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SPNHC NEWSLETTER

*Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections*

*February 2001
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DATABASING IN INVERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY: ONE COLLECTION'S CASE HISTORY

RUSSELL D. ("TIM") WHITE¹ AND LAWRENCE F. GALL²

¹*Division of Invertebrate Paleontology and* ²*Computer Systems Office, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, 170 Whitney Avenue, P.O. Box 208118, New Haven, CT 06520-8118 USA*

In 2001, the natural history museum community by and large treats electronic databasing of collections as an element of standard practice and policy. Arguably, though, given the youth of the computing revolution and the long institutional history of many collections, a most remarkable result is that collections databases actually exist, are common, and function. Because many collections now routinely grapple with computerization, and have diverse but often unpublished stories about their experiences, we would like to share a case history of one collections' databasing efforts.

The Peabody Museum at Yale University is organized into ten curatorial Divisions, encompassing Anthropology through Vertebrate Zoology, each of which maintains separate collections. The Invertebrate Paleontology Division's collection is the largest at the museum, at 350,000 estimated specimen lots or about 4.5 million specimens. The entire holdings of the museum is believed to be upwards of twelve million specimens and artifacts, along with a variety of associated ledgers, field notes, maps, photographs and other documentation.

Invertebrate Paleontology, along with Invertebrate Zoology and Vertebrate Paleontology, were the first Divisions at the museum to begin experimenting seriously with electronic databasing back in the mid 1980s. This was mostly done by the respective collections managers in the Divisions, using dBase

II/III. With these simple software programs, Invertebrate Paleontology created what at the time was a modestly complex data model, linking specimen, locality, supporting documentation (e.g., field notes) and publication files to try to track determinations and type citations. However, by the end of the decade, with on the order of only 10,000 records entered, these Divisions were encountering difficulties.

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Best Practices – what does that imply?

PAISLEY S. CATO

San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, 1788 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101 USA

One of the topics that generated substantial interest during the survey and discussions on research priorities for natural history collections conservation was the concept of "best practices". There is an awareness among professionals that certain techniques and protocols are more appropriate or effective than others, but the question surfaces, "what are they?" The professional community wants to improve the quality of care and management of natural history collections and is requesting "best practices."

However, what constitutes a "best practice?" Suppose a symposium is held on the topic,

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

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

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

Deadlines for future newsletters are August 8, 2001, February 6, 2002, and August 7, 2002.

Presidential Profile

SUZANNE B. McLAREN

Section of Mammals, Carnegie Museum of Natural History,
5800 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15206-3706, USA

In August 2000, just before the last Newsletter went to press, we received word that a grant proposal supported by the Conservation Committee had been funded. The award from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) funds a symposium on pesticide residues in museum collection to be developed in collaboration with the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. The funding is being administered through the SPNHC Treasurer's Office. Newsletter Editor Tim White saw to it that our members read the first press release regarding this grant in the August Newsletter. Inquiries about the symposium have demonstrated intense interest in the subject. Although, participation is limited to approximately thirty invited individuals who are actively doing work on pesticide residues, the results will be made available to the many audiences for which this subject is of great interest. Details regarding this very focused symposium appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. However, I must say a word about the dedication of the Organizing Committee. With only about six months to gather speakers and participants and to complete arrangements for the program, the Organizing Committee has been working very hard to assure that the goals of the symposium can be achieved. Organizing Committee members are: Dr. Judy Bischoff, Harper's Ferry Center, NPS (author of the grant proposal); Scott Carroll, Alaska State Museum; Catharine Hawks, Private Conservator; Jessica Johnson, Museum Management Program, NPS; James Pepper Henry, National Museum of the American Indian; and Dr. Stephen L. Williams, Baylor University.

The recommendations of the Sessional Committee on Long-Range Planning (LRPC) were described in several parts of the last Newsletter as well as on our website. Last fall the Chairs of each standing committee reviewed the goals and activities developed by the LRPC and identified those activities that fit into the roles of their respective committees. It was an interesting exercise in self-examination for the committees to connect concrete activities of their

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Treasurer's Report

LISA F. PALMER

Division of Fishes, National Museum of
Natural History, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, DC 20560 USA

The 2001 fiscal year is off to a good start. Over 504 member and library subscribers have renewed. It is never too late to renew, and if you still need to do so, please send in your dues SPNHC, P.O. Box 797 Washington DC 20044-0797 USA. A membership form can be obtained at the SPNHC WWW site, www.spnhc.org.

Book sales have been sluggish since last year. *Storage of Natural History Collections: Ideas and Practical Solutions* continues to be out-of-stock. Lack of "Ideas" appears to have adversely affected sales of *Storage of Natural History: A Preventive Conservation Approach* as the books are often sold as a two-volume set. *Managing the Modern Herbarium* continues to be sold by our fulfillment house, Creative Connections (formerly Elton-Wolf Publishing). Order forms for SPNHC publication can be obtained at the SPNHC WWW site.

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A SPNHC Wedding

On December 12, 2000, Andy Bentley and Lori Schlenker were wed in a short civil service in Elkton, Maryland. Andy is the former collection manager at the J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology in Grahamstown, South Africa and Lori is a former Assistant Move Manager at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. Andy and Lori first met at the SPNHC 98 meeting in Edmonton, Alberta. Their love blossomed at the SPNHC 99 meeting in Washington, DC as Andy was at Lori's side to care for her after her unfortunate hammock accident the night before the meeting began.

On the morning of December 12, a surprise send off for Lori and Andy was staged at the Constitution Avenue entrance to NMNH by SPNHC members and other Smithsonian staff. Friends waved spinach leaves and packing materials at Andy and Lori as they came out of the main entrance. The bride was presented with a lovely bouquet of spinach and kale by Lisa Palmer, SPNHC Treasurer who also made brief remarks. The happy couple departed NMNH in a stretch limousine with the wedding party enroute to Elkton. The newly weds now reside in Lawrence, Kansas where Andy has accepted a position as Collection Manager of Fishes at the University's natural history museum.

Liz Dietrich
National Museum of Natural History

NEW & REINSTATED MEMBERS

Barbara Adams	Robert B. Hole Jr.
Teodora Bagarinao	Remko W. T. Jansonius
Anita L. Benedict	Jill Kerr
Anna-Marie Bratton	Mark Kitson
Allison Brooks	Dale A. Kruse
Paul A. Brown	James Ladonski
Terry L. Chase	Suzanne Lewis
Carla Cicero	William Lindsay
Tamar Danufsky	James Macklin
Rachel Delovio	Sam Marshall
Elizabeth DeRose	Jane Mason
Thomas DiBenedetto	Darci Mero
Daniel W. Dunn	Ann Molineux
Amy D. Estep	Yaneth Munoz-Saba
Robert C. Faucett	Rebecca A. Peters
Tim Fedak	Beryl C. Roach
Heather Finlayson	Margaret Rose Ronning
Paul M. Finnegan	Jessica Rosales
John Friel	Mark A. Sepanski
Vicki Gambill	Toni Superchi
Jim Gardner	Scott L. Thomas
Jude Gasparro	Gregory J. Watkins-Colwell
William Grewe-Mullins	Richard White
Amy Halter	Jackie Wilke
Barbara Hamann	Wendy B. Zomlefer
Alan Hart	

Life Membership

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

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

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

Lisa F. Palmer, Treasurer
National Museum of Natural History

Many thanks to Delta Design for contributing \$100 to the production of this issue of the Newsletter!

Conservation Committee Update

Janet Waddington maintains the Canadian resource display unit (RDU). Janet reports that there is a pending request from conservator Helen Cox (who helped to develop the unit) to use the display unit for a weekend workshop in March. Cindy Ramotnik maintains the American resource display unit. Since the August, the display unit has traveled to one venue, the "Saving Your family Treasures Preservation Fair" at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, PA. Contact Janet or Cindy if you are interested in helping with the Resources Subcommittee or if you would like to request the display. Bookings are always welcomed and encouraged. Connect with the Resources Subcommittee link on the SPNHC website.

Paula Work reports that she is more than knee-deep in moving collections at the moment and has requested that we call upon someone new to handle recording the citations. Paula has done an outstanding job over the years and deserves all the kudos we can bestow in her direction. If you have recently recorded any citations, or if you are interested in catching Paula's passed baton, please contact her at work3@fuse.net or pwork@cincymuseum.org. Thanks for your help.

Cathy Hawks has provided a great update on the forthcoming symposium on the legal, ethical, analytical, epidemiological, and cultural sensitivity issues associated with repatriation of museum objects contaminated with pesticide residues. See Cathy's notice in the General announcement section about this retreat.

We encourage Conservation Committee members to consider developing research projects that complement the work of SPNHC and their disciplinary needs. We look forward to hearing about any of these projects, as well as the next round of subcommittee updates, at the SPNHC annual meeting in San Francisco. If you have news, thoughts, suggestions, etc. please feel free to contact co-chairs Lisa Kronthal, American Museum of Natural History (kronth@amnh.org) and Jude Southward, Denver Museum of Nature and Science (jsouthward@dmns.org).

*Lisa Kronthal, Co-Chair
American Museum of Natural History*

*Jude Southward, Co-Chair
Denver Museum of Nature and Science*

Publications Committee

Several things have been happening on the Publications front. By the time you read this, Collection Forum 15(1-2) should be on its way to you, if it has not already arrived. The digital files for reprinting Storage of Natural History Collections: Ideas and Practical Solutions have been collated and trans-

ferred to CD-ROM, so that reprinting should be a simple process. The new Glossary of terms is nearing production. Printing of these two volumes should follow soon. Watch the SPNHC website for availability. The committee is exploring options for fulfilment of book orders.

Take a few minutes occasionally to check out the SPNHC website to find out what's new. If you have any questions or comments on the website please contact Jon Greggs (greggs@geo.ucalgary.ca) or Janet Waddington (janetw@rom.on.ca).

In October, we were asked to publish the proceedings of a working conference on Contamination of Museum Materials and the Repatriation process for Californian Indians held at San Francisco State University in the fall of 2000 as a dedicated issue of Collection Forum. Papers for this issue are in the review stage. At the same time, papers for the next regular issue of Collection Forum are in review. More manuscripts are always welcome. Please submit the results of your research on collections issues.

I am sorry to report that Tim White, our very able Newsletter Editor since August 1997, has asked to be relieved of this responsibility as of this issue, citing increased responsibilities in his "real" job. Tim, who said you need weekends and holidays? The Newsletter is a vital vehicle for transmitting important news and keeping SPNHC members in touch. If you are interested in taking on this important job, please contact the Managing Editor. I'm sure Tim will be happy to provide any information about what the job entails. Meanwhile, I take this opportunity to say "Thank you, Tim, for four years of dedicated production."

*Janet Waddington, Chair
Royal Ontario Museum*

Treasurer's Report... continued from page 2

In the last half of 2000, SPNHC formally received a \$22,170 grant from the US National Park Service (NCPTT). The grant is for, "A Symposium on the Preservation of Native American and Historical Natural History Collections Contaminated with Pesticide Residues." Additional monies to support the symposium have been received from American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) Objects Specialty Group and AIC Research and Technical Studies Group. Additional information concerning this symposium can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Treasurer is in the midst of preparing the FY2000 documents to go to the SPNHC accountants. A full report of the financial health of the Society will be presented at the 2001 Annual Meeting in San Francisco with an overview provided in the August 2001 Newsletter.

Databasing...

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For one, the collections managers found they were spending large amounts of time debugging and maintaining their own database applications, and that this detracted significantly from using the databases as productive tools. It was also apparent that issues facing individual Divisions in fact applied universally to all the Divisions, and so there was ongoing duplication of effort. The wheel was being reinvented again and again. For example, database output needs were similar, and information being input was common to more than one Division, such as accession details, names and affiliations of collectors, etc. This was particularly true for incoming material during the late 19th and early 20th centuries: those specimens often initially arrived at the museum as a cohesive unit (sharing the same acquisition history) but were subsequently distributed to the respective curatorial Divisions. The museum has large amounts of such old material, much of which is rich in important type specimens, but too often the documentation for these specimens had become orphaned or fragmented among the Divisions.

Invertebrate Paleontology and the museum as a whole needed a more efficient structure, and so in late 1991 the Peabody established a Systems Office charged with assisting collections-based computing. It also obtained a commercial relational database system for museums (Argus, developed by Questor Systems) that could be customized for use by the different Divisions. This offered a common technical and conceptual framework geared to the particular needs of the museum, and allowed the collections managers to separate themselves at least in part from the database minutiae per se. Available staff time remained in critically short supply, as always, and variation in staffing levels among Divisions also meant that different paces had to be developed for computerization in different collections.

After completing the cleansing and import of its dBase data, Invertebrate Paleontology was in a position to reassess its approach: the data entry process was broken into small, logical pieces of more digestible size that mirrored underlying elements of the broader institutional data model. Rather than continuing to focus first on entry of specimen information, Invertebrate Paleontology shifted its attention to building supporting files e.g., localities, collecting events, and supporting documentation. At the same time, the museum's main accession ledger (ca. 10,000 entries in several dozen bound leather volumes, starting in the 1860s) and affiliated card files on people were targeted for data entry, so that this shared information could be put in play for all Divisions. Anthropology and Vertebrate Paleontology took on most of this project over a one to two year period, with help from Archives (this required knowledge of handwriting styles and relationships among in-

dividuals associated with the museum's early years). Since uniform use of the main accession ledger lapsed at the museum during the middle of the 20th century, Invertebrate Paleontology and other divisions also worked simultaneously on reconstructing and entering its own Divisional accession series from that time period. All the Divisions profited immediately from being able to search and explore the common accession data, and Invertebrate Paleontology found it was able to enter specimen data more efficiently by having its supporting data available beforehand. Taxonomic authority files were built in two directions, being "seeded" top down from the higher levels to families using the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*, and joined from the bottom up by taxon names actually in use on specimen labels in the collections.

By breaking the data entry process down to match the underlying relational tables, it was also possible for the collections managers to "routinize" data entry and assign tasks to students without unduly compromising data cleanliness. The collections managers were thus able to work on and resolve the problems requiring more specialized knowledge before data entry proceeded. The Systems Office organized these projects so that data could be imported from external text files once entered. Invertebrate Paleontology took full advantage of this by allowing its student workers to enter data in whatever software program they were most comfortable with. The final steps were left to Systems in consultation with the collections managers.

A priority databasing project for Invertebrate Paleontology was to enter data for its types, this numbered some 35,000 specimens. The types were conceived as a multiyear project, starting in 1994, proceeding by broad taxonomic group and with the publication of a corresponding type catalog approximately as each group was databased. Another goal was to automate the production of these publications as much as possible from the collections databases, and so a customized set of data export routines was tested and refined on the first type catalog (output is a preformatted RTF file ready for final editing in PageMaker). To date, Invertebrate Paleontology has produced a total of 15 type catalogs as an adjunct to its databasing initiatives.

Invertebrate paleontology also began to offer access to its collections data as soon as possible over the Internet, starting in 1994, along with many of the Peabody's curatorial divisions. These data were available from a gopher server through 1997, and then migrated to a web server that operates at <http://www.peabody.yale.edu>. Two of the most recent projects ongoing in invertebrate paleontology are an image gallery at <http://www.yale.edu/ypmip> that features a synoptic suite of invertebrate fossils, and the capture of specimen images to augment its existing textual collections data. In addition, invertebrate paleontology encourages its donors to

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**Special
Announcements**

Preservation of Native American and Historical Natural His- tory Collections contami- nated with Pesticide Residues

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), National Park Service (NPS) and the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) have organized a symposium on "Preservation of Native American and Historical Natural History Collections contaminated with Pesticide Residues."

The symposium will involve working groups formed among 30 invited participants, representing a variety of interests and expertise. Speakers will give an overview of each discussion topic. Each presentation will be followed by multiple working groups that will examine the topic in detail. In the closing session, all participants will consider the recommendations of the individual teams and define a useful implementation strategy for each topic. The topics and speakers include:

Regulatory, Legal and Ethical Issues

Micah Loma'omvaya, Program Coordinator, Hopi Tribes Pesticides Program

Dr. Rebecca Tsosie, Professor of Law & Executive Director, Indian Legal Program, Arizona State University, College of Law

Methods of Communicating Risks and Safety Recommendations to Potential Users of Contaminated Objects, and Training Methods and Venues

Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director, Cultural Preservation Office, The Hopi Tribe

Susan Secakuku, National Museum of the American Indian, Community Services

Methods of Sampling and Testing for Hazardous Residues

Dr. James Nason, Curator of American and Pacific Ethnology, Burke Museum, University of Washington

Dr. Jane Sirois, Conservation Scientist, Canadian Conservation Institute

Methods for Risk Evaluation and Medical Monitoring Related to Handling and Use of Contaminated Materials

Dr. David Goldsmith, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, The George Washington University

Kathryn Makos, CIH, Senior Industrial Hygienist, Smithsonian Inst., Office of Env. Management and Safety

Methods to Mitigate Risks from Use of Contaminated Objects, Including Methods to Decontaminate Affected Objects

Marian Kaminitz, Head of Conservation, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution

Dr. Nancy Odegaard, Conservator, Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona

Alyce Sadongei, American Indian Programs Coordinator, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona

The symposium will be held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, 6-9 April 2001. The program has been developed under a grant from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, with additional support from SPNHC, NMAI, NPS, The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (FAIC), two AIC Specialty Groups (Research and Technical Studies and Objects Specialty Group), and the Repatriation Office, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History. The symposium presentations, results of the working group discussions, and the symposium findings will be published in both electronic and printed formats.

*Catharine Hawks
Falls Church, Virginia*

U.S. National Parks WWW site for Research and Collecting Permits

The National Park Service has created an Internet-based site for its Research and Collecting Permits. The site covers all National Park Units in the United States. The web site is: <http://science.nature.nps.gov/research>. The web site has been designed to be a comprehensive location for researchers to:

Have the opportunity to review procedures, previous research efforts, policies, and conditional requirements before submitting a new proposal.

Search NPS-identified research preferences (the system is new and park staff may not provide this information for several months).

Complete and submit an application for a permit via the Internet.

File required Investigator's Annual Reports via the Internet.

We look forward to encouraging scientists, agencies, non-profits, and all researchers and research institutions to consider the U.S. National Parks as a good place for science that provides public benefits to all citizens.

*Jonathan Bayless
National Park Service*

SPNHC 2001 visits the City by the Bay!

Make your hotel reservations early for this year's annual meeting at the *California Academy of Sciences* in San Francisco. The Academy will host the 16th Annual Meeting of SPNHC June 21-26, 2001. Check out the SPNHC website for up-to-date information on the meeting, lodging and the City by the Bay!

Pre-meeting fieldtrips include a trip north of San Francisco to Marin County (including the San Andreas fault, Drake's Bay, Miwok Indian Village and the Giant Redwoods), a trip to the tide-pools & coast south of San Francisco at Marine Sanctuary, and a Bay cruise (with the possibility of a visit to Alcatraz), Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Oakland Museum and Lindsay Wildlife Museum. Meetings and social events will be held at the Academy. The meeting will conclude with a workshop on Living Collections.

For more information, contact Jean DeMouthe, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118 USA; (415) 750-7094 (voice); (415) 750-7090 (fax); jdemouthe@calacademy.org (email).

Museum Shop and Fossil Sales

At last year's conference in Halifax, I had the opportunity to mention the Royal British Columbia Museum's recent addition to our Environmental Ethics Policy respecting fossils. The addition is our first policy statement on fossils and is consistent with the developing policy of the British Columbia Paleontology Alliance. The policy reads:

"Fossils: Fossils are a non-renewable resource with potentially scientific educational and heritage value. Destructive commercial exploitation of fossils may contribute to irreversible loss of these resources. The general observer cannot easily distinguish between scientifically important fossils and those of less scientific significance and commercial exploitation may occur without regard to scientific value or unintentionally destroy the value of a paleontological site. In certain circumstances, such as ammolite jewelry, there is government regulation of the resource. In addition, there is a market for reproductions of fossils which does not affect original fossils.

Because the Royal BC Museum does not support unregulated exploitation of fossils, the Royal Museum Shop will not offer fossils for sale, with the exception of ammolite jewelry and reproductions."

I am also aware that this policy is different from what is practiced at some major museums in the United States and Canada.

One museum reported to me: "Yes we do sell fossils in the museum shop and as far as I know there has been no adverse reaction from the scientific community. Our shop is run by a private contractor who buys fossils from catalogues and local amateur collectors. We have a good relationship with him and if he acquires specimens that are of interest to us scientifically etc, we have acquired them from him either by trade or gift.

I am interested in know what your museum's policy is and how well you think it works. Please email any details you have to me at gwhughes@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca. I would be please to summarize the details and share them with you.

*Grant Hughes
Royal British Columbia Museum*

NEDCC OFFERS ITS DIGITAL HANDBOOK ON-LINE

The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) announces the on-line availability of its latest publication Handbook for Digital Projects: A Management Tool for Preservation and Access. The new Web resource was funded by a Library Leadership Grant from The Institute for Museum and Library Services. NEDCC receives major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Handbook was published to meet the needs of libraries and museums, and other collections holding institutions for basic information about planning and managing digital projects. In an effort to make this timely information available at no cost to anyone at anytime, NEDCC has posted the text on its Web site at www.nedcc.org.

For the past five years, NEDCC has explored the complex issues surrounding digital conversion of collections through its nationally successful School for Scanning conferences. Many of the School for Scanning faculty members have contributed to this compilation of experts experiences and advice. The Handbook covers in detail, such topics as: Rationale for Digitization and Preservation, Vendor Relations, Considerations for Project Management, Digital Longevity, Selection of Materials for Scanning, Overview of Copyright Issues, A Technical Primer, and Guidelines from Case Studies.

The Handbook is also available in hard copy and ordering information is on the Web site. Also available online and in book form from NEDCC is the third edition of its highly successful Preservation of Library and Archival Materials: A Manual, published in 1999. An updated and expanded version, this book was sponsored by The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

More than 400 pages in length, the manual consists of a series of 51 technical leaflets, divided into six categories: Planning & Pri-

oritizing, The Environment, Emergency Management, Storage & Handling Reformatting, and Conservation Procedures.

The Handbook for Digital Projects: A Management Tool for Preservation and Access is \$38.00. For ordering information, contact Juanita Singh at Juanita@nedcc.org or (978) 470-1010 or visit www.nedcc.org.

Jamie Doyle
Northeast Document Conservation Center

Managing Archeological Collection

Managing Archeological Collections (www.cr.nps.gov/aad/collections/) is an online distance learning and technical assistance effort that covers a wide range of issues and activities involved in caring for archaeological collections. It focuses on the objects, records, reports, and digital data collected and cared for in the field, lab, office, and repository.

This “one-stop shopping” effort is designed to help archaeological professionals and students, as well as many others, learn more about preserving and managing archeological collections over the long term. Issues and best practices related to archiving and conservation is integrated throughout. The Web site consists of ten sections, including “Introduction to Curation”, “Relevant Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Ethics”, “Today’s Key Issues”, “Curation Prior to the Field”, and “Access and Use of Collections.” Each section has an extensive bibliography, a page of links to related web sites, and a review quiz. In addition, a large glossary of key terms is linked throughout the site.

This distance learning effort is the product of the Archeology and Ethnography Program of the National Park Service. It has benefited enormously from review by many colleagues, including archeologists, curators, archivists, and conservators, who have generously given their time and expertise. The site is updated as colleagues provide additional, pertinent information.

S. Terry Childs
Archeology and Ethnography Program
National Park Service

COPING WITH DISASTERS

The latest edition of Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages™ has begun shipping. It is a 350-page, comprehensive sourcebook designed to help users locate scores of crucial but hard-to-find recovery services throughout the United States and Canada. It contains over 3000 vendors and covers over 270 categories such as drying and dehumidification of paper and microfilm records, smoke odor counteracting services, trauma counselors, salvage, emergency rental of computer and other equipment, etc.

It contains five comprehensive sections, covering restoration services, mobile buildings, computer and emergency equipment, planning and data recovery software, as well as training publications and videos. It also includes a tutorial on areas which are frequently overlooked - even by experienced users - when preparing their disaster recovery plans, as well as hints on “getting started” and preparing a disaster plan.

The Systems Audit Group, Inc., has worked with leaders in the Disaster Recovery field to develop this comprehensive sourcebook, as well with organizations ranging from Banks and Insurance companies to Manufacturers, Retailers, Colleges, and other organizations.

The Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages™ comes in a three-ring binder, for ease in adding sources which individual users have gathered that are unique to their own circumstances. The price is US\$98. per copy, plus US\$3 for shipping and handling. Regular updates are available. To obtain a free brochure, or to order The Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages™, contact The Systems Audit Group, 25 Ellison Road, Newton, MA 02459 USA, 617-332-3496 (voice), 617-332-4358 (fax), DRYP@Javanet.com (email), www.DISASTER-HELP.com (www).

Directory of Fossil Collections of the World

The International Paleontological Association publishes the Directory of Fossil Collections of the World. This directory was originally prepared by Barry Webby in 1989. The present, second edition is available as an electronic database at: <http://ipa.geo.ukans.edu/Fossil/fossil.html>

This is a new database with entries from very few museums. If you are in charge of a collection of fossils, no matter how large or how small, please refer to the web site and enter information about your collection. Please urge colleagues to do so. Completing the necessary forms will take a bit longer, but the whole thing can still be done in less than 15 minutes. Please help IPA make this directory a useful tool for paleontologists.

Roger L. Kaesler
The University of Kansas

Conservation and Art Materials Dictionary

The Conservation and Art Materials Dictionary (CAMD) is now available online for use and review at www.mfa.org/conservation/. It can also be accessed through the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) home page or through the secondary MFA collections page. CAMD is an electronic database that provides technical information about historic and contemporary materials

used in all aspects of the conservation, preservation and production of artistic, architectural and archaeological materials. CAMD has been developed by Michele Derrick at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA) with support from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT). Its purpose is to consolidate, record and disseminate information on the broad variety of natural materials and commercial products encountered in art and conservation, e.g., pigments, minerals, binders, coatings, adhesives, fibers, dyes, surfactants, solvents, reagents, woods, alloys, corrosion inhibitors, pollutants, pest control agents, insects, etc. Currently the database has nearly 10,000 entries. It is continually growing; all corrections, additions and new material submissions are welcome. Access to CAMD is free for all users.

*Michele Derrick
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*

Guidelines for the Curation and Management of Invertebrate Fossils

This volume is the result of a workshop held June 7-14, 1996 in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the North American Paleontological Convention. The workshop was the outgrowth of discussions within and outside of the Research Collections in Systematics and Ecology (RCSE) program at the National Science Foundation on the need for community-wide standards for management of invertebrate paleontology collections.

The workshop was organized by Scott Lidgard of the Field Museum of Natural History; Nigel Hughes then of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, now at the University of California, Riverside; Doug Jones of the Florida Museum of Natural History; and Warren Allmon of the Paleontological Research Institution. Meredith Lane at NSF, now at the Academy of Sciences in Philadelphia, played a crucial role in encouraging the workshop and making it possible.

The workshop set out to meet three related objectives. First, to gather quantitative data on the size and status of North American invertebrate paleontological collections for the first time in a decade. Second, to develop common standards and definitions for collection acquisition, management, and curation. Third, to discuss the problems of computerization and databasing of collections and attempt to develop a standard data model. Such a workshop had never taken place before and its goals were ambitious. The results, we believe, more than exceeded the organizers hopes in generating extremely active and thought-provoking discussion, and in producing a solid first attempt at standards for collections management, which is represented by the papers in this volume.

SPNHC members Fred Collier, Julie Golden, Janet Waddington, Jean Demouthe, Beth Merritt, Sally Shelton and Tim White authored many of the chapters. One of the most interesting ideas that came out of this workshop was the development of a collection profiling system for invertebrate fossil collections.

This volume, edited by Tim White (Yale Peabody Museum) and Warren Allmon (Paleontological Research Institute) was published by the Paleontological Society and available for \$15 from Ilona Weyers, Paleontological Society Special Publications, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 5800 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206-3706 USA.

*Warren D. Allmon
Paleontological Research Institute*

Hear ye, Hear ye!

This is my eighth and final issue of the SPNHC Newsletter. I would like to thank Grant Hughes and Barbara Moore for the encouragement to take on the role of Editor. Lisa Palmer, Kate Shaw, Sally Shelton, and Janet Waddington have been very supportive. The past four years have been fulfilling and rewarding for me. I have made many good friends in this capacity, and I have shared many meals with colleagues around the world including tacos in Carson City, Nevada with Ann Pinzl and Paula Work, Chinese food in Lawrence, Kansas with Jon Simmons and Kate Shaw, and too many beers to count in London with Rob Huxley. The common ingredient has always been a passion for our work and a story or two about our collections and the eclectic personalities associated with them.

I am resigning from this position because, like so many museums these days, the Peabody Museum of Natural History is undergoing a revolution and many of our collections are being relocated to the Environmental Science Facility, a new state-of-the-art facility housing collections, classrooms, and faculty offices and research space. To ease this transition, I have been named coordinator of this project for the Museum and the time commitments are enormous.

I also believe it is time for a new voice and direction in the newsletter, and I encourage a member to step forward and assume this valuable role in our Society. This is a great opportunity for someone to become acquainted with a dynamic and dedicated group of professionals. If you are interested, please contact Janet Waddington (janetw@rom.on.ca) and Sue McLaren (mclarens@carnegiemuseums.org).

*Tim White
Yale Peabody Museum*

Best Practices...

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“Care of Plant Collections” or “Preparation Techniques for Vertebrate Study Skins,” and a volume is published based on symposium presentations. Even if standard review procedures are followed for each manuscript, would it be acceptable to title the volumes, “Best Practices in the Care of Plant Collections” or “Best Practices for the Preparation of Study Skins?”

Before refining the implication of the term, best practice, consider the terms, standard and guidelines. According to recent publications these terms are defined as follows:

guideline - formalization presented by a technical society or governmental agency as basis for voluntary adherence as the basis for acceptance of work product; requires additional thought and evaluation by the practitioner to implement on single project work. (Hatheway 1992)

standard - a measure, principle, model, etc., established for use as a rule or basis in comparison in measuring or judging capacity, quantity, content, extent, value, quantity, etc. (Anonymous 1982); - a codification of technology or procedure developed, tested, peer-reviewed, and published by a professional society or governmental agency; to be adhered to by members and subscribers; generally must be followed closely in attention to its prescribed detail. (Hatheway 1992)

Guidelines state the basis for an acceptable product or process. The individual faced with implementing the guidelines must evaluate and interpret the intent of the guideline in light of the institutional setting and immediate circumstances. This guideline suggests a certain level of quality or process, but generally this is a minimal level rather than one of exceptional quality. Guidelines are also voluntary; although recommended they are not an absolute requirement.

A standard, by comparison, is more rigidly defined, with less room for interpretation or extrapolation into a situation. The standard exists only following a process of testing and peer review, and in some fields this process can be very formal and extensive. To claim a certain level of quality or achievement for a particular practice, one is required to follow the standard.

Where does the term, best practice, fit in comparison to standards and guidelines? An informal query on the discussion list, NHCOLL-L, led to a series of interesting comments, including:

“Best practice” implies to me that some sort of professional judgement has been made - the field has been surveyed and the professionals all agree that this is “best practice”. The closest term in my mind is “standard” - it is the goal to which we all aspire. (NHCOLL-L:798; Nov 30, 2000; C. Rissanen)

Both of these, and “best practices”, imply judgement by someone. The last seems to imply in addition, that some review of ideas has occurred and a consensus has been reached (“this is what we agree is best”). “Standards” implies there’s some minimum level of achievement below which you have failed, hence has negativity. “Guidelines” seems more neutral; seeming like something anyone can follow and achieve. “Best practice” is the most positive, implying a goal toward which everyone can work. (NHCOLL-L:799; Dec 01, 2000; R. Panza)

... “best practice” clearly implies a group review. I can foresee a group of Professionals “deciding” that a group of procedures is better than others and thereby stamped it as “best.” I think it does carry a feeling of an endorsement from at least part of the community.

... Guidelines sound like just that, something to follow at least for a minimum performance standard. If you want to exceed a standard, follow the “best practice.” I am involved in local municipal planning and this seems close to the analogy of just meeting the stipulations of a building or zoning code requirement or exceeding it.

A later comment I saw included comments about “standards”. Again, I think the analogy fits. A “standard” can be seen as what you should do to meet at least a minimum professional grade. If you exceed it, all the better. “Best practice” to me implies exceeding the minimum. (NHCOLL-L:797; Dec 04, 2000; R. Rabeler)

... “best practice” has been more highly evaluated than “protocol”, which may have been more highly evaluated than “guidelines”. For example, as a new curator training new student technicians for mounting vascular plants, I gave them guidelines based on my limited experience and the “traditions” that had been in place here. Now that I have 16 years of

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Best Practices...
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experience, better knowledge of products and techniques (thanks, in large part, to SPNHC!!!), I feel I could write a protocol for mounting specimens. The input of the community of conservators, who have shared their product/method testing, to the community of curators'/collections managers' development of improved techniques can lead to development of "best practice". (NHCOLL-L:797; Dec 01, 2000; D.Lewis)

Based on these comments, one expects best practices to be at least at the level of quality and achievement as standards, and that a system of review and evaluation by appropriate professionals has taken place.

Will there be a guideline, standard and best practice for every aspect of caring and managing natural history collections? Highly unlikely! It makes sense for there to be "guidelines for managing bird collections" as an overview, but unlikely that there would be "standards for managing bird collections." There are too many aspects of an institutional setting that can not be standardized. Standards, however, will be developed for materials to be used in storing nests, eggs and study skins or for documentation of loan transactions. There might be a "best practices for managing bird collections" that would incorporate known standards for materials with recommended guidelines for procedures. This would imply that the entire volume has been evaluated by members of the professional community and reflects the highest level of practice at that time.

BEST PRACTICES – where do they come from?

Development of and writing about best practices comes from the practitioners and researchers in the professional community. Taking some of the top research priorities identified in the recent survey, one might apply to the Institute of Museum and Library Services Conservation Project or the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training for funding to complete research and write a manuscript.

The professional community also does evaluation and review of best practices. Many of the best practices that might be developed for the field

of natural history collections care and management must be reviewed from the perspectives of the researchers, collection managers and conservators, if in fact the practices are to be fully evaluated and have credibility by the different participants in our community. One possible avenue would be for the Documentation Committee of SPNHC to manage the review process, calling for reviewers from the Conservation Committee and membership to represent the three perspectives. This review process needs to be a standard system that supports an objective, thorough evaluation; it needs to focus on the content and methodology of the practice described. It needs to be a credible process so that anyone using a 'best practices' publication can be assured that there was a serious level of evaluation before the final product was released. I would recommend the evaluation process remain distinct from the review system of the Publications Committee, though, so as to avoid bogging down the publication process and cycles.

Finally, best practices must be published, and SPNHC does have a standard system for reviewing and publishing both articles and special publications.

Although "best practices" may be a trendy term, certainly a great marketing one that promises only the good and wonderful, it does provide a challenge to the community to create, evaluate and publish those practices that reflect the state of the art for natural history collections care and management.

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Hatheway, A. W. 1992. Standards, guidelines and protocols: Keeping our house in order. *AEG News*, 35(1):26-28. Association of Engineering Geologists.

Ed. Note. *Paisley Cato is the Curator of Collections at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Paisley has held positions at the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Denver Museum of Natural History. She has earned a Ph.D. in natural history collection management at Texas A&M, and has served as Managing Editor for Collection Forum.*

Permits workshop " Across Borders" SPNHC 15th Annual Meeting - 14 July 2000

IRIS A. HARDY

National Marine Geoscience Collections, Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 4A2, Canada

At the 15th annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections in Halifax, Nova Scotia last summer, the post-meeting workshop examined Permits and Laws from a variety of perspectives. Four sessions pertaining to permit issues were presented at one hour intervals throughout the day: *Agriculture, Health and Safety, CITES and Cultural Properties*.

Agriculture: *Panellists Dr. Janet McKinlay and Andrew Hebda.*

Janet provided an overview of the CFIA website: www.cfia-acia.org.ca which accommodates food permits, live animal movements and associated products of the Canadian federal government under the control of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). An application for import products can be obtained through the Automatic Import Report System (AIRS), which includes information on the breed of the animal, provenance and end use. Documentation is always required on the point of origin. Most Asian and African animals are almost impossible to import into Canada. Animal products that are accommodated include: fur, blood, frozen tissues, tortoise shell, clams, beaks, skeletons and ivory. Yet no tissues are allowed into Canada, preserved in formalin. Import permits must list species, use and point of origin together with any testing or certification that has occurred regarding the animal. If quarantine must take place, it must occur before the permits are submitted. The European Economic Community (EEC) has specific time requirements for shipping materials: <http://Europa.ed.int>. The USDA Import permits can be accessed at www.aphis.usda.gov.

Andrew Hebda's words of advice to workshop attendees were "never use a long word when a diminutive one will suffice".... on permit applications, and "Don't tick off the district vet or CITES officer." Insects which are near and dear to Andrew, were addressed at some length particularly bees which require a provincial permit to import, although no permits are required for harvester ants, moths, mites, and Mexican jumping beans. Permits are also required for snails, soils with plants and spotted mushrooms - where do herbaria sheets fall? The CFIA publishes annual policy directives i.e. D0004 for import of earthworms, while directives do not govern freshwater molluscs. Genetically engineered products/food are also not presently represented by any legislation and there is a clear requirement for the establishment of a definition for "genetic contamination."

Health and Safety: *Panellists Janet Waddington and Alex Wilson, Special speaker: Dr. William Lauche, Dalhousie University*

Topics presented by Janet included: basic health and safety, radioactive materials and transportation of dangerous goods. Number one rule is to "take every precaution necessary." Provincial jurisdiction usually incorporates Federal law/WHIMS/ Right to Know. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to communicate about hazards and to provide necessary training. Ontario has a "Internal responsibility system" which means that an individual can legally and personally be liable. Janet then provided an overview of the various WHIMS and Consumer symbols as well as proper labelling procedures for chemical, physical and biohazards. Transportation of dangerous goods is federally regulated and based upon International (UN) standards. Janet's advice is to follow the regulations for air transport and you generally can't go wrong. Use the MSDS sheets for packaging. It is an offence to label something as a hazard when it is not, and it is also an offence to accept a package not complying with regulations - due diligence and reasonable. Radioactive collections fall under federal regulations. Many fossils and minerals have naturally occurring radioactive levels. Firearms are also covered by federal legislation, but are enforced and interpreted regionally. In Canada a Firearms Acquisition Certificate, authorization to transport as well as a firearms license are required. A brief overview of worker's compensation completed Janet's presentation.

Alex Wilson then introduced Dr. William Lauche, Safety Officer for Dalhousie University regarding a case study: Researcher has a spill of harbour sediments containing large amounts of PCB's. A US group studying them had sent these samples improperly packaged such that there were broken jars, sweated labels which had come off and a contaminated vehicle. The Bill of lading noted that these were not hazardous. The Canadian Protection Act prohibits importation/exportation of PCB's such that the solution to return these materials was not possible...Alex then provided a brief overview of a mining disaster in Nova Scotia from the early 1990's which has resulted in an overview of the provincial legislation on field work, pipelines etc. It appears that every rule is based upon a bad experience.

CITES: *Panellists Sally Shelton, Smithsonian and Barry Sabeau, Director Wildlife for Nova Scotia*

Barry Sabean provided an excellent overview of permits, licenses and certifications administered by the province of Nova Scotia. Permits are required to export wildlife or wildlife parts from Nova Scotia, importing wildlife into Nova Scotia but not necessary for dead things if it has been legally obtained, with appropriate documentation. The Nova Scotia Wildlife act is only two years old but covers all wild organisms. Can kill, take or possess any endangered or threatened species or any part or product without a permit (but there is a grandfather clause). Barry's quote to permit workshop attendees: " If you did it, but didn't know it, then you didn't do it." Each province and territory in Canada has a scientific and management person for CITES. Export permits are fairly easy to get in Nova Scotia by phone or fax and at no charge. The Nova Scotia Endangered species act does list vulnerable species, although the regulations do not deal with vulnerable species.

Sally addressed international wildlife law issues such as those posted on NHCOLL. At issue is trade versus commercial transactions. The Endangered species act approved in 1973, pre-dates the CITES act of 1983. CITES is not a law, it is a treaty; not an international law but subject to individual countries and their specific publications. Resolutions when passed are obligatory when passed by the signatory countries. The certificate of Scientific Exchange does not take the place of a permit, but does enhance transactions. Some interesting questions from this session and replies:

- When is the next CITES meeting and will there be a referendum on tissues? Two years and yes;
- Institutions registered with CITES? List is on CITES website.
- Can you import/export ethnographic objects under CITES? Don't know
- How effective has CITES been? " Somewhere it created employment for lower level bureaucrats."
- What happens to materials pre-act? MOU to grandfather it but can only be used once; burden of proof is on you. The more you document things in advance the better.
- What do you do with roadkills? Without a permit you are in violation the second you touch it.
- What about birds? Big problem particularly eagles.
- Tissue samples? Keep all documentation if taking possession of tissue. CITES is strictly international and only kicks in when crossing borders.

Cultural Properties: *Jean Dougherty, GSC, Tim Fedak, NS Fundy Museum and Special Speaker, Grant Hughes, Royal BC Museum*

Jean discussed national paleontological collections. Fossils are regarded as cultural properties as early as 1978 in Alberta

when fossils were owned by the province and regarded as minerals, under the Alberta Historical Resources Act. Where the fossil is located is governed by appropriate provincial or territorial regulations and who owns the land i.e. North of 60o which would be Indian and Northern Affairs has to be considered. Export permits are required from Canadian Cultural Properties Export review board for important fossils. The Canadian Museum of Nature issues permits for vertebrate paleontological materials.

Tim Fedak discussed the Nova Scotia Special Places Protection act 1989. Heritage Research permit, not limited to any special place and Health and Safety permits are necessary for fossil digs. This act is to provide for the preservation, regulation and study of fossils. Cannot collect anything: rock, mineral etc from a protected place without a heritage research permit. All fossil material belongs to the province. Protected places include archaeological sites, paleontological localities and ecological sites. A casual collector's permit requires that you must obtain the landowner's permission. Tim also presented his own dilemma: a prosauropod trackway was found in the inter-tidal area and any work occurring in this area may have a potential impact on the habitat and hence requires a permit. Since the inter-tidal bed moves 5cm/yr in this area, mitigation and recovery is Tim's primary goal. The federal department of fisheries is concerned about the amount of sediment going into the bay by Tim's excavation - if a skeleton appears below the trackway Tim is expected to cover it up and have an environmental assessment done.

Grant Hughes provided an overview of the Environmental Ethics Act and repatriation. Essentially loose fossils can be picked up while embedded fossils cannot. The Royal British Columbia museum have made efforts to not use tropical hard woods in exhibits; no styrofoam; promotes recycling and does not support the sale of fossils in its gift shops. A recent case study was a through a freedom of information (FOI) request for all fossil localities and any collecting localities since 1850 as well as a taxonomic list for the Queen Charlotte Islands. New institutional stand against the sale of fossils by the museum enabled them to refuse to provide this data.

The BC repatriation involves a cultural artifact list. Two lines of approach:

- Local BC provincial government must return with no strings attached;
- Federal government must transfer everything back, but conditions must be satisfied i.e. Storage, curation and collections care.

Ed. Note. *Iris Hardy is the Curator of the National Marine Geoscience Collections at the Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic division, and was co-host of SPNHC2000, last year's annual meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Iris is also the outgoing chair of the Education Committee.*

Presidents Profile...
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committees with the more abstract concept of organization-wide goals. All committee feedback was compiled into a table and then turned over to our Members-at-Large. The LRPC recommended that Members-at-Large work with Committee Chairs to assist in facilitating activities that achieve organizational goals. While this approach provides the potential for the infusion of new ideas, it also gives our Members-at-Large a broader view of the workings of the Society. As the first year of this plan unfolds, all members of Council and Committee Chairs will be able evaluate the efficacy of this plan. Suggestions for improvement or adjustments will be made during the 2001 Annual Meeting.

Several new committee chairs have been identified since the August Newsletter was issued. We are very pleased to have Jane MacKnight and Jane Mygatt serving as Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee. Additionally, Laura Abraczinskas and Lori Benson agreed to become Co-Chairs of the Education and Training Committee. Finally, I have established a Sessional Committee on Student Participation. I'm delighted to say that Cathy Hawks has agreed to Chair the Committee and Mary Anne Andrei, Amparo deTorres, Benita Johnson, Ruth Norton, and Steve Williams have agreed to work with Cathy as members of this Sessional Committee. The goals of the Committee are to recommend to the SPNHC Council means to encourage participation in SPNHC by students enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate programs in the areas of interest to SPNHC (anthropology, natural sciences, history of natural history, museum studies, museum conservation, conservation science). Further, the Committee will focus on ways to promote sound collection management and collections care principles among those entering professions where they may deal with anthropology and natural science collections. At the discretion of the SPNHC Council, the Committee may be asked to implement their recommendations.

At the recommendation of our Certified Public Accountant, SPNHC Council has established a written procedure for conducting e-mail voting that could stand up to legal scrutiny. Intended

to mirror the conduct of a regular Council Meeting as closely as possible, the procedure utilizes Robert's Rules for guidance in the management of what amounts to an electronic meeting. An SPNHC member has come forward to point out that establishment of such guidelines is not yet commonplace among most organizations, and has asked permission to share our procedures with other groups. Since their adoption, we have had one opportunity to test the new procedures during which no glitches were detected.

One of the most exciting things to have happened since our Annual Meeting is that SPNHC was invited to send a representative to attend a meeting of the White House Millennium Council on December 8. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future of the Clinton Administration's Save America's Treasures program. Virtually all twenty-five invitees were able to attend the meeting that was held across the street from the White House in one of the historic houses of Jackson Place. SPNHC was the only organization invited that represents Natural History Collections. The meeting began with people from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Parks Foundation talking about how they felt the program has worked thus far. President Clinton announced the program in January of 1998 and asked Congress for \$50 million. Congress cut that to \$30 million but since then the program has gained bi-partisan support to the tune of \$95 million to-date. It was first perceived to be something that would support mostly federal properties but quickly took off in many parts of the country that have nothing to do with federal ownership. The people who attended the meeting included two representatives from private foundations (Pew Charitable Trust and the J. Paul Getty Trust), plus representatives from AAM, NEA, NEH, Heritage Preservation, and IMLS. Everyone else who attended were people who had roles comparable to mine — essentially people who represented groups or organizations that might seek grant support from the program. Many of these people, including a representative from the American Library Association and a Board member from AASLH, felt that the program had not really trickled down to many of their

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constituents yet. A very high profile project, the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, has been funded in the natural history category.

We talked about needs in broad terms and found a lot of common ground amongst the preservation groups. As the day progressed, the topics were laid out in such a way that discussion culminated in brainstorming about how the program could be encouraged to continue after the umbrella of the White House Millennium Council goes away. Those familiar with congressional attitudes felt that most funded projects are ones that start with grassroots support. Every congressional representative can support these projects because they get a lot of mileage "back home" and it isn't pork barrel spending to the degree of funding a new highway project. It seemed it would not matter who became President, the funding would likely continue. The big question was how to engineer the infrastructure to move forward when the Millennium Council was not a contact point. Representatives of the Washington-based organizations planned to meet and deliberate further on assur-

ing the continuation of the program. The meeting concluded with sentiments being expressed that they should have brought this group together two years ago. I have since been contacted by letter and by telephone as a way of establishing the feeling that this is not an end but a beginning. We now know that the actual application process is expected to go forward with a deadline of 16 March. The National Park Service has set up a hotline (202-343-9570) for requesting information.

The program for the 2001 SPNHC Annual Meeting, which is being hosted by the California Academy of Science, is taking shape. You'll see further details about the meeting elsewhere in this Newsletter. Jon Greggs is doing a nice job of keeping the SPNHC website up-to-date with the latest information about our 2001 meeting as well. Do keep an eye on the website for the latest developments. I hope to see many of you in the beautiful City by the Bay between 21-26 June.

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Databasing...
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submit digital image files and GPS coordinates of collecting localities for documentation.

With 30,000 locality records and more than 170,000 specimen lots now entered at the start of 2001, Invertebrate Paleontology has computerized nearly half of its holdings in less than 10 years while managing to expand its services to the scientific community, mostly using existing staff resources. Adopting a diversity of approaches to collections databasing has been a key to Invertebrate Paleontology's success over the long haul. Compared to the early 1990s, the variety of software and hardware tools available in 2001 to museums for collections databasing is bewildering, and there are as many solutions in play as there are problems to be addressed. If Invertebrate Paleontology were to offer one generalization for collections databasing, it would probably be "know thyself," and fashion techniques that are as adaptable as possible that al-

low you to maintain fidelity to the scale, history, and strong suits of your collection. The tools will change but successful general strategies should remain in place.

Ed. Note. *Tim White is the Senior Collection Manager in Invertebrate Paleontology at the Peabody Museum and has been at Yale for the past 17 years. Larry Gall, a lepidopterist by training, has headed the Systems Office at the Peabody Museum for the past 10 years. This article is the second in a series of articles on information technology and databasing issues, sponsored by the Documentation Committee. For comments, Tim can be reached at tim.white@yale.edu and Larry can be reached at larry.gall@yale.edu.*

Publications of Interest

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

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. ASHRAE Applications Handbook (1999). Contact the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc., 1791 Tullie Circle, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329.

The handbook includes a chapter on temperature and relative humidity levels for libraries, museums and archives. This chapter was worked on for four years by: S. L. Kelter, chairman of Kelter and Gilligo, P.C.; W. P. Lull of Garrison/Lull Inc.; W. B. Rose and A.M. Zhivov of the University of Illinois; and S. Michalski of the Canadian Conservation Institute. {DHD}

Ashley-Smith, J. 2000. Twenty first century conservation. *V&A Conservation Journal* 11(34):8-10.

Cappitelli, F. 2000. Defining conservation science: training and the profession. *V&A Cons. Jour.* 11(36):15-16.

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Carpenter, T. 2000. Masters not slaves - new technology in the service of conservation. *V&A Cons. Jour.* 11(34):11-12.

Child, R.E. The National Museums and Galleries of Wales Collection Centre at Nantgrew. *Natural Science Conservation Group Newsletter* No. 15 pp. 6-9.

Derbyshire, A. 2000. Wolbers' course — a review. *V&A Cons. Jour.* 11(35):7.

Dicus, D. 2000. One Response to a Collection-wide Mold Outbreak: How Bad can it Be—How Good can it Get? *Journal of the American Institute of Conservation* Vol. 39 No. 1 p. 85-105.

A description of response including workstation set up, environment modification, health and safety issues, equip-

ment and materials, time, cost, air quality, sources, and bibliography. {DD}

Dupont, A.-L. and J. Tetreault. 2000. Cellular degradation in an acetic acid environment. *Studies in Conservation* 45(3): 201-210.

Eremin, K., S. Adams and J. Tate. 2000. Monitoring of deposited particle levels within the Museum of Scotland: during and after construction. *The Conservator*, Issue 24 (Publication of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works).

Fried, E. 2000. Improved methods of storage for illuminated manuscript fragments on parchment. *V&A Cons. Jour.* 11(35):18-21.

Gaspar, P., A. Cummings, D. McPhail, and C. Hubbard. 2000. Topographical studies in the conservation of statuary materials. *V&A Cons. Jour.* 11(36):11-14.

Graham, S.-R. and F. Graham. 2000. The Fire at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Part 1: Salvage, Initial Response, and the Implications for Disaster Planning; Part 2: Removal of Soot from Artifacts and Recovery of the Building. *Journal of the American Institute of Conservation* Vol. 39 No. 1, p. 3-56.

A guideline for procedure after a sooty fire. Well written and illustrated. It should be consulted by anyone who is writing or revising a disaster plan. Cleaning techniques, cleaning times, equipment for different types of materials. Natural history specimens were part of the affected collection. The nature of soot, funding and insurance coverage, fire detection and suppression problems are covered. {DD}

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Kaye, B., D.J. Cole-Hamilton, and K. Morphet. 2000. Supercritical drying: A new method for conserving waterlogged archaeological materials. *Studies in Conservation* 45(4): 233-252.

Kerr, N., L. Capjack and R. Fedosejevs, 2000. Ability of Textile Covers to Protect Artifacts from Ultraviolet Radiation, *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 39(3).

Hallett, K. 2000. Postgraduate training in conservation at the Hungarian National Museum. *V&A Cons. Jour.* 11(36):17.

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Martin, G. 2000. Conservation Scientists' Group meeting: accelerated light ageing. *V&A Cons. Jour.* 11(35):12.

Newey, H. Access to Large Collection Stores at The Science Museum. *Natural Science Conservation Group Newsletter* No. 15 pp 10-12.

New York City Department of Health (Environmental and Occupational Disease Epidemiology), 2000. Guidelines on Assessment and Remediation of Fungi in Indoor Environments. New York City Department of Health (Environmental and Occupational Disease Epidemiology, 125 Worth Street c/n 34C, New York, NY 10013; 212/788-4290), 14 pages. Also available on the Internet at <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/health>.

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Botany Collections Manager. Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University is searching for a Collections Manager for the Botany Division/Herbarium. Reporting to the Curator of the Botany Division/Herbarium, the Botany Collections Manager is responsible for managing the day-to-day activities of Botany Division/Herbarium including all aspects of the growth, maintenance and use of the collections. This includes the collection, preparation and maintenance of museum specimens, as well as the maintenance of associated archives and collections facilities. The Collections Manager supervises computerized and manual cataloging, storing, care and security of all specimens and associated data in the Botany collections; writes grant proposals, prepares annual reports of collections activities; assigns duties and oversees the work of museum staff, students and volunteers; implements recommendations of the curator concerning collections growth, maintenance and use, including exhibit planning and implementation, accessions, loans, rights and reproductions, and educational programs; carries on research related to the Botany Collections. Serves as the principal source of information concerning the Botany collections for visiting scholars, museum staff, students, faculty and the public. Qualified applicants should have three years collections management experience and a higher degree in Plant Biology, or closely related field, or equivalent combination of experience and education. Ph.D. preferred. Candidates should have experience in systematic botany, collections management, computer database management, writing of grant proposals and reports, laboratory techniques, field collecting, and diverse specimen preparation techniques. Must have effective interpersonal skills and ability to work independently. Supervisory experience preferred. Qualified applicants are invited to send a letter of application, resume and to arrange for three letters

of references to be sent to: Michael Donoghue, Curator of Botany, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, 170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511. Or email: michael.donoghue@yale.edu. Applications will be accepted through March 31, 2001. Yale University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Ornithology and Mammalogy Curatorial/Research Associate. The Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates is seeking to fill a curatorial - research associate position in the Ornithology and Mammalogy Collections, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, starting July 2001, or as negotiated. In 2002, the Museum will move to a new facility with labs for teaching, specimen preparation, and molecular systematics. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in ornithology, mammalogy, or related area, have broad knowledge of birds and/or mammals, and have experience working with systematic collections. The successful candidate will be expected to maintain an active research program (40% effort) in collections-based research and manage the Ornithology and Mammalogy Collections (60% effort), including supervision of a half-time assistant. Applications will be reviewed beginning March 26, 2001, and continue until a suitable candidate is found. To apply, send curriculum vitae and statements of collections experience and research interests, and have three letters of recommendation sent to: Dr. David W. Winkler, Chair, Ornithology/Mammalogy Search Committee, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Corson Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 USA; 607-254-4230 (voice). Cornell University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Applications from women and minorities are encouraged.

Publications continued....

continued from page 16

Health issues (health, immunological and toxic effects of mold, infectious diseases of mold), and medical evaluation and relocation are explained. Other sections include environmental assessment, and remediation (safe removal or cleaning of contaminated materials). {DD}

Su, N-Y, E. Freytag, E.S. Bordes and R. Dycus, 2000. Control of Formosan subterranean termite infestations using baits containing an insect growth regulator. *Studies in Conservation* Vol. 45 No.1, p. 30-38.

For collections in termite vulnerable

regions, curators, collection managers, technicians should be able to contribute information towards resolution of such a problem. {DD}

Velios, A. 2000. SIGGRAPH 99, or why a conservator should attend a graphics conference. *V&A Cons. Jour.* 11(34): 15-18.

White, R.D. and W.D. Allmon, 2000. *Guidelines for the Management and Curation of Invertebrate Fossil Collections including a Data Model and Standards for Computerization*. Paleontological Society Special Publication, No. 10: 260 pp.

A series of articles dealing with the invertebrate fossil curation, manage-

ment and computerization. Available from the Paleontological Society for \$15. Contact Iona Weyers, PS Special Publications office, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080 USA; 412.622.1947 (voice); 412.622.8837 (fax); weyersi@carnegiemuseums.org (email).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Calendar of Events is maintained by Christine Chandler of the Documentation Committee. Application deadlines, conferences and symposium relevant to collection management, computerization and conservation of natural history collections are listed. Notices may be submitted to Christine at Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, Peabody Museum of Natural History, 170 Whitney Ave., PO Box 208118, New Haven, CT 06520-8118; (203) 432-3748 (voice); (203) 432-9816 (fax); christine.chandler@yale.edu (email).

February, 2001

February 15, 2001. IMLS, National Award for Museum Services applications deadline (Nominations deadline, Jan. 8, 2001). Institute of Museum & Library Services, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506 USA; (202) 606-8539 (voice); www.imls.gov (web site).

February 16, 2001. MUSE Awards entry deadline. Contact Deborah Howes at museawards@mediaandtechnology.org with any questions.

February 22 - 24, 2001. Making Museums Matter, course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria, with Stephen E. Weil. For more information, contact: Joy Davis or Brenda Weatherston, Cultural Resource Management Program, Continuing Studies, Univ. of Victoria, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria BC Canada V8W 3N6; (250) 721-8462 (voice); (250) 721-8774 (fax); joydavis@uvcs.uvic.ca (email); <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp> (web site).

March, 2001

March 1, 2001. Partnerships for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy (PEET): Special Competition in Systematic Biology (NSF 00-140) proposal submission (FASTLINE only) deadline. Information about PEET is available from the NSF web site: www.nsf.gov.

March 1, 2001. IMLS, National Leadership Grants for Museums deadline. Institute of Museum & Library Services, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506 USA; (202) 606-8539 (voice); www.imls.gov (web site).

March 5 - 10, 2001. Frameworks for Success: Business Planning & Financial Management, course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, contact: Joy Davis or Brenda Weatherston, Cultural Resource Management Program, Continuing Studies, Univ. of Victoria, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria BC Canada V8W 3N6; (250) 721-8462 (voice); (250) 721-8774 (fax); <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp> (web site).

March 14 - 17, 2001. Museums and the Web 2001, Seattle, Washington USA. An international conference about museums on-line. For more information: mw2001@archimuse.com (email); <http://www.archimuse.com/mw2001/> (web site).

March 15, 2001. NTIA, Technologies Opportunities Program deadline. National Telecommunications & Information Administration, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave. N.W., HCHB, Rm. 4092, Washington, D.C. 20230 USA; (202) 482-2048 (voice); top@ntia.doc.gov (email); www.ntia.doc.gov (web site).

March 15, 2001. 2001 AAM Museum Publications Design Competition entry deadline. Contact: Amanda Kraus, (202) 218-7693 (voice); akraus@aam-us.org (email).

March 21 - 23, 2001. Technology and Preservation of Paper Based Artifacts, SCMRE Course, offered through George Washington University, Washington, D.C. USA. Contact GWU Appraisal Studies Program for more information.

March 22 - 24, 2001. Legal Problems of Museum Administration, AAM Professional Education Program, Washington, D.C. USA. For information, contact American Law Institute - American Bar Association, Courses of Study; (800) 253-6397 ext. 1630 or (215) 243-1630 (voice); www.ali-aba.org (web site).

March 24 - 25, 2001. Exploring Colorado in the Late Cretaceous When the Mountains Met the Sea, Western Interior Paleontological Society Symposium - 2001, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado USA.

March 24 - 26, 2001. From Biodiversity to Biocomplexity: A Multidisciplinary Step Toward Understanding Our Environment, 52nd Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), Arlington, Virginia USA.

March 26 - 31, 2001. Public Programming, course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, contact: Brenda Weatherston, Cultural Resource Management Program, Continuing Studies, Univ. of Victoria, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria BC Canada V8W 3N6; (250) 721-6119 (voice); (250) 721-8774 (fax); bweatherston@uvcs.uvic.ca (email); <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp> (web site).

www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp (web site).

March 27 - 29, 2001. **Preservation Options in a Digital World:**

To Film or To Scan, a seminar on preservation microfilming and digital imaging of paper-based materials, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota USA, presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center. For more information, contact Sona Naroian at (978) 470-1010 ext. 214 (voice); sona@nedcc.org (email).

March 27 - April 6, 2001. NERC-sponsored **Short Course in Molecular Systematics**, Centre for Plant Diversity & Systematics, Univ. of Reading, United Kingdom. For more details, check out <http://www.systematics.reading.ac.uk/molecularsystematics/>.

March 31, 2001. **6th International Wildlife Law Conference: The Seas and International Law**, Washington, D.C. USA. Contact: Wil Burns (American Society of International Law), (650) 703-3280 (voice).

April, 2001

April 16, 2001. **NEH Consultation Grants deadline**. For guidelines or more information, contact: Division of Public Programs at (202) 606-8267 (voice); publicpgms@neh.gov (email); or visit the NEH web site at <http://www.neh.gov>.

April 16 - 20, 2001. **Removal of Pressure-Sensitive Tapes and Tape Stains Workshop, SCMRE Course, Introductory Lecture & Practical Sessions**. For further information, contact: Francine Lewis, SCMRE Education Program, Museum Support Center, 4210 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746 USA; (301) 238-3700 ext. 102 (voice); (301) 238-3709 (fax); etp@scmre.si.edu (email).

April 17 - 21, 2001. International Congress on **Catastrophes and Catastrophe Management in Museums**, Sarajevo. Contact: Mrs. Lidija Fekeza, Zemaljski Muzej, Zmaja od Bosne 3, BiH-71000 Sarajevo; +387 33 262 710 (voice, fax); z.muzej@bih.net.ba (email); www.sarajevo-congress2001.org (web site).

April 20 - 21, 2001. **International Conference on Science and Democracy**, Naples, Italy.

May, 2001

May, 2001. **Museum Accessioning and Registration Course**, a 3-day Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) training program for small museums in Oklahoma. Contact: OMA, 2100

N.E. 52 St., Oklahoma City, OK 73111 USA; (405) 424-7757 (voice); oma@ionet.net (email); <http://www.ArchiveBuilders.com> (web site).

May 6 - 10, 2001. **AAM Annual Meeting**, St. Louis, Missouri USA.

May 18 - 20, 2001. **UCLA Extension Course in Document Imaging - Document Management**. Contact: (310) 937-7000 (voice); SteveGilheany@ArchiveBuilders.com (email).

May 27 - 30, 2001. **Geological Association of Canada - Mineralogical Association of Canada 2001 Joint Annual Meeting**. Visit the web site at <http://www.geosurv.gov.nf.ca/stjohns2001/index.html>.

May 29 - June 4, 2001. **AIC Annual Meeting**, Dallas, Texas USA.

June, 2001

June 4 - 9, 2001. **Electronic Outreach: Museum Programming on the Web**, course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, contact: Brenda Weatherston, Cultural Resource Management Program, Continuing Studies, Univ. of Victoria, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria BC Canada V8W 3N6; (250) 721-6119 (voice); (250) 721-8774 (fax); bweatherston@uvcs.uvic.ca (email); <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp> (web site).

June 8 - 9, 2001. **Natural Science Collections: A New Vision, Association of Systematic Collections (Natural Science Collections Alliance) 2001 Annual Meeting**, Chicago, Illinois USA. For details, call (202) 835-9050 or email asc@ascoll.org. Check <http://www.ascoll.org> for program updates.

June 10 - 13, 2001. **Museum 2000 - Confirmation or Challenge?**, Stockholm, Sweden.

June 18 - 23, 2001. **Stewardship Strategies for Cultural and Natural Resources**, course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria. For more information, contact: Brenda Weatherston, Cultural Resource Management Program, Continuing Studies, Univ. of Victoria, PO Box 3030 STN CSC, Victoria BC Canada V8W 3N6; (250) 721-6119 (voice); (250) 721-8774 (fax); bweatherston@uvcs.uvic.ca (email); <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp> (web site).

June 21 - 26, 2001. **16th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California USA. For more information, contact Local Committee Chair: Jean

Demouth, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118 USA; (415) 750-7094 (voice); (415) 750-7090 (fax); jdemouthe@calacademy.org (email).

June 26 - July 1, 2001. **7th North American Paleontology Convention** hosted by the Museum of Paleontology at the University of California, Berkeley; (510) 642-3921 (voice); NAPC2001@ucmp1.berkeley.edu (email). Final Announcement at <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/napc/general.html>.

July, 2001

July 1 - 6, 2001. **The 19th Conference and 20th General Assembly of ICOM**, Barcelona, Spain.

July 2 - 5, 2001. **African Entomology 2001, 13th Entomological Congress** organized by the Entomological Society of Southern Africa, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. Contact: Prof. D. J. Brothers, School of Botany & Zoology, Univ. of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, Private Bag X01, Scottsville 3209 South Africa; (+27) (0) 33-260 5106 (voice, fax); brothers@nu.ac.za (email).

July 2 - 6, 2001. **Legumes Down Under, 4th International Legume Conference**, Australian National Museum - Manning Clark Center, Canberra, Australia. For more information: www.science.uts.edu.au/sasb/legumes.html (web); legumes@ausconvservices.com.au (email); (02) 6257 3299 (Int. +61 2) (voice); (02) 6257 3256 (Int. + 61 2) (fax).

July 5 - 10, 2001. **81st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists, 17th Annual Meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society**, hosted by the Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania USA. Information available at <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/c&i/ichher/>.

July 11 - 14, 2001. **Annual Meeting AABGA**, Denver Botanic Garden, Denver, Colorado USA.

July 12 - 14, 2001. **California Association of Museums 2001 Annual Conference - Museums Building Community: Maximizing Our Public Role**, Los Angeles, California USA.

July 16 - 20, 2001. **Joint Conference Society of Australian Systematic Biologists (SASB) & Australian Evolution Society (AES)**, University of Melbourne & Museum Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.

July 27 - 31, 2001. **2001 Annual Joint Meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians & Reptiles and the Herpetologists' League**, Indianapolis, Indiana USA.

August, 2001

August 12 - 16, 2001. **Joint Meeting of the American Bryological & Lichenological Society (ABLS), American Fern Society (AFS), & American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT)**, Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico USA.

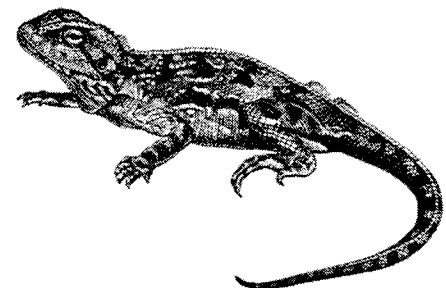
August 20 - 24, 2001. **Wood Anatomy and Identification, SCMRE Course**. For further information, contact: Francine Lewis, SCMRE Education Program, Museum Support Center, 4210 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746 USA; (301) 238-3700 ext. 102 (voice); (301) 238-3709 (fax); etp@scmre.si.edu (email).

August 26 - 31, 2001 (tentative). **3rd International Meeting on Mesozoic Fishes, Systematics, Paleoenvironments and Biodiversity**, Serpiano, Switzerland. Contact: Prof. Andrea Tintori, Dip. Scienze della Terra, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Mangiagalli 34, I-20133 Milano; +39.02.23698202 (voice); +39.02.70638261 (fax); andrea.tintori@unimi.it (email).

October, 2001

October 3 - 6, 2001. **60th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology**, Bozeman, Montana USA. For more information: <http://www.vertpaleo.org/>.

October 24 - 27, 2001. **Real Life: Virtual Experiences, New Connections for Museum Visitors, CIMI-MCN 2001**, Cincinnati, Ohio USA. Visit the MCN web site for more information: <http://www.mcn.edu/mcn2001/>.



November, 2001

November 1 - 10, 2001. **2001 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting & Exposition**, Boston, Massachusetts USA. For more information: (303) 447-2020 or 1 (800) 472-1988 (voice); (303) 447-0648 (fax); meetings@geosociety.org (email); <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2001/index.htm> (web site). Check out <http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/sections.htm> for GSA Section meetings.

November 9, 2001. **Identification and Care of Video Tapes, SCMRE Course**. For further information, contact: Francine Lewis, SCMRE Education Program, Museum Support Center, 4210 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746 USA; (301) 238-3700 ext. 102 (voice); (301) 238-3709 (fax); etp@scmre.si.edu (email).

November 12 - 13, 2001. **Setting Standards and Making It Real, the VRD(SM) 2001 Annual Digital Reference Conference**, Orlando, Florida USA. Contact: Marilyn Schick, Virtual Reference Desk (SM) Project; (800) 464-9107 (voice); vrdconf@vrd.org (email); <http://vrd.org/conferences/VRD2001/>.

December, 2001

December 9 - 13, 2001. **2001: An Entomological Odyssey, the Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting**, San Diego, California USA. Learn more at http://www.entsoc.org/annual_meeting/2001/index.htm.

May, 2002

May 8 - 13, 2001. **17th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**, Redpath Museum, Montreal, Quebec Canada. Co-organized with the Canadian Museum of Nature. Theme: *Collections Hazards and Mitigations*. For more information contact Ingrid Birker, at the Redpath Museum, McGill University, 859 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, QC H3A 2K6, Canada; (514) 398-4086, ext. 4094 (voice); (514) 398-3185 (fax); ibirker@hotmail.com (email).

August, 2002

August 7 - 10, 2002. **Annual Meeting AABGA**, Royal Botanic Garden, Hamilton/Burlington (Greater Toronto Area) Canada.

September, 2002

September 22 - 28, 2002. **ICOM triennial meeting**, Hotel Gloria, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

July, 2003

July 1 - 5, 2001. **Annual Meeting AABGA**, Greater Boston Gardens, Boston, Massachusetts USA.



The 16th Annual Meeting of the
**Society for the
 Preservation of Natural History Collections**
June 21 - 26, 2001

at the
California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, California

The Academy is a private, non-profit scientific institution;
 the oldest in the American West.

Founded at the height of the Gold Rush in 1853, the Academy has been in Golden Gate Park since 1914. The public museum includes natural history exhibits, Morrison Planetarium, and the Steinhart Aquarium.



SPNHC meetings and social events will be held at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, on the west side of the City.

Date	Activities
21 June, Thursday	pre-conference field trips (full-day trips: <i>Monterey Bay Aquarium</i> or <i>San Andreas Fault & giant redwoods</i>) committee meetings
22 June, Friday	pre-conference field trips (half-day trips: <i>San Francisco Zoo</i> or <i>Golden Gate Park gardens</i>) committee meetings, open house in research departments & aquarium, ice-breaker at CAS (evening in the Aquarium)
23 June, Saturday	welcome & keynote address, technical session I
24 June, Sunday	technical session II, special interest groups banquet & dance at CAS (African hall)
25 June, Monday	technical session III, annual business meeting, final council session
26 June, Tuesday	two half-day workshops: 1. <i>living with living collections</i> , 2. <i>identifying risks to collections</i>

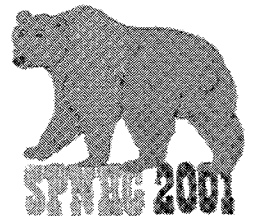
Note: the SPNHC meeting has been positioned on the calendar to immediately precede the *North American Paleontology Conference*, which will begin Tuesday 26 June at the Univ. of California at Berkeley.

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY!!!

CHECK THE SPNHC WEBSITE FOR A MAP AND LIST OF HOTELS NEAR THE ACADEMY.

For more information, contact: *Jean DeMouthe, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118* e-mail: jdemouthe@calacademy.org, phone: 415-750-7094, fax: 415-750-7090.

**ALL SPNHC MEMBERS ARE URGED TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR A TALK OR POSTER ON ANY SUBJECT IN NATURAL HISTORY CONSERVATION & COLLECTIONS CARE.
 WATCH THE SPNHC WEB SITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



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Conference: Robert H. Huxley (r.huxley@nhm.ac.uk)
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Montreal 2002: Ingrid Birker (ibirker@hotmail.com)
Conservation: Lisa Kronthal (kronthal@amnh.org) & Jude Southward (jsouthward@dmns.org)

Citations: Paula T. Work (ptwork@fuse.net)

Fluids Assessment: Gene K. Hess (hessgk@delmnh.org)

Research: David von Endt (DvE@scmre.si.edu)

Resources (RDU): Cindy Ramotnik ((ramotnik@unm.edu) (US) & Janet Waddington (janetw@rom.on.ca) (Canada)

Documentation: Tim White (tim.white@yale.edu)

Legal Issues: Holly McEntee (hmcentee@facstaff.wisc.edu)

NHCOLL-L List Owner: Tim White (tim.white@yale.edu)

Education & Training: Laura Abraczinskas (abraczil@msu.edu) & Lori Benson (benson@smm.org)

Election: Rich Rabeler (rabeler@umich.edu)

Executive: Suzanne B. McLaren (mclarens@clpgh.org)

Finance: Stephen L. Williams (steve_williams@baylor.edu)

Membership: Jane MacKnight (jmacKnight@cincymuseum.org) & Jane Mygatt (jmygatt@unm.edu)

Publications: Janet B. Waddington (janetw@rom.on.ca)

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SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Professionalism: Elizabeth E. Merritt (74437.462@compuserve.com)

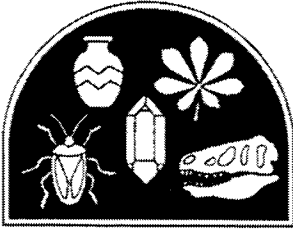
Society Representatives

AIC: Carolyn L. Rose (rose.carolyn@nmnh.si.edu)

Heritage Preservation: David Von Endt (dve@scmre.si.edu)

Registrars Committee, AAM: Elizabeth E. Merritt (74437.462@compuserve.com)

WCCR: Grant W. Hughes (gwhughes@rbml01.rbcm.gov.bc.ca)



SPNHC Newsletter
Invertebrate Paleontology
Peabody Museum of Natural History
Yale University
170 Whitney Ave., P.O. Box 208118
New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8118

Visit SPNHC at www.spnhc.org!

Future Sites of SPNHC Annual Meetings

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

2002 ♦ *Redpath Museum - McGill University* ♦ *Montreal, Quebec*