

# SPNHC Newsletter

Society for the Preservation  
of Natural History Collections

ISSN 1071-2887

August, 1995  
Volume 9, Number 2

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In June we celebrated our tenth anniversary at the SPNHC Annual Meeting in Toronto. 190 registrants attended the conference, which was graciously hosted and carefully detailed by the Royal Ontario Museum. I thank Dr. John McNeil, Director, and Dr. David Brose, Associate Director (Curatorial) for their generous support, both before, and throughout the conference. Their participation strengthened our activities and provided momentum for facing the challenges of the next ten years.

I also commend Janet Waddington, Sheila Bayers, and all of those who helped them in facilitating the conference program activities, and in providing such fine local arrangements, and lecture and meeting facilities. The accommodations for lodging were excellent, and the banquet and entertainment capped the outstanding conference.

As part of our anniversary celebration we were pleased to have Stephen Jay Gould present the keynote address. The scientific program this year was equally impressive, and the papers presented reflected the maturing of the Society's ability to work together to solve common problems, and our accomplishments in forwarding collections care and management goals. The Education and Training Workshop, "Managing the Modern Herbarium", held for two days following the conference, was our first in-depth program on a specialized topic. Finely detailed and organized, the workshop included presentations from a variety of perspectives, challenged our traditional approaches, and stimulated discussions about new directions for the future. The papers from the workshop are being assembled to produce a third book published by SPNHC.

Equally important this year was the first meeting of the SPNHC Long-Range Planning Committee. Based on comments from the council, committee chairs, and other SPNHC members, the Committee spent a productive day in laying the groundwork for redefining SPNHC's mandate and in developing a strategic long range plan. Ably lead by President-Elect Grant Hughes, the planning process clearly emphasized that the political and financial parameters in which our museums are operating have changed, and that our collection responsibilities are changing as well. To effectively meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, SPNHC, in turn, must refocus and reassess its priorities in this evolving political and economic climate.

The spring newsletter will outline the findings and recommendations of the Committee in detail and will request your participation in determining the future directions of the Society.

In the interim, there are several areas that the council and membership can pursue to strengthen the organization. One is to maintain clear, regular communication, and another is to increase the participation of the membership.

In an effort to increase communication about the workings of the Society, the newsletter will regularly publish a new column, "Committee Updates". Information about committee goals and projects and solicitation of input from the membership will be included.

Comments from new members and those of you who have not regularly participated in SPNHC activities is especially welcome. To this end, we have published the names, phone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses of all chairs and council members on the last page of the Newsletter; we encourage you to keep in touch. We challenge each of you to secure two new SPNHC members for 1996. Membership renewal forms are included in this newsletter. Please make and distribute photocopies as you need them. We also would like to hear from you concerning whether SPNHC is addressing your concerns and meeting the needs of members and of the natural history collections community. Please send your comments directly to me or Grant Hughes. We both respond regularly to email.

I would like to direct your attention to p. 2 concerning the awarding of the President's Award to Paisley S. Cato this year. It is through the dedication of members such as Paisley that the SPNHC will successfully move ahead in coming years.

I encourage you to begin thinking about our June 11-15, 1996 annual meeting in Philadelphia. Hosted by the Academy of Natural Sciences, the meeting will be exciting both in content and location. The meeting will be an opportunity to discuss our future directions will be discussed in an open forum. Philadelphia's diversity provides an ideal location for the theme "Historic Natural History Collections". Submit your abstracts early to ensure your participation.

--Carolyn Rose, SPNHC President

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The text of the SPNHC President's Award presentation delivered at the Annual Meeting follows:

This year I have the great pleasure of presenting the SPNHC President's Award. This award is given for significant contributions to SPNHC and is one of the most important awards of the Society. This is only the second time that this award has been given.

The recipient of this award was chosen because of exceptional service to the Society and many recommendations from SPNHC members. Before I present the award, I would like to tell you a bit about the recipient - Dr. Paisley Cato.

On our tenth anniversary, it is particularly appropriate that Paisley Cato be presented with this award. Paisley has worked with the Society throughout the last 10 years and has always given 200% of her time. Since 1986, she has been a member of the Conservation Committee. She has regularly attended meetings, contributed to the working of the Committee, and participated in several sub-committee projects. From 1987-1988, she was editor of the SPNHC newsletter. She was instrumental in getting the Newsletter off the ground and in ensuring its distribution to members and our wider natural history community.

From 1988-1993, she was a member of the Program Committee and of the Executive Committee. Her insight and vision contributed greatly to the development and sound management of the Society during this period of establishing SPNHC as an important interdisciplinary organization. During this same period, she was also the Managing Editor of Collection Forum. Her perseverance in tracking down articles and ensuring their wide peer review led to the journal becoming a regular, on-time publication and high quality. As Chair of the Publications Committee she developed high standard guidelines for all of our publications. She was also diligent in reviewing and copy editing the first SPNHC Storage book.

From 1989 - 1992, she chaired a committee to evaluate collection support positions, and had a major role in writing and producing the SPNHC Collection Care Guidelines, from 1993 - 1994. In addition, Paisley was Co-chair of the Committee on Common Philosophies and Objectives. Since 1993, she has been a member of the Documentation Task Force and she has been a SPNHC Member-at-Large since 1994. During this period she held a full-time job at two different institutions, and produced 26 publications, including a booklet, 3 manuals, and edited a book. She was also a member of 10 other organizations. Anyone who knows Paisley, knows that she is active in those organizations as well.

We have much for which to be grateful to Paisley. Without her high attention to detail, to professionalism, and to excellence, the journal would not have attained the high level it has today. Without Paisley's diligence, we would not have the Collection Care Guidelines or the other excellent articles that she has contributed to Collection

Forum.

Without Paisley's commitment to SPNHC we would not have all of the hard work and outreach efforts that she so unselfishly contributed in support of the organization. It is with great pleasure that I present the President's Award to Dr. Paisley S. Cato. Congratulations, Paisley!

## SPNHC NEWS

### SPNHC '96

11th Annual Meeting Hosted by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 12-15 June 1996. "Historic Natural History Collections."

Given the historic nature of the City of Philadelphia and the institutions within the city and surrounding region, which include some of the earliest scientific, natural history, and library-oriented establishments in the "New World", this seems like a natural theme for a meeting to be held here.

In addition to presentations on general topics, we encourage contributions on the subject of historic collections. We hope to be able to schedule a half-day symposium on the topic.

### Tentative Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, June 11 (late afternoon, selected committee meetings.)

Wednesday, June 12 All day field trip, committee meetings, first council meeting, half-day field trips, opening reception.

Thursday, June 13 Contributed Talks, Keynote address, Symposium (Historic Collections), Banquet/Dance.

Friday, June 14 Contributed Talks, Annual General Meeting, Evening Museum Round Robin.

Saturday, June 15 Workshop: Valuation/Insurance. All day field trip: Behind-the-scenes tour of Winterthur's conservation facilities in the morning, visit to the Delaware Museum of Natural History in the afternoon. Half-day trips may be arranged to the Philadelphia Zoo, Longwood Gardens, Philadelphia waterfront and historic district. Museum Round Robin will include visits to the Wagner Free Institute of Science, the Mutter Museum and the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania.

--Elana Benamy - benamy@say.acnatsci.org

### SPNHC LEAFLETS TO BEGIN IN 1996

At the last SPNHC Council meeting in Toronto, the SPNHC Leaflet project was approved on a trial basis. SPNHC Leaflets will be a new technical bulletin series on topics of natural history care, management and conservation interest.

The Leaflets will be 4-page reports on problems, methods, techniques and materials. Emphasis will be placed on practical, problem-solving approaches. Leaflets content will be reviewed by the SPNHC Publications

Committee with the assistance of the chair of the Conservation Committee.

A 2-year trial run will begin with the first Newsletter issue in 1996. Leaflets will be included in the Newsletter issues for 1996 and 1997. While these will be provided with no additional charge during the test run, the goal is to establish the Leaflets as a separate subscription series in the long run. Evaluation of the need for and popularity of the Leaflets will be ongoing. At the end of 1997, the decision on the Leaflets series will be made by Council based on evaluations.

Ideally, this will establish a new venue for SPNHC publications which are of immediate usefulness but which are not designed to fit the format of Collection Forum articles. Leaflets will be planned as practical training tools and information sources for students and new employees in natural history collections work. The format will accommodate text, wall charts or posters, b/w photos and illustrations, and references.

For further information on some suggested topics, or to suggest topics and/or authors, please contact Sally Shelton, San Diego Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112. Phone (619) 232-3821; FAX (619) 232-0248; email: LIBSDNHM@CLASS.ORG

#### MEMBERS DIRECTORY UPDATE

Win a Free Book: Help us make the new edition of the members directory as accurate as possible. Use the enclosed form to record all pertinent information, especially your email address. Also, circle your discipline. The new directory will have cross-indices to country or state and discipline. If you prefer, you may email the information to the Treasurer (see email address on the form).

FORMS ARE DUE OCTOBER 31 each SPNHC member who returns a form or emails a response will be eligible for the raffle to win a free copy of SPNHC's new book, "Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach" (see the members directory form for details).

#### SPNHC Long Range Plan in Progress

The long range planning process is currently underway in SPNHC. A sessional committee is reviewing the successes and challenges SPNHC has experienced during the past 10 years. The committee will draft a developing vision with a mission and strategic priority statements to guide SPNHC until the year 2000. The committee believes that all members should have an opportunity to comment on the developing plan. A draft of the mission and strategic priority statements will be published in the next newsletter for member review and comment.

Your Long Range Planning Committee members are: Gerald Fitzgerald, Hugh Genoways, Kristine Haglund, Grant Hughes (Chair), Scott Lanyon, Jackie McConachie,

Carolyn Rose, James Solomon, and Stephen Williams.

Please feel free to contact them if you have comments or questions.

#### SPNHC COMMITTEE UPDATES

##### Education and Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee is currently working on the workshop for the 1996 annual meeting in Philadelphia. The topic is Valuation and Insurance of Natural History Collections. Valuation is a tool to help care for collections through setting priorities, assessing costs, allocating resources and managing risks. "Value" is contextual. Scientific value is very important in risk management as a factor in allocating resources. Knowledge of market value helps a museum receive fair compensation to reinvest in the collection if deaccessioned material is sold. Insured value exists to compensate for losses and to give the museum resources to rebuild a collection. Many natural history collections are not insured, or have insurance that is not structured to best serve their needs. This workshop will explore methods and uses of valuation and will cover the basics of choosing insurance that suits your collections.

Do you have strong feelings on this topic? Has your institution experienced significant insured or self-insured losses? Do you know anyone who could contribute expertise to this workshop? Please contact Beth Merritt at 513-345-8508.

##### Finance Committee

New! Life Membership - Membership response to the poll about creating a Life Membership category was good (43% of renewals had responses to the question). The committee recommended and council approved the creation of a life membership category at 25 times the annual yearly regular membership fee. For 1996, this will be \$625.00. Payment may be in one lump sum or spread out over 3 years. Complete information will be included with 1996 renewal forms.

Suzanne McLaren (past Treasurer) will chair the Finance Committee for 1995/96. This will separate daily financial matters (Treasurer's duties) from financial planning (committee concerns). Members who would like to assist the Society with planning long-term financial matters are urged to join the committee by contacting Sue at (412) 665-2615.

##### Elections Committee - Call for Nominations

The Elections Committee of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections announces the closing date for nominations will be 31 October 1995. Nominations are encouraged for President-Elect, Secretary and two Members-at-Large to take office in June 1996. Our society has gained great strength from the dedication of our council members and the involvement of our membership in choosing people who serve us so well. To

submit a nomination or for information on the election process please contact the committee chair Judith Price, via: email: [jprice@mus-nature.ca](mailto:jprice@mus-nature.ca); FAX: (613) 954-7675; Telephone: (613) 954-7679; mailing address: Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443 Station D, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 6P4

#### Documentation Committee

The goals of the Documentation Committee include: work to unify standards for documentation on institutional and disciplinary levels; act as a clearinghouse for sample documents; cooperate with national and international organizations in establishing policies for sharing databases; and facilitate access to information.

This past year the committee gathered information to determine what relevant documentation issues are (or are not) being addressed. Information was broken down into four categories: terminology; documents; electronic information standards and policies; and projects by other organizations.

Paisley Cato and Julia Golden compiled approximately 200 pages of terms with definitions from 28 publications relating to collection management, preservation and conservation, health and safety, electronic systems, archives, registration, and documentation.

Although this project began as a survey of relevant terminology, it quickly became clear that a comprehensive glossary of terms for natural history needed to be published. To meet this objective, Paisley Cato prepared a proposal for the Publications Committee and Council so that this body of work can be made available to the profession. The glossary will be reviewed for missing terms and subject areas, edited further, and may be available for distribution by late 1996.

Paula Sumpter and Jackie Zak are currently discussing the development of a SPNHC Web page. Beyond helping members find useful information on the Internet, the Web page will also be used to distribute information about SPNHC to an international community of Internet users.

Many organizations throughout the world are investigating documentation issues. Rather than recreating these activities, the committee is seeking information about projects already in progress. So far Jackie Zak has collected descriptions on projects of the International Documentation Committee of ICOM, various projects for the Getty Art History Information Program, the Museum Documentation Association, and the Computer Interchange of Museum Information (CIMI.)

--Jackie Zak, Committee Chair.

#### SPNHC'95 - A LAUNCH INTO THE NEXT DECADE

The SPNHC 10th Annual Meeting was held at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada from June 2-6, 1995. The meeting had an overwhelming attendance of 190 registrants from eight countries. Nearly one-third of the registrants actively participated in the meeting by

presenting a talk, poster, or demonstration, or by leading a discussion group. Our keynote speaker, Stephen Jay Gould, took us on a stimulating tour of the evolution of the underlying philosophies behind collecting and collections. Later Saturday evening, 120 people got a taste of Toronto's Greek cuisine and rollicked to Dixieland Jazz at the banquet. An impromptu side show by the Britts in the crowd was probably indicative of the good time had by all!

The most sobering moment of the meeting came during a presentation on the fate of a natural history museum in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We were all painfully reminded of the fragility of collections, people and states and how important it is to support colleagues working in areas of conflict around the world. Our thanks to those who brought this message forward.

The Education and Training Workshop, "Managing the Modern Herbarium" was held at the University of Toronto immediately following the annual meeting. Co-sponsored by the ROM Department of Botany, this was the first discipline-specific workshop produced by the Education and Training Committee. The workshop was attended by 95 botanists, collections managers and conservators representing 63 institutions from 6 different countries. The two-day program provided a lively forum for discussion of contemporary herbarium issues. The informal "Information Bazaar" was so well-liked that some people want to take it on the road. Proceedings of the workshop will be published as a SPNHC special publication in 1996.

Financial assistance for the 1995 meeting and workshop was provided by The Bay Foundation, The Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage, The Royal Ontario Museum Foundation Endowment Fund, Huntington T. Block Insurance Agency, and John A. Woods Appraiser.

On behalf of the SPNHC'95 Local Organizing Committee we would like to thank the many people who contributed to the success of this meeting. Best wishes to the 1996 Organizing Committee. We look forward to coming to Philadelphia for some R & R!

-- Sheila Byers

#### THE SPNHC FABER AWARD: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

At the 1994 Annual Meeting, the SPNHC Council activated the Faber Award by setting up a \$500 cash award for the best research proposal involving management, care, conservation, or use of natural history collections. This award has been established to further promote the objectives of the Society.

Applicants for the Faber Award must be SPNHC members in good standing for at least 12 months prior to the award date. The successful applicant will be expected to present a final or interim report at the 1997 Annual Meeting. Also, the successful applicant will be expected to

publish the results, with the understanding the manuscript will be sent first to the SPNHC Publications Committee for publication consideration.

Each applicant may submit only one proposal. The cover sheet should include a project title, name(s) of project personnel (including title, address, and phone/fax number), and a single-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 events.) supporting information (e.g., matching resources, prior experience, ability to complete project.) and proposed use of funds. The text of acceptable proposals should be double-spaced, 10 or 12 characters per inch, with one-inch margins, and not exceed 10 pages. References and appendices (e.g., itemized budget, curriculum vitae, letters of commitment) may be single-spaced.

Proposals must be postmarked before 31 January 1996. Proposal submissions and questions regarding proposals should be directed to the SPNHC Awards and Recognition Committee (Stephen L. Williams, Chair; Awards and Recognition Committee; Strecker Museum Complex; Baylor University; P. O. Box 97154; Waco, Texas 76798-7154; Phone 817-755-1110; FAX 817-755-2673).

#### CALL FOR 1996 AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Awards and Recognition Committee is accepting nominations for the SPNHC AWARD and the PRESIDENT'S AWARD. These awards are given only when an appropriate candidate is identified. Final decisions are based on documentary information and approval from the SPNHC Council.

The SPNHC AWARD is given in recognition of an individual's significant contributions to the objectives of the Society. Normally, a nominee's lifetime achievements are considered. In addition to the general information required, each nomination should include at least two letters of recommendation from members or non-members.

The PRESIDENT'S AWARD is given in recognition of a SPNHC member's distinguished service to the development and continued success of SPNHC. Nominees must have performed significant service to the Society, outside of Presidential positions. Normally this would involve exceptional service to offices, committees, and/or ongoing activities of SPNHC. Nominees must be current or previous members of SPNHC.

For both awards, multiple nominations for the same individual are encouraged. Nominations must include the name of the nominee, name of the award proposed, a description of important contributions of the nominee, and other documentation supporting consideration of the nominee for the award in question.

Nominations and related questions should be directed to the SPNHC Awards and Recognition Committee by 30 November 1995. (Stephen L. Williams, Chair; Awards and Recognition Committee; Strecker Museum Complex; Baylor University; P. O. Box 97154;

Waco, Texas 76798-7154; Phone 817-755-1110; FAX 817-755-2673).

#### MEMBER NEWS

Stephen Williams has recently moved from the Museum of Texas Tech University to the Strecker Museum and Department of Museum Studies of Baylor University. His new appointments are Collections Manager with the museum and Assistant Professor with the department. The Department of Museum Studies provides undergraduate and graduate museum training. Williams will be providing input for the development of education and training opportunities for the natural history profession. Starting immediately, Williams can be contacted at the Strecker Museum Complex, Baylor University, P. O. Box 97154, Waco, Texas 76798-7154 (Phone 817-755-1110; FAX 817-755-2673).

#### MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/COURSES

##### Second World Congress:

The Geological Conservation Unit and the Department of Earth Sciences of the University of Cambridge are organizing the Second International Symposium and World Congress on the Preservation of Natural History Collections to occur August 20-24, 1996 at St. Johns College, Cambridge, U.K.

The second Congress will continue the work of the first Congress by bringing leading figures in industry, research, education and natural science museums together to discuss future developments and a joint cooperative approach towards the challenges presented by the preservation of natural science collections, and to look at the practical aspects of putting the strategies in place. The Congress is co-sponsored by several collections support organizations, including the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections and the Association of Systematics Collections.

For more information please contact: Chris Collins, Natural Sciences Congress '96, Geological Conservation Unit, Department of Earth Sciences, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB 2 3EQ, United Kingdom, telephone: (0223) 62522, FAX: (0223) 60779.

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 1996 ASC Meeting:

"Global Genetic Resources: Access, Ownership and Intellectual Property Rights" will be the topic of the 1996 Annual meeting of the Association of Systematics Collections, to be held in conjunction with the Beltsville Symposium at the Beltsville, MD Agricultural Research Center, May 19-22, 1996. Scientists from around the world will explore issues related to ownership of and access to genetic resources and biological specimens. Among the subjects discussed will be access to collecting and collections; the international distribution of germplasm; the exchange of scientific information on biodiversity; and current policies and trends related to ownership and

exchange of genetic and biological resources. International experts will address subjects related to biological resources for comparative taxonomic study, including food and fiber crops, insects that are natural enemies of crop pests and microorganisms like fungi, yeasts and parasites.

ASC will also sponsor a 1 1/2-day, pre-symposium workshop on public affairs advocacy (May 18-19). For more information about the pre-symposium workshop call Elaine Hoagland 202-347-2850; FAX 202-347-0072; email [mnhas001@sivm.si.edu](mailto:mnhas001@sivm.si.edu). For more information about the symposium contact Amy Y. Rossman 301-504-5364; FAX 301-504-5810; email: [amy@fungi.ars-grin.gov](mailto:amy@fungi.ars-grin.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

The Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria in British Columbia is offering an eight day immersion course in January for museum professionals who are managing or working with natural history collections: "Preserving Natural History Collections". The diverse specimens which make up natural history collections hold a wealth of information for researchers, curators and educators concerned with environmental, scientific and social issues. The integrity and value of these specimens is compromised and diminished, however, if they are not effectively cared for in the museum setting. This immersion course focuses on the preservation principles and methods which provide a foundation for long-term care, maintenance, research, exhibition and educational uses of both organic and inorganic specimens. Through lectures, laboratory sessions and field trips, the following topics will be addressed: history and philosophies of natural history collections development; ethical obligations and concerns; setting conservation standards and objectives; traditional and new collection and preparation methods; interaction of specimen materials with preservation methods and environments; storage considerations.

Dates: January 17 - 26, 1996; Instructor: Mary Lou Florian, Conservation Scientist and Conservator Emeritus, Royal British Columbia Museum; Fee: \$589 (Canadian Funds); Accommodation: Bed & breakfast accommodation is available on campus at a rate of \$55 per night.

Please let us know if you would like to receive further information and registration materials. Joy Davis, Program Director Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, Phone 604-721-8462; FAX 604-721-8774; email [joydavis@uvcs.uvic.ca](mailto:joydavis@uvcs.uvic.ca).

For detailed program information, please visit our Web Site at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/crmphome.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

Carry on Collecting? Developing a Strategy for the Future of Collecting: An International Interdisciplinary Conference at the University of Leicester, 14-17 April 1996.

Museums are at a crossroads - questioning the value of existing collections, confused by the wealth of contemporary material to collect and uncertain of their collecting role in the future.

This conference is focused on the action of

collecting. Collecting by museums has often been unfocused or undertaken in isolation. The resource created has been criticized as being unrepresentative and unmanageable. Though a key museum activity, the process of collecting has received relatively little serious academic or managerial attention.

The conference builds upon the existing role of museums as collecting agencies in society to consider how they can achieve the best possible practice. By gathering together expertise from around the world this conference aims to examine and develop strategies for collecting which go beyond the limitations of current approaches. Drawing on both the theoretical perspectives of academics and the pioneering work of museum practitioners, our goal is to provide a strategy to guide collecting in the future. This strategy will enable the analysis of collecting issues, providing direction and structure for developments at both the macro and micro level.

The conference aims to take a new approach in attempting to tackle these challenging issues. Every delegate will be an active participant and be given the opportunity to contribute to the conclusions of the conference. Key speakers will set the agenda and museum practitioners will present case studies to provide a context for debate. Discussion groups will draw up programmes of action. The results of these discussion groups will be reported back to the conference, and explored with a wider museum audience using the Internet.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THIRD WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY

The Third World Congress of Herpetology will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, 2-10 August 1997. It will cover all fields of herpetology, including paleoherpetology. The scientific programme will be divided into 2 parts with one intervening day of professional excursions. It is expected that there will be some accompanying events such as an exhibition in the National Museum, "Origin and Evolution of European Herpetofauna," where both fossil and contemporary amphibians and reptiles will be seen on the background of European paleogeography. The social programme will include a beer party in a medieval Prague brewery, a steamboat cruise on the river, and a concert of the old Czech music, and more. A wide choice of 1-day trips into various parts of the country for accompanying persons will be prepared as well. Post-congress tours that are prepared by CBT travel agency will include central Asia (e.g. Tashkent and Samarkand), sight-seeing in central European countries, or Archaeopteryx and ichthyosaurs in the tour through south Germany.

First announcement of the Congress with all necessary information was just published as a poster and will be distributed to all institutions that cover herpetology and/or paleoherpetology, and to all national herpetological societies. Individuals and institutions wishing to get one should write or e-mail their mailing addresses to Zbynek Rocek.

It is intended to keep the registration fee as low as

possible, in order to make participation possible for students. Contact: Zbynek Rocek, Congress Director, Department of Paleontology, Academy of Sciences, Rozvojova 135, 165 00 Prague 6 - Suchbát, Czech Republic, Tel.: (+422) 24311421; Fax: (+422) 24311578; E-mail: rocek@gli.cas.cz; World Wide Web: www.gli.cas.cz; Mail server: wch-source@gli.cas.cz

\*\*\*\*\*

Diversity By Design: A Museum Professionals Workshop, presented by the Museums Council of New York City, sponsored by the International Design Center, November 3, 1995.

The Museums Council of New York is presenting "Diversity By Design: a Museum Professionals Workshop" sponsored by the International Design Center. The conference will be take place at IDC in Long Island City on November 3rd from 9 AM to 3:30 PM.

Three panels, consisting of both museum staff and design professionals, will make presentations. These panels are:

Designing for Diverse Audiences: What are successful processes for creating exhibits and programs that attract diverse audiences? What design strategies can be brought to bear upon the important museum mandate to include non-traditional audiences of all types? This panel will address these issues with regard to audiences from diverse cultural, racial, educational, and economic backgrounds, as well as audiences with disabilities and different ways of learning.

Designing to Express Diverse Viewpoints: How do museums create exhibits which express divergent viewpoints, particularly viewpoints which may not represent mainstream perspectives? Contemporary discourse presents fragmented and often competing models of history, culture, social issues, education, and aesthetics; how do museums design exhibits and programs to address this diversity?

Designing with Diverse Media: Contemporary museum exhibits and programs incorporate an extraordinary array of media, including original objects, text and graphics, and digital images, sounds, and hypertext. The increasing use of computers and networks in the creation and dissemination of museum exhibits and programs raises important questions about the primacy of original objects in the museum, as well as other long-standing assumptions about the museum experience. Therefore, this panel will not only address advances in digital technology, but also the fundamental rationales for using different media in museum exhibits and programs.

We expect an audience of 200-300 from both the museum and the design professions, and announcements in trade publications as well as the local press. IDC will provide transportation from Manhattan, audio-visual equipment as required, and logistical support for the conference.

For further information, please contact Eric Siegel (718) 817-8562, or esiegel@nybg.org

\*\*\*\*\*

IMS Plans National Conference for museum and school Partners

The Institute of Museum Services is planning a national conference for museum and school partners to be held November 10-12, 1995 in Washington, DC. "Museums and Schools: Partners for Education" will bring together museums and schools involved in partnerships to define and share strategies which expand educational opportunities for our nation's school children. During this three-day conference, participants will join with experienced practitioners, government leaders, and visionary thinkers from across the country to discuss and explore successful models and critical issues related to museum and school collaborations. The conference program is designed to provide extensive opportunity for information sharing through roundtable discussions, poster sessions, and interview panels.

All applicants to the Museum Leadership Initiative program in 1994 or 1995 are eligible to participate and will be given first priority. All other participants are encouraged to apply and will be accommodated based on space availability.

To receive your conference registration materials and participate in this important national dialogue, please send your name and address to emezvinsky@ims.fed.us or call Elsa Mezvinsky at 202/606-8536.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas at Austin, in conjunction with International Academic Projects, London, will be offering the course, "Making High Quality Replicas of Museum Objects", November 6-10, 1995. It will be taught by Dr. E. Benner Larsen, international expert on moldmaking and toolmarks on ancient objects. Participants in this highly developed practical laboratory course will learn the techniques of making high quality resin replicas for research, exhibition and conservation purposes. Topics will include: molding and casting materials and their safe use; mold making principles; making silicon rubber molds for multiple replicas; mixing, storing and using epoxy resin; the application of pigments; finishing and retouching. For more information contact: Course Coordinator, Materials Conservation Laboratory, Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas at Austin, PRC #122, 10100 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78758, tel. (512)471-6090, fax (512)471-6092.

## EMPLOYMENT

The Assistant Curator of Natural History position at the Nevada State Museum has now officially opened with employment beginning in October 1995. It is a state position with salary ranging from \$27,824 to \$37,480. An individual with a zoological background (vertebrate and/or arthropod) is being sought for this position with a heavy collection care/management emphasis; there may be some

exhibit development in the near future; this is not a position for someone with a heavy interest in research. The natural history department is small: currently only one person, the curator (who is a botanist) - so the position would be ideal for a "jack-of all-trades" type, particularly one with a fondness for and an ability with computers.

Applications are available from:

Vivian Kuhn, Department of Personnel, 209 E. Musser Street, Suite 101, Capitol Complex, Carson City, Nevada 89710; 702/687-3727. She'll be able to help you with questions about the hiring process and specifics about pay & benefits. If you have questions about the nature of the position and/or the museum, contact me.

-- Ann Pinzl

Executive Director: Archives and Manuscript Library

The Amistad Research Center is a manuscript library that collects papers of families and individuals, records of organizations and institutions, documents America's ethnic history, race relations, civil rights, and the African diaspora. Presently the Center employs eight professional and support staff and about twelve undergraduate and graduate student assistants. The Center holds approximately six hundred manuscript collections that run over six thousand linear feet. The holdings also include books, serials, microfilm, videotape, and a magnificent art collection of African and African American art.

The executive director provides leadership, develops programs, and coordinates activities, including budgeting and fund raising, supervision of archival and manuscript collections processing, and establishing regulations for making the holdings accessible for research use. The executive director reports to a board of directors. A possible joint appointment in the appropriate academic department may be negotiated. Rank and teaching requirements would also be negotiable.

A Ph.D. degree, with a good knowledge of ethnic history and archival procedures, administrative experience, the ability to develop fund raising and collection enhancement and experience with computer-based library systems are essential.

Salary: Commensurate with educational qualifications and experience, minimum \$55,000.00. Comprehensive benefits package, including annual four-weeks vacation after one year, FICA, health and insurance benefits after three months, and pension benefits after three years. Review of applications will begin after September 30 and continue until the position is filled. Send letter of application, resume, and names of three references to Dr. Andrea Jefferson, president and chair of the board of directors, Amistad Research Center, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118.

## RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

The San Diego Model Railroad Museum now has a home page. The San Diego Model Railroad Museum (SDMRM) has the world's largest operating model railroad exhibit. To see this museum: <http://www.globalinfo.com/Non-Profit.HTML>

The Musee de la Civilisation of Quebec City announces a new web site. In this first version of our web site, you will find the Museum Program giving a short introduction to our thematical exhibitions. The url is: <http://www.gouv.qc.ca/francais/minorg/museeciv/> This site is bilingual.

The Milwaukee Public Museum, Inc. now has a web site at <http://www.mei.com/other/mpm/welcome.html>. The site will include collection databases from the natural history areas as well as other research and exhibit information.

New museum and collections sites on the Web can be located through the "Subway" located at the University of California - Berkeley Museum of Paleontology Web site. The url: <http://www.berkeley.edu>.

## SVP NEWS

Outreach, a standing committee of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, will mail out a newsletter issue in September to start a newsletter forum. The first issue will be sent by regular mail, but information exchanged on the internet possibilities will be discussed at the committee's annual meeting, the date and time of which will be posted in the newsletter (this will be part of the SVP meeting in Pittsburgh). If you have articles of interest to amateurs in vertebrate paleontology, or if you want to be sure that you are on the mailing address (street addresses needed), please let me know by September 15. Thanks! Sally Shelton, Director, Collections Care and Conservation, Chair, Outreach Committee, SVP San Diego Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112 USA; phone (619) 232-3821; FAX (619) 232-0248; email [LIBSDNHM@CLASS.ORG](mailto:LIBSDNHM@CLASS.ORG)

## IMS TAG GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Institute of Museum Services is offering Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) to museums with budgets no greater than \$250,000. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available, with up to \$2,500 for professional training and \$2,500 for implementation. TAG grants are available for training in administration, collections care and management, exhibits, education, marketing and communications, and facility operations. If you are interested in applying, contact Patricia Ullberg, IMS Program Officer at 202-606-8539.

How about helping to identify small museums in your area that might benefit from a TAG grant? While the program has been able to fund 61% of applicants, IMS



finds that very few natural history museums are applying. This may be in part from lack of awareness of the program. If you would like to distribute information, contact Patricia Ullberg at the number given above. If one of the museums you contact is interested in receiving training in collections care or management, SPNHC could act as a resource for identifying appropriate training opportunities. You can supply the name of Elizabeth Merritt, co-chair, Education and Training Committee, phone 513-345-8508 as an initial contact.

## PRODUCTS/SERVICES

### Fumigation Equipment

Vacudyne Incorporated, the leading manufacturer of gas fumigation equipment, has developed a new system that will use nitrogen, argon, or carbon dioxide. This process is called anoxia/oxygen deprivation. For more information and a free quotation, please contact Vacudyne at 708-757-5200.

## SPNHC NAMES AND ADDRESSES

As promised in the President's Report, here are the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of all council members and committee chairs.

**President:** Carolyn Rose, National Museum of Natural History, Anthropology, NIIH-362, Mail Stop 112, Washington, DC 20560-0001; 202-786-2931; email mnhan150@sivm.si.edu.

**Secretary:** Elizabeth Taylor, Royal British Columbia Museum, 675 Belleville St., Victoria, BC V8V 1X4, Canada; 604-356-8791; etaylor@rbm101.rbcm.gov.bc.ca

**Treasurer:** Julia Golden, Geology, Trowbridge Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1379; 319-335-1822; j-golden@uiowa.edu

**Council Member:** Gregory Brown, University of Nebraska State Museum, W-436 NII UNL, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68588-0514; 402-472-2657; gbrown@unlinfo.unl.edu.

**Council Member:** Sally Y. Shelton, San Diego Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112; 619-232-3821; libsdnhm@class.org.

**Council Member:** Beth Merritt, Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, 1720 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45202; 513-345-8508; FAX: 513-345-8501.

**Council Member:** Ann Pinzl, Nevada State Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710-0001; 702-687-4810; pinzl@scs.unr.edu.

**Archives Committee:** J. Phillip Angle, National Museum of

Natural History, Division of Birds and Mammals, Washington, DC 20560-0001 202-357-2031; nmhvt027@sivm.si.edu.

**Awards and Recognition Committee:** Stephen L. Williams, Strecker Museum Complex; Baylor University; P. O. Box 97154; Waco, Texas 76798-7154; Phone 817-755-1110; steve\_williams@baylor.edu.

**Bylaws Committee:** Gerald R. Fitzgerald, Canadian Museum of Nature, PO Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa ON K1P 6P4, Canada; 613-954-0358; gfitz@mus-nature.ca.

**Conference Committee:** Grant Hughes, Royal British Columbia Museum, 675 Belleville St., Victoria, BC V8V 1X4, Canada; 604-953-4336; gwhughes@rbm101.rbcm.gov.bc.ca

**Conservation Committee:** Barbara Moore, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, P.O. Box 208228, New Haven, CT 06520-8118; 202-432-3965; barbara.moore@yale.edu.

**Documentation Committee:** Jacqueline Zak, Getty Conservation Institute, 4503 Glencoe Ave, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292-6537; 310-822-2299; jzak@getty.edu

**Education and Training Committee:** Sheila C. Byers, Royal Ontario Museum, Invertebrate Zoology, 100 Queens Park, Toronto, ON M5S 2C6, Canada; 416-586-8041; sheilab@rom.on.ca.

Beth Merritt.

**Election Committee:** Judith Price, Canadian Museum of Nature, PO Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, ON K1P 6P4, Canada; 613-954-7679; jprice@mus-nature.ca.

**Executive Committee:** Carolyn Rose.

**Finance Committee:** Suzanne B. McLaren, The Carnegie MNH/O'Neil Research Center, 5800 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA, 15206-3706; 412-665-2615.

**Membership Committee:** Ann Pinzl.

**Publication Committee:** John E. Simmons, Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454; 913-864-3342; jsimmons@kuhub.cc.kans.edu.

Paula M. Sumpter, Information Services, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53233; 414-278-2740; ps@mpm1.mpm.edu.

**Resources Committee:** Iris Hardy, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, PO Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2, Canada; 902-426-6127; ihardy@gsc.emo.ca

**SPNHC COUNCIL**

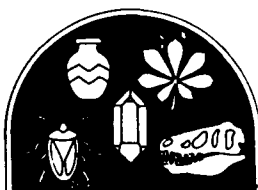
President - Carolyn L. Rose  
Past-President - Gerald R. Fitzgerald  
President Elect - Grant Hughes  
Secretary - Elizabeth Taylor  
Treasurer - Julia Golden  
Managing Editor -- John E. Simmons  
Members-at-Large  
1996 - Gregory Brown  
Sally Y. Shelton  
1997 - Paisley Cato  
Suzanne McLaren  
1998 - Beth Merritt  
Ann Pinzl

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Archives Committee - J. Phillip Angle  
Awards and Recognition Committee - Stephen L. Williams  
Bylaws Committee - Gerald R. Fitzgerald  
Conference Committee - Grant Hughes  
Conservation Committee - Barbara Moore  
Documentation - Jacqueline Zak  
Education and Training Committee - Sheila C. Byers and Beth Merritt  
Election Committee - Judith Price  
Executive Committee - Carolyn Rose  
Finance Committee - Suzanne McLaren  
Membership Committee - Ann Pinzl  
Publication Committee - John E. Simmons and Paula M. Sumpter  
Resources Committee - Iris Hardy

SPNHC Newsletter  
Editor - Paula M. Sumpter

SPNHC Newsletter  
Paula M. Sumpter  
Milwaukee Public Museum  
800 W. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1478



**SPNHC** NEWSLETTER is a benefit of membership in the SPNHC and is published biannually, summer and winter. Address all inquiries concerning membership to SPNHC Treasurer. Inquiries concerning newsletter content should be addressed to the editor. Deadlines for submitting information for inclusion in the SPNHC NEWSLETTER are January 15 and July 15.

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

