project is an international, collaborative project organized by the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Universidad Autonoma Nacional de Mexico (UNAM), and The Natural History Museum (London). Numerous taxonomists are contributing to the project. Flora Mesoamericana covers the area of tropical Middle America from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southern Mexico to the Panama/Colombia border. Included are the five southernmost states of Mexico (Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan and Quintana Roo), and the countries of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

Our intent is to make available electronically large datasets of Mesoamerican floristic data which cannot be included in the printed version of Flora Mesoamericana. These data sets will include images, specimen data, and a dynamic checklist version of Flora Mesoamericana. For more information contact Gerrit Davidseg (davidseg@mobot.mobot.org), Mario Sousa S. (sousa@redvax1.dgsca.unam.mx), or Sandra Knapp (sk@nhm.ic.ac.uk)

The Department of Entomology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign would like to announce its new World Wide Web (WWW) home page located at URL <http://www.life.uiuc.edu/Entomology/home.html>. A question form is available to answer queries. Also available is a growing set of insect drawings and extensive links to other entomology-related information on the Internet.

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) is in the final stages of developing a gopher where we hope to provide centralized access to Internet resources for the preservation community. If you

would like pointers to your organization's preservation related gopher, database, or other Internet accessible resource to be included, please contact me at mcarroll@alpha.nsula.edu. Include a brief description of your organization and the information available at your site. Be sure to include the URL address. Development of a WWW home page for the NCPTT will begin soon. For more information contact Mary S. Carroll at mcarroll@alpha.nsula.edu

The Division of Mammals at the KU Natural History Museum would like to announce a WWW site containing general info about the collection, collection management policies (including loan and destructive sampling protocols), a list of type specimens, and other miscellany, with more to be added as time permits. Our URL is: <http://ukanaix.cc.ukans.edu/~mammals/start.html> For more information contact Michael K. Stokes email: stokes@falcon.cc.ukans.edu.

PALEONET. Subscribe to PaleoNet by e-mailing the message: subscribe PaleoNet (or DataBaseNet, etc.) to listserv@nhm.ac.uk. Anyone who subscribes to any of the specialty lists is automatically added to the master PaleoNet list. There is a general PaleoNet list and the following subgroups: TrainingNet (Woody Wise, wise@geomag.gly.fsu.edu) for information regarding training of Paleontologists; CommNet (Bob Pierce, RWPierce@hou.amoco.com); DataBaseNet (Norman MacLeod, n.macleod@nhm.ac.uk); CollectionsNet (Steven Culver, s.culver@nhm.ac.uk) Management of major paleontological collections in museums.

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Cornell University, Field Museum of Natural History, Harvard University, The University of Alabama, University of California at Berkeley and The University of Michigan announce "FishGopher" - an integrated Internet fish collection catalog.

FishGopher provides simultaneous query access to a simulated union of collection catalogs by using Gopher+ software to "fan out" a single query to multiple databases. A Gopher user issues a search specification and then receives matching catalog records from each participating Gopher server. FishGopher can be accessed on the main menu of the Biodiversity and Biological Collections (BBC) Gopher, located on: muse.bio.cornell.edu.

The catalog entries are in WAIS-indexed files and can be searched on any term. Individual Gopher servers return up to 1500 matching records for a set maximum of 9000 records per query. Boolean operators are supported. Search suggestions are provided on the BBC Gopher.

The catalog data in FishGopher are extracted from MUSE software databases. Because the catalogs are simply ASCII files with full-text indices, similarly structured text records from any data management system could be used in the fan-out query mechanism.

For more information contact Jim Beach, Museum Informatics Project, Univ. of California, Berkeley, PIbeach@violet.berkeley.edu; Barry Chernoff, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago bcxx@midway.uchicago.edu; William Fink, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology wfink@umich.edu; Karsten Hartel, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard Univ. artel@mcz.harvard.edu; Julian Humphries, MUSE Project, Cornell University jmh3@cornell.edu; Richard Mayden, University of Alabama Ichthyology Collection rmayden@ualvm.ua.edu; Scott Schaefer, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia schaefer@say.acnatsci.org

Natural History Museum and Biological Collection WWW pages.

The Biodiversity and Biological Collections Web Server (<http://muse.bio.cornell.edu/>) would like to offer the museums and biological collections of the world an opportunity to provide information about their institutions to the Internet community. Many institutions have access to WWW servers and can themselves post data on collection holdings, general descriptions of materials and staff contacts or even access to collections data. For these sites, the BBC WWW server provides links organized by taxonomic discipline (if we have missed your institution, please let us know). However, there are a large number of collections without these resources and this service is targeted to that group.

The BBC Web Server will provide storage and markup assistance for any collection or museum that would like to create a "home page" describing their collection. Appropriate data would minimally include taxonomic discipline(s) covered, size of the collection (with a breakout by preparation if appropriate), strengths of geographic coverage, type specimen holdings, important phone and fax numbers and email and snail addresses. Staff names, addresses and research interests would also be useful. If you wish to provide more information, feel free (although if you have more than a few pages worth of descriptions, please check with me first). If you have pictures (in digital form) of staff or important aspects of the collection (or specimens), those too can be included. A sample page for the Cornell Vertebrate collections is viewable at: <http://muse.bio.cornell.edu/museums/cornellverts.html>. For additional information contact Julian Humphries, email: jmh3@cornell.edu, The MUSE Project, Cornell University, 83 Brown Road, Building 3, Ithaca, NY 14850 USA Voice: 607-257-8143, FAX: 607-257-8109

Electronic Selective Dissemination of Information, Information Transfer Center, National Biological Survey, Fort Collins, Colorado.

The SDI project of the National Biological Survey is an information transfer product of the databases Wildlife/Fisheries Review. Annually over 24,000 citations from over 1300 journals, several hundred books and symposia, and several hundred theses and dissertations are

added to the databases. The scope of the databases are primarily wild vertebrate biology, ecology, and management and related disciplines.

To assist natural resource managers and researchers in keeping aware of the current published literature, the electronic SDI project has been implemented to provide the passive transfer of such literature. Presently NBS is offering four SDI literature packages: Wetlands, Endangered and Threatened Species, Contaminants, and Aquaculture. Bear in mind that the literature provided must fall within the scope of coverage of the two Reviews i.e., wetland literature pertaining directly to wild vertebrates, wild vertebrate endangered species, the effects of contaminants on wild vertebrates, and aquaculture of fin fish.

These four SDI packages will be made available for a six month test period ending June 1995. At the end of test period, the usage and costs associated to provide the SDIs will be evaluated.

Subscribers to the project will automatically receive the requested SDI(s) on a monthly basis. The files will be in WordPerfect 5.1 format.

Questions and comments regarding this project should be directed to Terry Sexson: FWS or NBS cc:Mail sexsont DOI cc:Mail outside FWS/NBS ~ IFWS then sexsont Internet electronic mail sexsont@mail.fws.gov; voice: 303-226-9401 ext 236. Questions and comments regarding the Library Server should be directed to Glenda Jackson: FWS or NBS cc:Mail jacksongj DOI cc:Mail outside FWS/NBS ~ IFWS then jacksongj Internet email jacksongj@mail.fws.gov; voice: 303-226-9401 ext 218.

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GRANT SOURCES

Preservation-Related Grant Sources and Deadlines:

National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access.

Address: Room 802, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506; voice: 202-606-8570; FAX: 202-606-8243; email: NEHPRES@gwuvvm.gwu.edu

Areas of Funding: Preservation microfilming project conducted by individual libraries and archives, or by individuals acting as a consortium Conservation treatment of endangered materials, where transfer to a more stable medium is not appropriate; projects to preserve material culture collections; projects that will provide intellectual access to textual, non-textual and object collections Education and training projects on a regional or national

level; work of regional preservation services; preparation of statewide preservation plans; research and demonstration projects to improve procedures and technology for preservation and access; and projects involving preservation and access issues of national significance to the library and archives field.

Deadlines: July 1 deadline for subsequent May 1 start date.

National Historical Publications and Records Commission
Address: NHPRC - NP, National Archives Building, Room 607, Washington, D.C. 20506; voice: 202-501-5610; FAX: 202-501-5601

Areas of Funding: To help local organizations preserve records and make them accessible by providing grants to state historical records coordinators and boards for state grants (October 1); to increase access to and use of records, based on recommendations in the reports of the Historical Documents Study and the Society of American Archivists' Task Force on Goals and Priorities (October 1); and to help carry out the national agendas for archival progress put forward by the Society of American Archivists and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, with particular attention to needs for preservation, planning, training and institutional self-evaluation (February 1). Contact: In Massachusetts, contact Dr. Albert H. Whitaker, Archivist of the Commonwealth, Massachusetts Archives, 617-727-2816 Deadlines: February 1 and October 1 (see above for specifics)

Institute of Museum Studies

Address: 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 609, Washington, DC 20506; voice: 202-606-8539; Areas of Funding: CAP grants support a 2-day site visit to assess a museum's collections, environment and conditions.; Contact: Kelly Chisholm, NIC, 3299 K. Street, NW, Suite 602, Washington, DC 20007. 202-625-1495.

National Endowment for the Arts

Address: Museum Program, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 624, Washington, DC 20506.; voice: 202-682-5442; Areas of Funding: Care of Collections: Conservation Collections Maintenance; Deadline: September 1995. Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Collection Management/Preservation Specialist, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, 648 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2070, voice: 617-267-9400, FAX: 617-421-9833.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission Offers funds to establish museum archives, but highly competitive. Funds the salary of a trained archivist (for up to two years) to develop an archives program if the museum is willing to commit to funding the position after the grant period is over. Recommends that museum hire a consultant to make recommendations for program development (strengthens proposal). Application deadline

October 1, 1995 with project starting date April 1, 1996. Laurie Baty, Program Officer (2NEH Division of Public Programs). Does not fund museum archives development. Funds projects involving planning or implementation of exhibits or programs involving archival materials (manuscript, photographic, etc.) 202-606-8271.

The Getty Grant Program Offers funds for projects which make use of archival material (exhibitions, research, publications, etc.) Deborah Marrow, Director 310-458-9811, ext. 1074.

MATERIALS/VENDORS

Alternative Sources for Museum Label Paper
by Carla Kishinami.

There are two products I know of that could be considered by those going through Resistal withdrawal: Tyvek and Forbon. The Ichthyology and Vertebrate Zoology collections at Bishop Museum have used Forbon 10VF Tagstock for over 25 years. This is an exceedingly tough paper, suitable for rough field conditions and holds up excellently in wet or dry storage. Personally, I have never liked Resistal because it compared so poorly with the Forbon in wet strength.

In 1987 I wrote to the manufacturer, Dennison Manufacturing Co., in Massachusetts and asked what exactly went into the manufacture of Forbon. This was the reply: "Forbon 10VF Tagstock is a vulcanized fibre containing only cellulose and titanium dioxide. The titanium dioxide is added as an opacifier and whitener. This stock contains no other additives, such as rosin or other sizes. It contains no plastic fibres or 'plastic infusion'.

"Vulcanized fibre is made from cotton or alpha wood cellulose in a process whereby the surface of the cellulosic fibres are gelatinized with zinc chloride, which converts the fibres into a colloidal semifibrous mass. The zinc chloride is thoroughly removed by leaching, and the sheet is thus converted into a hard, tough, dense, waterproof product."

Their response to my subsequent question as to why our conservation lab got a positive alum test from the paper: "Elemental analysis of the Forbon 10VF stock indicates residual amounts of zinc and chloride, undoubtedly left from the vulcanization process. While not present in large concentrations, it is this component which makes the sheet slightly acidic (pH = 6.2) and which provides a positive alum test."

The paper is not perfect, but it is very good. It meets the criteria of strength, durability, and ink retention. There is nothing very objectionable in the materials used to manufacture Forbon. The residual salts are not a problem in dry situations, and probably as good deal washes out in the various rinses most wet preserved specimens are subjected to. It can be written on and used in a dot matrix printer, but is probably too stiff for laser printers. It is available through University Products, Inc., P.O. Box 101,

517 Main St., Holyoke, MA 01041-0101, USA
1-800-762-1165 or 413-532-9431.

Tyvek is a spunbonded polyethylene. It's very strong, comes in different weights, and takes ink well. There is a printing handbook available from DuPont that will give guidance as to what printers and inks to use. They also have staff available to advise. IT WILL MELT IN SOME LASER PRINTERS so be careful. The long term durability of this polyethylene "paper" in alcohol is uncertain but it has been used for some time at the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales in Madrid. See: Gisbert, Palacios and Garcia-Perea, 1990, Labeling vertebrate collections with Tyvek synthetic paper, *Collection Forum* (6)1:35-37 or Gisbert, Garcia-Perea and Palacios, 1992, Durable specimen labels, Storage of natural history collections: ideas and practical solutions, Rose and de Torres eds. Manufacturer is E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, 1000 Market St., Wilmington, DE 19898, USA For specific product information and local suppliers of Tyvek call 800-448-9835, or contact Carla H. Kishinami email: carlak@bishop.bishop.hawaii.org; voice: 808-848-4198; FAX: 808-841-8968

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Transaction Terms for Collections Management. Data Content Committee, Smithsonian Institution. 1994. Washington, D.C. 31 pp.

Developed by a committee with representatives from the major SI museums, this document is "a compilation of the terms used to describe how Smithsonian collecting units acquire, dispose of, lend and borrow museum objects. The committee is presently undertaking two other initiatives - a compilation of terms regarding the roles that people or organizations play in relation to each other and to objects, and terms describing different types of objects in the Smithsonian collections." Available from William G. Tompkins, National Collections Coordinator, National Collections Program, Smithsonian Institution, 900 Jefferson Drive Room 1410, SW, Washington, D.C. 20560.

The Association of Systematics Collections (ASC) announces the publication of **Guidelines for Institutional Policies and Planning in Natural History Collections.** It reviews current practice and suggests important elements to include in policy documents for institutions that house biological, anthropological, and geological collections. Included are references to model policy statements produced by ASC member institutions. Cost: \$22.00; prepay to ASC, 730 11th Street, NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20001-4521. Add \$7.00 for overseas airmail service. For more information call 202-347-2850.

Guidelines for Protecting Intellectual Property. David Bearman. 1994. *Archives & Museum Informatics*, 8(2):183-184.

Preserving Evidential Value in Geographic Information

Systems. Daniel Jansen. 1994. *Archives & Museum Informatics*, 8(3):192-204.

Copyright is the Regime We Want, Let's Not Sacrifice It. editorial by David Bearman. 1994. *Archives & Museum Informatics*, 8(3):187-189.

Fair Use. Christine Steiner. 1994. *Archives & Museum Informatics*, 8(3):275-276.

Review: EmbARK. Katherine Jones-Garmil. 1994. *Archives & Museum Informatics*, 8(3):255-260. Review of software for a collections management system developed by Digital 02) 501-5610.

Disaster Prevention, Response and Recovery: a Selected Bibliography--Part I. Schur, S.E. 1994. *Technology and Conservation*, Feb, 1994. pp 21-32.

The Disaster Plan: An Outline of Basic Information Needed. *Technology and Conservation*, Feb, 1994. p 24-25.

Reducing High Risk Flood Losses: A Checklist. *Technology and Conservation*, Feb, 1994. p 32-33.

Ensuring the Longevity of Digital Documents. Rothenberg, Jeff. 1995. *Scientific American*, 272(1): 42-47.

In addition to concerns over the physical longevity of common digital storage media, changes in hardware and software can make digital documents unreadable in a relatively short time frame.

Integrated Pest Management in Museum, Library, and Archival Facilities. Harmon, James D. 1993. *Harmon Preservation Pest Management*, 1008 N. Hildago Ave., Alhambra, CA 91801. This is a guide to pest identification and treatment, and contains guidelines for writing your own site-specific IPM policy. A loose-leaf binder format allows for additional information to be inserted.

The Collections Managers Committee of the Texas Association of Museums discussed "**Critters in your Collection**" at their January 1995 meeting. A session on insect identification was led by John Watts, museum entomologist. Jeff Tucker of Entomology Associates gave an overview of current pest management strategies. For a review contact the CMC newsletter editor (1994, Susan Metcalf, BAC, POBox 12727, Dallas, TX 75225) or Gail Manning (DMNH, POBox 150349, Dallas, TX 75315).

"**Fumigants and Pheromones**" is put out by Fumigation Service and Supply, 10540 Jessup, Indianapolis, IN 46280-1451. 317-846-5444. The Fall 1994 issue (issue 36) related how several species of carpet beetles were found in mud dauber nests in the attic of a museum. These beetles were making their way to the textile collection. David Mueller's recommendation was to remove all insect

and bird nests, seal windows and cracks, use pheromone traps and glue boards and monitor them.

Effect of Low Temperature on Preservation and Quality of Insect Specimens Stored in Alcohol. Masner, Lubomir. 1994. *Insect Collection News No. 9*, August 1994.

It has been noted that daylight and storage temperature appear to cause discoloration and maceration of insect specimens stored in alcohol. Storage at or below 0 degrees C seems to ameliorate these problems for insects.

Labelling of Specimens Preserved in Spirit Collections.

Child, R.E. 1994. *Biology Curator's Group Newsletter* 6(4):42.

"High quality and cellulose papers are found to be resistant to most preservative solutions", but Byron-Weston Resistall and Atlantis Archival Copysafe were found to be the most resistant. The author cautions against using Goatskin Parchment manufactured during the last 10 years.

On the State of Preservation of DNA from Museum Spirit Collections. Crisuculo, G. 1994. *Biology Curator's Group Newsletter* 6(4):39-41.

Molecular data from fluid-preserved specimens is often incomplete and fragmented, due exposure to various fixatives and preservatives which act to immobilize protein. However, the author reports that with a trial-and-error approach (necessary because the types of fixatives and preservatives used were rarely recorded), "it is possible to extract viable DNA from the majority of specimens." The best results came from a 100-year-old lizard originally pickled in cheap brandy.

Environmental Control for Spirit Specimens. Horie, V. 1994. *Biology Curator's Group Newsletter* 6(4):43-44.

Reviews the effects of temperature, relative humidity, light, pollutants, mechanical stress, and oxygen on fluid preserved specimens.

Liquid Preservation--How Little We Know. Moore, J.A. 1994. *Biology Curator's Group Newsletter* 6(4):45-47.

Discusses use of fluid preservatives for botanical collections.

What Fluid is in this Bottle? Moore, S.J. 1994. *Biology Curator's Group Newsletter* 6(4):44-45.

Describes a method for using an eye dropper and cut lengths of mapping pens with colored plastic heads to make a device for estimating the specific gravity of a fluid preservative.

A Short Note on Preservatives: the Identification Problem-- a Possible Solution. Nicol, A. 1994. *Biology Curator's Group Newsletter* 6(4):45.

A small piece of Goatskin Parchment sinks quickly in alcohol, floats with curling edges for a bit in formalin, and floats flat in phenoxetol.

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