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# SPNHC NEWSLETTER

Society for the Preservation  
of Natural History Collections

September 2002  
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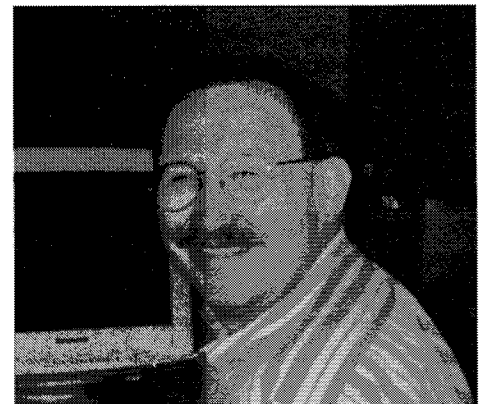
## SPNHC Receives AIC/Heritage Preservation Award

SPNHC is one of four organizations that have demonstrated innovative and exemplary approaches to caring for collections which have been awarded the 2001 Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections. The award, now in its third year, is presented annually by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and Heritage Preservation. The other 2001 Awardees were the Central Park Conservancy and the Judson Memorial Church, both in New York, and the Sculpture Center, Cleveland.

This year's winners are unusual in that only one actually owns the collection it cares for. Past winners have been primarily museums. Lawrence L. Reger, President of Heritage Preservation, said, "Responsibility for caring for our heritage belongs to all Americans, not only museums and libraries. I commend these organizations that have taken up the mantle of ensuring that our artistic, historical, and scientific heritage survives for future generations."

The award commends the sustained, strategic effort made by SPNHC to improve the level of care provided to natural history collections in North America and around the world, its promotion of best practices through the journal *Collection Forum* and the SPNHC Newsletter, and the society's pursuit of outside resources and collaborations to produce special publications and other resources, including posters, list-servers, and displays. Also noted are SPNHC's involvement with other professional organizations, including the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Entomology Collection Network, and the American Society of Mammalogists; the stimulation of original research through the Society's annual Faber Award; and its involvement in the First and Second World Congresses on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections.

### Retirement of Jerry Fitzgerald, past president of SPNHC



Gerald (Jerry) Fitzgerald, a past president of SPNHC, has retired after 33 years with the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN). Jerry's CMN colleagues bid him farewell at a luncheon on June 29, where his career in conservation was celebrated...and he himself was fondly toasted. "You roasted me to a "well done" and left me well tenderized but we all laughed together and had a great time," remarked Jerry in a suitably good-natured follow-up note to CMN staff.

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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 biannual journal of reviewed technical information, and two issues of the *SPNHC Newsletter* each year. The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is a multidisciplinary organization composed of individuals who are interested in development and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections include specimens and supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data, and similar archives. The Society actively encourages the participation of individuals involved with all aspects of natural history collections.

The *SPNHC Newsletter* (ISSN 1071-2887) is published twice a year, March and September, by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, c/o Department of Mammalogy, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192, USA. Changes of address should be directed to Lisa Palmer, Treasurer, PO Box 797, Washington, DC 20044-0797; palmer.lisa@nsmnh.si.edu.

**Submissions** are welcome. Please forward announcements, articles and notes to Chris Norris, Newsletter Editor, Department of Mammalogy, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West @ 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192 USA; (212) 769-5475; norris@amnh.org.

**Deadline** for the next newsletter is February 1, 2003.

## Presidential Report

ROBERT H. HUXLEY

*Department of Botany, The Natural History Museum,  
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, United Kingdom*

In the process of writing book chapters on 18th-century natural history, I came across a pamphlet produced around 1700 by the apothecary and natural historian James Petiver, entitled *Brief Directions for the Easie [sic] Making, and preserving Collections of all Natural Curiosities*. As I take on the president's mantle, this was a timely reminder of the role of SPNHC today, continuing a 300 year tradition of natural history collections management and conservation, and particularly the Society's significant role in the exponential growth in the discipline over the last 20 years. The focal point and highlight of the SPNHC year is its annual meeting, and Petiver would surely have related to the topic, *Hazards in natural history collections and their mitigation*.

This year's meeting, held at the Redpath Museum, Montreal, and co-hosted with the Canadian Museum of Nature, was a perfect balance of technical presentation, informal "talk time" and field trips. The topic was of practical relevance to all collections workers who deal with hazardous preservatives or have historical contaminants in their collections, some of which date back to the days of Petiver. The technical sessions and workshop made one more comfortable about actions to take and lessened the fear of "opening a can of worms", if you will excuse the unintentional pun. We have to thank Ingrid Birker at Redpath Museum, Jean Marc Gagnon at CMN and their local committee for this excellent week in a culturally fascinating city.

The annual meeting is the main chance for our various committees to meet and move forward our many business strands. Activity is often intense in this small window when we are brought together, although email allows us to follow up efficiently through the year. The hard work and enthusiasm of the committees drives the society. They are always looking for new members; if you would like to participate in one or more of these,

contact the relevant chairs. It is very rewarding and a good opportunity to use your own experience and contacts to further the society's aims.

We have had a few changes in the committees this year, with new chairs and co-chairs appointed. There are two automatic changes; Sue McLaren, as past president, takes over the chair of Bylaws from Sally Shelton, and Iris Hardy returns to Council as Conference Committee Chair in her role as President Elect. We welcome Kelly Goulette, who joins Tim White as Co-Chair of the Documentation Committee. This committee has gone from strength to strength, and will be heavily involved in the workshop for next year's Annual Meeting with its strong IT focus. James Bryant has replaced Jane Mygatt as Co-chair of the Membership Committee with Jane McKnight. The Recognition and Grants Committee will be chaired by Jean DeMouthe; Jean takes over from Steve Krauth, who has been steering this group for the last few years. This committee carries out a vital and often sensitive role in the society. I am keen to encourage the principle of co-chairs. Not only does this spread the load, it also means that if one chair (hopefully not both!) stands down then continuity is maintained. Thank you to all those who are standing down this year for all the excellent work you have put in over the years.

I am looking forward to next year's meeting in Lubbock, Texas, which will be centred on the theme "Modern Museums – Balancing Tradition and Technology." This will be in our tradition of hands-on meetings, aimed at encouraging discussion and giving practical advice to collections managers who find themselves in the midst of a swarm of collections systems, international initiatives and protocols.

## SPNHC 2002



**Redpath Museum, Montreal, Quebec**

**May 8-13, 2002**

**JEAN DeMOUTHE**

Department of Invertebrate Zoology  
and Geology, California Academy of Sciences,  
San Francisco, CA

The Redpath Museum at McGill University, in the beautiful city of Montreal, was the setting for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. The meeting, held in mid-May 2002, included an interesting technical program, a variety of field trips and social events, the usual mixture of business and committee meetings, and a one-day workshop on chemical and biological emergency preparedness and response in natural history museums.

Meeting chairs Ingrid Birker and Jean-Marc Gagnon did a wonderful job of organizing the meeting and all of its attendant craziness. Joan Kaylor and other members of the local committee worked all through the week to keep things running smoothly.

The weather was variable, to say the least, and most of the field trips got a bit wet. But thanks to the local committee's organizational efforts and the generous cooperation of staff at the Canadian Museum of Nature's collection facility, the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and everywhere else SPNHC members went, a great day was had by everyone.

The classic Redpath Museum offered a unique venue for the meeting, and everyone enjoyed wandering through the exhibits and mingling with vendors between sessions, and between committee meetings.

The technical program included the usual fascinating mixture of subjects, many of which were related to the meeting's general theme of hazardous collections and mitigations. This year's meeting coincided in part with that of the American Association of Museums, so some familiar faces were missing. But the sessions were filled with both SPNHC regulars and new friends, many of whom were from the Montreal area.

The annual business meeting included the installation of new president Rob Huxley, who accepted the gavel with

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## Membership

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

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

Be sure to include the following information:

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

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

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

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

## Life Membership

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

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

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

*Lisa F. Palmer, Treasurer*  
*National Museum of Natural History*

## Treasurer's Report

In 2001, the Society's total net assets decreased to \$170,530 from a total of \$202,021 in 2000. Liabilities and net assets for 2001 totaled \$180,222. Operating income was generated from two main sources: membership dues, and publication sales. Over \$23,000 were received in membership dues. Sales of our publications brought in approximately \$10,000. Restricted and unrestricted donations from our membership totaled \$400.

One hundred and five library subscribers, and 489 individuals and associates renewed their membership in calendar year 2001. Of the 594 SPNHC members, 52 were new. Life memberships increased from 10 to 12 members. SPNHC currently has three individual members in the process of converting to life memberships.

In 2000, SPNHC was awarded a \$22,170 grant from the US National Park Service to support a symposium on the preservation of Native American and historical natural history collections with pesticide residues. The Pesticide Symposium was held in April 2001. Fifteen thousand dollars of the grant were released in 2001 to pay for Symposium expenses. Upon completion of the final report, the balance of the grant, \$7,170, will be released to cover the remaining expenses. The \$2,500, set aside by SPNHC Council for the Pesticide Symposium, was also spent in 2001. SPNHC received \$1,000 from the American Institute for Conservation and \$1,000 from the Smithsonian Institution Department of Anthropology towards the Pesticide Symposium.

Major expenses for the Society in 2001 were \$16,053 to publish two issues of *Collection Forum*, and \$4,787 for two issues of *SPNHC Newsletter*. Other expenses include: \$1,000 for the Faber Award, \$1,258 for postage, contractual support, and supplies for the Treasurer's Office, \$1,720 for insurance, \$688 in bank and merchant fees and \$3,100 for the 2000 financial review, tax preparation and filing.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments lost \$10,000 in value. For additional information concerning the 2001 finances, please contact the SPNHC Treasurer.

The first part of 2002 has seen moderate activity. Income for the 2002 membership season has been received from approximately 110 library subscriptions, and 427 individual and associate members. Of the 537 members, 45 are new. In early April, the Membership Committee sent second notices to over 100 members who have not renewed yet.

Publication sales should improve now that *Storage of Natural History Collections Ideas and Practical Solutions vol. 2* has been reprinted. Because of the tireless efforts of the SPNHC Managing Editor, the sales of all three of our publications

have been consolidated under the vendor University Products.

Expenses thus incurred in FY 2002 include \$10,983 for *Collection Forum 17 (1&2)*, \$3,312 for the Spring issue of *SPNHC Newsletter*, \$974 for SPNHC Leaflet 4, \$646 for Treasurer support and supplies; \$133 in bank fees and \$641 in Election Committee expenses. The financial review of the 2001 SPNHC financial records has been performed and the 2001 taxes filed. This year the Society anticipates expenses related to a new, fourth publication. Please refer to the 2002 Operating Budget for further details.

For their help throughout the year, I would like to extend thanks to Julia Golden (University of Iowa), Jane MacKnight (Cincinnati Museum Center), Jane Mygatt (University of New Mexico), Rich Rabeler (University of Michigan), Janet Waddington (Royal Ontario Museum), Tim White (Yale University) and Steve Williams (Baylor University). General office support for the Treasurer is provided by the Smithsonian Institution Division of Fishes.

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa Palmer, Treasurer

## Conservation Committee

The conservation committee has had a very productive year and much was resolved and accomplished at the annual committee meeting in Montreal.

### **General notes from the 2002 Meeting**

Fourteen SPNHC members attended the 2002 meeting; three new members joined the Conservation Committee. The minutes for the 2001 Conservation Committee Meeting in San Francisco were approved. Topics presented at the meeting (all discussed below) include subcommittee reports, ICOM-CC Natural History Working Group, adhesives workshop, cyanoacrylate research, five year goals and objectives, and transfer of committee leadership.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

*Paula Work, Chair of the Citations Subcommittee.* Paula explained her role as chair and requested help from the membership in reviewing journals for citations. She indicated that most people review 2-4 journals and she will try to list these journals for committee members so there are no duplications.

*Cindy Ramotnik and Janet Waddington, co-Chairs of the Resources Subcommittee.* Janet reported at the annual meeting that the Canadian Resources Display Unit had not been requested since 2000. Some minor repairs to the unit



are needed. A new tape, researched by CCI, will soon be added. Janet indicated that she is looking for someone new to replace her as caretaker of the Canadian Resources Display Unit. There have been no requests yet for the U.S. Resources Display Unit in 2002. However, the unit has already been requested for one venue in 2003. The supplies and supplier's lists for both the Canadian and U.S. versions are available on the Conservation link of the SPNHC website.

*David von Endt, Chair of the Research Subcommittee.* David was not able to attend the meeting in Montreal. As you may remember, David had requested to step down as subcommittee chair, but he has graciously agreed to continue for longer. Fernando Marte, an intern working with David at the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education, was able to attend the meeting in Montreal. Fernando reported that he has been researching archaeological dating methods, enzymatic cleaners for recovered archaeological materials, the physical and chemical stability of cyanoacrylates (especially in contact with fossil material), and biocides for wet collections.

#### **ICOM-CC Natural History Working Group**

Dries van Dam and Chris Del Re have graciously agreed to share the responsibility to get the Working Group up and running again. Dries is the Program Chair for the September 2002 meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He will chair a forum titled, 'Knowledge Lost, Knowledge Gaps, and Need for Knowledge', where he hopes the future role of the working group will be discussed. Anyone interested in attending and participating in the forum should contact Dries directly at a.j.van\_dam@lumc.nl. Chris del Re will be preparing the Newsletter. Please contact Chris at delre@mpm.edu if you have items for the Newsletter.

#### **Adhesives Workshop and Subcommittee**

The adhesives workshop proposed for the 2003 meeting has been delayed. Interest remains high in presenting this topic to the SPNHC membership, as well as allied professional organizations, such as the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology. CCI involvement remains high, although some challenges remain with scheduling key lecturers. Gretchen Anderson has agreed to chair an Adhesives Subcommittee and will work with the Education Subcommittee to investigate funding sources and continue to pursue the involvement of CCI staff.

#### **Five Year Goals and Objectives**

During the Conservation Committee meeting the need to maintain links to specialist society meetings was discussed, as well as the opportunities for organizing joint meetings. The 2003 SPNHC in Lubbock, Texas will be a joint meeting with the American Society of Mammalogists.

#### **Transfer of Leadership**

Committee members positively supported the idea of retaining co-chairs for the Conservation Committee, and further, overlapping the years of leadership. Therefore, Lisa Kronthal

will resign after three years of service, at the end of the annual meeting in Lubbock, Texas, in 2003. Barbara Hamann, Carnegie Museum, will carry on Lisa's good work. Jude Southward will continue as co-chair until the 2004 annual meeting.

#### **Leadership Manual**

Conservation Committee co-chairs Lisa Kronthal and Jude Southward updated the Conservation Committee section of the Leadership Manual.

Committee membership: Lisa Kronthal (Co-Chair), Jude Southward (Co-Chair), Gene Hess, John Simmons, Arnold Suzumoto, Rob Waller, Paula Work (Chair, Citations subcommittee), Janet Waddington (Co-Chair, Resources subcommittee), Cindy Ramotnik (Co-Chair, Resources subcommittee) David Von Endt (Chair, Research subcommittee), Rachael Perkins Arenstein, Caroline Buttler, Christopher Collins, Christine Del Re, Diana Dicus, Jean Dougherty, Kimball Garrett, Iris Hardy, Jessica Johnson, Barbara Moore, Lisa Palmer, Victoria Purewal, Carolyn Rose, Carolyn Leckie, Kasey Brewer, Gretchen Anderson, Fiona Graham.

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa Kronthal  
Jude Southward

## **Documentation Committee**

Fifteen people attended the Documentation Committee meeting in Montreal. The discussion revolved around the workshop for the 2003 Annual Meeting in Lubbock, Texas, NHCOLL-L, and the status of continuing projects. Kelly Goulette was introduced as Committee Co-Chair. Richard Monk, host of SPNHC 2003 at Texas Tech, requested the Committee's help in organizing the workshop. The timely workshop theme is the use of digital technology in museums.

NHCOLL-L, the Natural History Collections Listserv, continues to play a valuable role in the museum community. As of this writing, NHCOLL-L has approximately 710 subscribers, an increase of six percent from last year at this time. The List processed 415 postings in the last year. Due to the increasing amount of spam that NHCOLL-L receives, we will begin limiting posts to subscribers only. Subscribers will be notified well in advance of the transition expected to occur later this year. Look on the SPNHC website ([www.spnhc.org](http://www.spnhc.org)) for instructions to access the NHCOLL-L archives.

Thanks to Paisley Cato, Julie Golden, and Sue McLaren, the glossary "Museum Wise: Workplace Words Defined" is ready for publication. In the first business meeting, Council

approved the proposal to print the glossary. Thomson-Shore of Michigan has been selected to print the 400-page volume, which will be available this summer through University Products.

The Documentation Committee welcomes the following new members: Vicki Gambill (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County), Bonnie Szirtes (Canadian Heritage Information Network), and Paula Work (Cincinnati Museum Center).

Respectfully submitted:

Kelly Goulette  
Tim White

## Education & Training Committee

In 2001 and 2002, the Education and Training Committee directed efforts toward the following activities in the SPNHC Long-Range Plan: providing training opportunities, developing workshops, and providing for active exchange of information. Committee members organized the "Identifying Risks to Collections" half-day workshop that was held 26 June 2001 at the SPNHC 16th Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Sessions focused on facility and environmental risk factors, museum security issues, and collections care policies. Committee members provided some images for presenters and produced the workshop notebook. Delta Designs, Ltd. contributed sponsorship funds. Jean DeMouthe organized a half-day "Living Collections" workshop (also held 26 June 2001).

At the 2001 meeting, committee members suggested establishment of a new SPNHC special interest group for collections in education. This new group met on 10 May 2002 in Montreal.

A full-day workshop on "Chemical and Biological Emergency Preparedness and Response in Natural History Museums" was held 13 May 2002 at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Montreal. Staff from the Canadian Museum of Nature and the McGill University Environmental Safety Office organized this workshop.

A workshop on "Use of Digital Technology in Museums" is being planned for SPNHC 2003 in Lubbock, Texas, and will be organized by Richard Monk and members of the Host and Documentation Committees.

The Education and Training Committee will continue discussion of ideas and development of future workshops, including "Emergency Preparedness", "Setting and Maintaining Collections Care Standards", and "Adhesives

and Consolidants". The committee will also focus on methods to disseminate workshop information.

Committee Members: Laura Abraczinskas (Co-Chair), Lori Benson (Co-Chair), George Baumgardner, Elana Benamy, Denny Diveley, Iris Hardy, Linda Hollenberg, Bushra Hussaini, Barbara Moore, Llyn Sharp, Jeff Stephenson, Wendy Taylor, Richard White.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura Abraczinskas  
Lori Benson

## Election Committee

### *Summary of the 2002 Election.*

The offices to be filled were President-Elect, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large. The Chair opened the call for nominations for these positions at the AGM in San Francisco in June, 2001. The nomination period (closing on 31 October) was announced via NHCOLL-L, the SPNHC website, and a direct message to Council. A notice was submitted for, but accidentally omitted from, the SPNHC newsletter of September, 2001

The following nominations were received - two for President-elect, two for Secretary, and six for Member-at-large; confirmation of membership standing with the SPNHC treasurer kept all nominees in the field. All accepted nomination to stand for election except one of the Presidential nominees.

The Chair of the Elections Committee prepared a voting packet consisting of a letter of instruction for each voting member, bio-sketches of each candidate, a ballot, and a mailing label addressed to a member of the Ballot Counting Subcommittee. The packets were distributed in January to all eligible voters (Regular, Life, and Associate members) by Holly McEntee using address labels provided by the Treasurer. Ballots destined for members with addresses in Washington DC which would be subjected to the new anthrax screening measures were sent to the SPNHC PO Box and distributed by the Treasurer.

The closing date of the election was indicated as 15 March 2002. Votes were counted by members of the Ballot Counting Subcommittee and the results were certified via a recount by the Chair and then conveyed to the President.

The results of the vote were:

President-Elect - Iris Hardy  
Secretary - Elana Benamy  
Members-at-Large - Cindy Ramotnik, Tim White

**2002 Election Statistics:**

Total ballots received: 184

Invalid ballots: 13

*No name on envelope: 8, name not on roster (undesignated affiliates): 2, late postmark: 2, sent to wrong address: 1*

Total valid ballots: 171

Total ballots mailed: 503

Percentage returned: 34%

The total number of ballots received decreased this year (184 vs. 212) and the number of invalid ballots remained the same (13), yielding a total of 18 fewer valid ballots in this year's election. Participation in the election (34% vs. 38%) was similar, helped a bit by fewer ballots being distributed this year (503 vs. 515).

The number of ballots is similar (171 vs. 176) to the 2000 election, continuing the intriguing trend that fewer ballots are returned in years when the offices of President-Elect and Secretary appear on the ballot.

Committee Membership: Richard K. Rabeler (Chair), Holly McEntee; Nominations Subcommittee, Gregory W. Brown, Kelly A. Sendall; Ballot Counting Subcommittee, Gregory W. Brown, George Corner, Ellen Stepleton, James A. Cosgrove, John Pinder-Moss, Kelly A. Sendall.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard K. Rabeler

## Publications Committee

Sixteen people attended the Publications Committee meeting in Montreal. The complete annual report will be posted on the web. Highlights from the meeting follow:

The complete text of *Collection Forum* Volume 17, the proceedings of the Shepherdstown symposium on contaminated collections, is now on the SPNHC website in pdf format. In Montreal, a subcommittee was formed to revise the instructions to authors for *Collection Forum*. The old instructions are written for papers presenting the results of original research, and do not reflect the fact that other topics are acceptable for inclusion in the journal.

*Preservation of Natural History Collections: Ideas and Practical Solutions* is finally back in print, thanks to Tim White, and is available from University Products. See the SPNHC website to order this and other SPNHC publications. The long awaited glossary, *MuseumWise – Workplace Words Defined*, was approved for publication and will be available soon. We were also pleased to learn that SPNHC has received a very generous anonymous donation to be used for publications. This gift will be applied to a special project.

Please remember that SPNHC publications are dependent on the SPNHC membership for quality material. Manuscripts and information are always welcome for the Newsletter, SPNHC Leaflets, *Collection Forum*, and the website.

Committee members: Janet Waddington (Chair and Managing Editor), Chris Norris (Newsletter Editor), Jon Greggs (Webmaster), Leslie Skibinski (Leaflets Editor), Robin Panza (Associate Editor, SPNHC website), Ann Pinzl (Book Review Editor), Ryntha Johnson (Associate Editor), Suzanne McLaren (Associate Editor), Caleb Morse (Associate Editor), Richard Rabeler (Associate Editor), Cindy Ramotnik (Associate Editor), Linda Thomas (Associate Editor), Susan M. Woodward (Associate Editor), Paula Work (Associate Editor), Tim White (Special Projects).

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Waddington

## Call for Nominations (1)

The Election Committee of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections announces that nominations for the 2003 election will be received by the Chair from now until 31 October 2002.

Members participating in this election will be selecting two Members-at-Large to take office in June 2003. The Members-at-Large serve three-year terms on Council and will work closely with both other Council members and the Committee Chairs to continue the implementation of "Five Year Goals and Objectives". The two Members-at-Large whose terms end this year can also be nominated to serve an additional term.

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

To submit a nomination or for more information on the election process please contact the committee chair, Richard K. Rabeler, via:

**Email:** rabeler@umich.edu

**Telephone:** (734) 615-6200

**Facsimile:** (734) 647-5719

Mailing address: University of Michigan Herbarium  
3600 Varsity Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-2287, USA.

## Call for the 2003 Faber Grant Proposals

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

The successful applicant will be expected to 1) present a final or interim report at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Society and 2) publish the results, with the understanding that the manuscript will be sent first to the SPNHC Publications Committee for first right of refusal.

Each applicant may submit only one proposal per funding period. The cover sheet should include a project title, name(s) of project personnel (including title, address, and phone/ fax numbers), and a single-line spaced 100 word abstract describing the proposed project. The proposal text should include a statement of purpose, project plan (e.g., participants, methods, materials, schedule of completion, etc.), and proposed use of funds. The text should have one-inch margins, 10-12 characters per inch, and double-line spacing. The application, including cover page, should not exceed 10 pages. Curriculum vita of the principal investigator and letters of commitment may be single-line spaced and attached as an appendix.

Questions and proposals should be directed to the Chair of the Recognition and Grants Committee, Dr. Jean DeMouthe, at [jdemouthe@calacademy.org](mailto:jdemouthe@calacademy.org) or California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco CA 94118 before 30 November 2002.

### ***This space could be yours.....***

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc. for the next edition. Anything around 1,000 words or less considered. Contact Chris Norris ([norris@amnh.org](mailto:norris@amnh.org)) for information. Deadline for the next edition is 1 February 2003.

## Call for Nominations (2)

Awards serve an important function in a professional organization by providing a means for recognizing individuals who through excellence promote or advance the aims of the organization. The Recognition and Grants Committee accepts nominations for any of the awards listed below, gathers information about the nominees, and makes recommendations to the SPNHC Council.

A letter of nomination for an award must include the full name of the nominee, name of the award for which you are proposing them, and a description of the contribution(s) of the nominee and why this person deserves the award. Multiple nominations are encouraged. *Nominations must be received by the Committee by the end of November (30 November 2002).*

Questions and nominations should be directed to the Committee Chair, Dr. Jean DeMouthe, at [jdemouthe@calacademy.org](mailto:jdemouthe@calacademy.org) or California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco CA 94118.

### Recognized Awards of SPNHC

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:** for recognition of an individual for exceptional contributions to the objectives of the Society.

**THE CAROLYN ROSE AWARD:** for a direct or indirect significant contribution to the objectives of the Society. Nominee may be SPNHC member or non-member.

**THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** for superior service to the Society (outside of Presidential positions). Normally, this would involve superior, prolonged service to appointed offices, committees, and/or ongoing activities of SPNHC. Nominee must be a current or previous SPNHC member.

**SPECIAL SERVICES RECOGNITION:** for recognition of individual(s) for any special effort leading to the success of an important event or activity of the Society. The award is primarily a statement of appreciation.

**THE FABER GRANT:** a cash grant (\$1000 maximum) for a competitive research proposal, intended to encourage innovative projects that promote the objectives of the Society in collections management, conservation, or other collection-oriented aspects of natural history.



## Natural History Collection Care and Management Workshop in Colombia

The third International Course on the Care and Management of Natural History Collections was held from 02-08 June 2002 in Villa de Leyva, Boyacá, Colombia. The course was sponsored by the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Instituto Alexander von Humboldt, and the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center of the University of Kansas. There were 25 participants, including curators of vertebrate, invertebrate, and botanical collections, graduate students, and collection assistants. The workshop presenters were John E. Simmons (University of Kansas), Yaneth Muñoz-Saba (Instituto de Ciencias Naturales), and Maureen Montenegro (Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, Colombia). With the completion of this workshop, about 55 people have received collection care and conservation training in Colombia. The workshop included 51 hours of instruction and hands-on opportunities, and about 100 readings (1500 pages). The workshop themes included the history of natural history collections, preventive conservation, collection management theory, materials used in collections, integrated pest management, and policy development. The course participants are currently organizing an Association of Colombian Zoological Collections as a result of the workshop and an internet discussion group for natural history collections care. For more information about these activities, and information about the next Spanish language workshop, please contact Yaneth Muñoz-Saba ([ymunoz@ciencias.unal.edu.co](mailto:ymunoz@ciencias.unal.edu.co)) or John E. Simmons ([jsimmons@ku.edu](mailto:jsimmons@ku.edu)).

## Canadian Museum of Nature wins national award for novel approach to care of natural history collections.

The Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN), Canada's national museum of natural history, has received a national award for an innovative long-term approach to the conservation of natural history collections. The award from the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) recognizes the CMN's use of risk analysis - increasingly applied in financial management, engineering, environmental protection and health care - to prioritize care of the CMN's 10-million specimens in its collections.

The CMA cited the CMN's Collection Risk Assessment Project for its national significance, for exceeding the current standard of museum practice and for being a useful example that demonstrates creativity, leadership and effective use

of resources. In fact, the CMN has already been sharing this award-winning, risk-management approach with other museums and institutions through a series of workshops and training seminars.

"It's a pleasure to receive this award from our peers in the museum community," notes Rob Waller, the CMN's chief conservator. "Our collections themselves are complex, as are the threats to their survival. By using risk-management we have been able to prioritize the steps to properly conserve them for future generations."

The CMN's collections range in size and scale from large fossils and bones, to rocks and minerals, taxidermy specimens, fluid-preserved fish, reptiles and amphibians, and tiny invertebrates mounted on microscope slides. Some of these are one-of-a-kind treasures - "type" specimens that are the first reference specimen for a newly identified species. Waller and his conservation team began to apply a risk-assessment approach to care for these diverse collections about 10 years ago. The uncertainty and impacts of threats may not be noticed for years and knowing how to manage and measure the relative risk from various hazards is a challenge. The team identified about 85 individual risks, which range from catastrophic events such as earthquakes to more subtle risks such as a slight rise in temperature.

"Our whole way of considering collections management has shifted dramatically from a checklist of prescriptive standards to looking at the situation of how much of the collection value will be retained over a given period of time," Waller explains. "Based on what we find, we can then determine the best strategy for preventing the losses we anticipate."

## Canadian Museum of Nature appoints new Director of Collections

The Canadian Museum of Nature, Canada's national museum of natural history, recently appointed Roger Baird as Director of Collection Services. Baird comes to the Museum from the Department of Canadian Heritage where he was senior policy analyst responsible for the Museums Assistance Programme, the primary funding support program for museums across Canada. Prior to this position, Baird was the Director, Collections Management Services at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Baird brings experience in collection management and strategic planning as well as in partnership building and networking within the museum community. These skills will be put to good use as the Museum moves forward with its new vision of national service.

## Cornell Herbarium Database Now Online

The Cornell University Plant Pathology Herbarium (CUP) database is now available online. Of the over 400,000 fungus and plant disease specimens in the herbarium, data for just over 12,600 can currently be searched by multiple parameters, including classification, accession number, type status and location. The site will be updated regularly as specimen information is added to the UP Biota database.

The search page can be accessed through the CUP web site: <http://ppathw3.cals.cornell.edu/CUPpages/>

Comments are invited from users about the data and user interface. These can be sent directly to the Herbarium by email at [CUP-herbarium@cornell.edu](mailto:CUP-herbarium@cornell.edu).

## New York Botanical Garden Opens New Plant Research Facilities



The 250-acre New York Botanical Garden, one of the world's pre-eminent scientific institutions, launched a new \$100 million International Plant Science Center in May 2002. This major project includes the new, state-of-the-art William and Lynda Steere Herbarium to house the Garden's plant research collection, comprising nearly 7 million specimens. Called a "national treasure" by the National Science Foundation, the Steere Herbarium is used extensively by botanical researchers worldwide.

Also included in this initiative is the renovated and expanded LuEsther T. Mertz Library, which, with its 775,000 print and non-print items, represents one of the most valuable scientific resources anywhere in the world. Founded in 1899, the Mertz Library maintains more than 75% of the world's literature on systematic botany and some 70% of the world's published floras.

The new Steere Herbarium and the interior of the Mertz Library are designed by Polshek Partnership Architects, LLP. The designer for the new Library Exhibition Gallery is Stephen Saitas Designs. The restoration architect for the exterior of the Mertz Library is Cabrera/Barricklo Architects, PC.

The new 70,000-square-foot building, which provides room for growth for the next 25 years, utilizes compacting storage units in climate-controlled rooms, greatly improving preservation of the specimens. In addition, facilities for researchers are dramatically improved, offering ready access to the specimens, microscopes, computers, and new study rooms. Moreover, the facility now includes a digital imaging room, where technicians are creating the Garden's "Virtual Herbarium." A collaboration between the Garden's Herbarium and Computer Services departments, the Virtual Herbarium ([www.nybg.org/bsci/cass/](http://www.nybg.org/bsci/cass/)) makes thousands of plant-specimen images and hundreds of thousands of herbarium "sheet" records instantly available to researchers around the world. The records and images continue to grow as the Garden works to database its entire collection of nearly 7 million plant specimens.

## Oh No! Ethnobotany



*Oh No! Ethnobotany*, is a hazard communication-training program that addresses health and safety issues inherent in the handling and storage of hazardous ethnobotany, designed, developed and prototyped by Rose Kubiatowicz and colleagues at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The program, which looks beyond the wide range of residual toxic chemicals present from the treatment of an artifact to specifically address concerns raised by toxic chemicals inherent in the object itself, was supported in part by SPNHC's 2001 Faber Award. SPNHC members who are interested finding out more about the project should visit the *Oh No! Ethnobotany* web page,

[www.smm.org/explorescience/research/Collections/Ethnobot.php](http://www.smm.org/explorescience/research/Collections/Ethnobot.php).

An in-depth article on the program will be appearing shortly in *Collection Forum*.

## Current Issues in Collections, Stewardship: Mastering the Essentials

December 2002 in Phoenix, AZ  
July 2003 in Providence, RI

A two-day interactive seminar that shows participants how to integrate collections stewardship into the museum's entire operations; make strategic decisions about whether, what, and when to collect; and determine what organizational systems need to be in place to fulfill collections stewardship responsibilities now and in the future. For more info contact: AAM's professional Education program: Tel. 202-289-9114, e-mail: seminars@aam-us.org, or visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).

## NMAH and AAM host National Collections Planning Colloquium

The National Museum of American History and the American Association of Museums are hosting the Collections Planning Colloquium - a working session of museum professionals from across the country convened to assist museums and the field as a whole in identifying effective ways to engage in collections planning. It will be held in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian's S. Dillon Ripley Center on Friday, November 15 and Saturday, November 16, 2002. Building on preliminary research by NMAH and AAM, participants will:

- Analyze sample collecting plans to identify elements that are broadly useful and desirable, or may be needed by museums on a case-by-case basis
- Create guidelines for the purpose, content, and structure of collecting plans
- Identify strategies to surmount the challenges of writing and implementing collecting plans

Applications are encouraged from all museums of all discipline types and size. Up to 60 participants will be accepted-preference will be given to museums who commit to sending more than one staff member. There is no participation fee. Further information and the application form are available on the AAM Web site at [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).

## Museum Studies News from the University of Kansas

The Museum Studies graduate program at the University of Kansas is pleased to announce several important changes:

- The name of the program has been changed from Historical Administration and Museum Studies (MHAMS) to Museum

Studies. Although the program structure has not changed significantly, the new name is more descriptive of the program's mission.

- The graduate degree awarded has been changed to a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Museum Studies.
- All core Museum Studies courses are now listed under their own MUSE numbers as well as being cross-listed in American Studies, Anthropology, Biology, Geology, and History.
- The Museum Studies program has added a Graduate Certificate Program in Collections Conservation. This one-year, 12-credit-hour program is available to graduates of the University of Kansas Museum Studies program.

The Museum Studies Program at the University of Kansas was established in 1981 and has produced 108 graduates. Program alumni work in museums, archives, and historical sites throughout the United States, including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Park Service, and the Kansas State Historical Society.

Museum Studies at KU is a 42 credit hour program offering 18 credits in museum studies basics, 6 credits of professional internship, and 18 credits in an academic specialization (American Studies, Anthropology, Biology, Geology, or History).

For more information about the Museum Studies Program at the University of Kansas, please contact John E. Simmons, Museum Studies Program Coordinator, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7561, 785-864-4508, [jsimmons@ku.edu](mailto:jsimmons@ku.edu), or visit the program web page, <http://www.ku.edu/~museums/>.

## Managing Preservation

### A Series of Five Coordinated Workshops Presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center

If your institution has had a preservation planning survey and is ready to take the next step, if it has not yet developed a systematic preservation program, if it needs to make the current program more effective, or if you feel the need for additional preservation education, NEDCC has designed a program just for you. The cycle of workshops is designed to provide systematic preservation training to staff of small to mid-sized museums, historical organizations, archives, libraries, and records repositories. As a series, the workshops will provide the information needed to design, implement, and maintain an effective preservation program for documents, books, photographs, and other paper-based materials.

The program is designed for the full-time professional with part-time preservation responsibilities. Institutions may be

small to mid-sized archives, museums, historical organizations, records repositories, or public, academic, or special libraries with paper-based materials of enduring value for research. The series is not designed to address the specific needs of general circulating collections or large academic research libraries.

### **Curriculum and Schedule:**

September 11-13, 2002	Fundamentals of Preservation
December 11-13, 2002	Collections Maintenance
March 26-28, 2003	Emergency Preparedness
June 5-6, 2003	Preservation Technologies
September 11-12, 2003	Preservation Administration

Faculty will include Steve Dalton, NEDCC's Director of Field Service; Lori Foley, NEDCC's Field Service Representative; Jane Hedberg, Preservation Program Officer, Harvard University Library; Janet Gertz, Columbia University; Wes Boomgaarden, Ohio State University Libraries; Barbara Lilley, New York State Library.

The cost of the full series is \$600. Each participant is expected to attend all sessions. Lunches will be provided. Transportation, lodging, and other meals are the responsibility of participants. Full payment is required upon notification of acceptance. All sessions will be held at NEDCC's facility in Andover, Massachusetts. If you require accommodations, a block of rooms has been reserved for each session at the Andover Inn (978- 475-5903), approximately 2 miles from NEDCC. Participants are responsible for their own reservations.

The Managing Preservation series is limited to twenty participants selected based on their applications. Application information and a more detailed agenda are posted on NEDCC's web site at [www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org). If you have questions, contact Lori Foley, [lfoley@nedcc.org](mailto:lfoley@nedcc.org), at the Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810; 978 470-1010.

The program is made possible by the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## **Plant species-level systematics: patterns, processes and new applications**

### **A 3-day international symposium from 13 to 15 November 2002 in Leiden, The Netherlands**

Plant systematics has seen some dramatic changes over the past decades, mainly due to the application of molecular markers in phylogenetic reconstruction at the generic level and above. In contrast, species-level patterns and processes in plants are still generally less well understood, partly because of limited

resolution of commonly used phylogenetic markers. This symposium seeks to review current insights from the fields of molecular biosystematics and speciation, focusing on the following selected topics of particular importance:

- Plant species radiations
- Molecular evolution in time and space
- Multiple genomes: plant hybrids, polyploids and systematics
- Identification and diagnostics

This symposium brings together a panel of internationally known experts, as well as scientist from within the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland. There will be invited papers, but the symposium is also open for contributed papers by anyone with an interest in species-level systematics and plant evolution, especially research students and post-doctoral fellows.

Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, IAPT, and The Linnean Society of London.

Information: [www.nationaalherbarium.nl/symposium2002/](http://www.nationaalherbarium.nl/symposium2002/)

### **Fitzgerald**

*Continued from page 1*

Jerry first joined the CMN in the summer of 1967 as a student preparator, when the museum was known as the National Museum of Natural Sciences and was hired full time in 1970. Over the next three decades, he progressed in a variety of positions. Starting as a curatorial assistant and a conservator in paleontology, he culminated his career at the CMN in the 1990s, as Director of Collection Services, where, during a major reorganization of the museum, he formed a division dedicated solely to collection management and conservation.

Jerry's commitment to preservation and conservation issues went well beyond the walls of the CMN, as founding members of SPNHC will know. "Jerry served not only the Museum but also the professional field well in a variety of ways. The common factor was his commitment to increasing professionalism in the area of collections management and conservation", notes Rob Waller, CMN chief conservator and long-time colleague of Fitzgerald.

Jerry's dedication to the profession was long-standing. In the early 1980s, he was a key participant at a number of landmark meetings on the care and preservation of natural history collections. The ideas and issues discussed at these meetings eventually led to the formation of SPNHC in 1985. Jerry served on a number of SPNHC committees and was its President in 1992-94. He was also president of the Canadian Association of Professional Conservators from 1996-2000.

Jerry notes that he may now be retired but he certainly won't be idle. In the short-term, he plans to travel with his wife Hannie. He then plans to put his energies into a home-repair business and to do some museum consulting.

## Book Review: The Status of Biological Collections in Mexico

***Síntesis del estado de las colecciones biológicas mexicanas. Resultados de la encuesta "Inventario y Diagnóstico de la Actividad Taxonómica en México 1996-1998".*** [Synopsis of the status of the Mexican biological collections. Results of the census "Inventory and Analysis of the Taxonomy Activity in México 1996-1998"]. Jorge Llorente Bousquets, Patricia Koleff Osorio, Hesiquio Benítez Díaz, and Liliana Lara Morales. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, México, 1999. 143 pages and two 3½ diskettes.

Museum collections represent cumulative knowledge, with each museum representing a piece of that knowledge. No museum exactly duplicates the holdings of any other collection. A network of museums can make their specimens available for research through national and international loan programs. Such a network has been one of the major endeavors for the Mexican National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO by its Spanish initials), an analytical center for museum-based and other biodiversity data.

CONABIO was charged with providing the funds and logistic support for research on Mexican biodiversity. Part of its mandate was to determine the status of biological collections in Mexico. A four-person team sent questionnaires to curators or those in charge of the different collections in Mexican institutions conducting taxonomic and systematics activities.

Information was received from 193 scientific collections, held in 69 Mexican institutions. Most of those collections are regional. Botanical collections are more broadly dispersed throughout the country than the zoological and microbiological collections. While only 16% of the Herbaria are found in the Mexican capital, Distrito Federal, 32.7% of the zoological and 66.7% of the microbiological collections are located in the federal entity. At least one collection was recorded for each Mexican State, except Colima, Hidalgo, Nayarit, Oaxaca, and Tlaxcala.

The groups most widely represented in Herbaria are the vascular plants (61%), followed by fungi (16.6%), and bryophytes (12.2%), while specimens of algae are only represented in 10.2% of the collections. Of zoological collections, 53.6% are vertebrate (including 12.4% for fishes, 11.8% reptiles, 10.4% amphibians, 9.8% birds, and 9.2% mammals) and 46.4% are invertebrate groups (29.4% are arthropods).

The main problems faced by collections are lack of human and material resources. Of 977 people working in collections, only about 400 are professors-researchers, and about a fourth of those were members of the National Council of Researchers.

On the other hand, the role of databases in scientific collections for the access, management, use and analysis of large amounts of information is highlighted.

The authors acknowledge that the database is by no means complete. It requires further information, such as published catalogues, not included in the original survey. Also the great effort of compilation of base information on Mexican biological collections must be kept up to date. Overall, this information is an efficient tool to plan strategic actions to maintain and monitor healthy state of the scientific collections.

The report comes with two 3½ diskettes containing the actual information of each surveyed collection. Unfortunately it was difficult to download the information. This could be the only shortcoming of this otherwise useful contribution toward the correct management and planning of Mexican natural history collections.

As a follow-up on the above endeavor, CONABIO has created an electronic framework for sharing the information on the databases of the Mexican collections. It is named REMIB (by its Spanish initials) or World Biodiversity Information Net. Some requirements for participating in the net include: (1) Data supported by actual museum specimens; (2) Electronic databases easily available and with suitable data; (3) Permanent upgrading and enhancement of the database through the participation of experts.

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06060 México, D. F.

### T-Shirts from SPNHC Montreal 2002

Still available, a limited number of T-shirts from the *Hazardous collections and mitigation* conference at the Redpath Museum. Black shirts with yellow graphics, the front highlights the triangular conference logo. The back features the data sheet for SAFE HANDLING OF A CONTROLLED PRODUCT: HUMAN BEING.

All shirts are pre-shrunk, 100% Fruit-of-the-Loom cotton. Large and medium sizes only. \$25CAD or \$20 US which includes packing, handling, shipping and tax.

Please pay with check or money order MADE OUT TO SPNHC 2002 and mail to Ingrid Birker, Redpath Museum/ McGill University, 859 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, QC, or telephone 514/398-4086 ext. 4094, or e-mail: [ibirker@hotmail.com](mailto:ibirker@hotmail.com).



## 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).

**The Abbey Newsletter.** April 2002. 25(6):73-88.

This issue is full of useful information. Topics covered include:

ANSI/ISO Update for Permanence and Physical Properties of Imaging Materials Part 2, by Douglas Nishimura, p. 73-75, *Abbey Newsletter April 2002v.25#6*.

Douglas Nishimura is a Research Scientist at the Image Permanence Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, and a member of ANSI IT9-2 and IT9-3, and of the ISO USA TAG. [DD]

The Effect of RH on Ink Jet Prints, p. 77, *Abbey Newsletter April 2002v.25#6*. This small piece is taken from a report in the *National Preservation Office Journal* for April 2001.

The piece mentions the work of Andrew Robb, Senior Photograph Conservator, Library of Congress, on the effect of relative humidity on ink jet prints. Martin Juergens has created an identification guide website for ink jet prints: <http://aic.stanford.edu/conspec/emg/juergens/>. The summary in *Abbey Newsletter April 2002v.25#6* is written by the newsletter editor, Ellen McCrady. [DD]

Electron Beam Radiation and the Permanence of Paper by Gary A. Baum, p. 78, *Abbey Newsletter April 2002v.25#6*.

Dr. Baum is Vice President of Institute Operations at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology. [DD]

Radiation of Mail; Delays in Delivery, p. 79, *Abbey Newsletter April 2002v.25#6*,

This is a summary from several sources, including March 2002 AIC News, U.S. Postal Service newsletter *Memo to Mailers*. *Abbey Newsletter* Editor Ellen McCrady wrote the piece, I think. [DD]

Ackery, P., A. Doyle, and D. Pinniger 2002. Safe high temperature pest eradication - is the answer in the bag? . The Biology Curator 22:13-14.

Anderson, M. 2000. Raising standards in natural history dioramas: the background paintings of James Perry Wilson Curator 43(4):343-355.

Beccaloni, J. 2002. A comparison of Trisodium phosphate and Decon 90 as rehydrating agents for Arachnida and Myriapoda dry specimens. . . The Biology Curator 22:15-23.

Dillenburg, E.W. 2000. The topical museum of natural history: a walking paper. Curator 43(4):356-365.

Emery, A.E. The integrated museum: a meaningful role in society? Curator 44(1):69-82.

Gardner J. B. , and E. Merritt. 2002. Collections planning, pinning down a resource strategy. Museum News 81(4):30-33,60-61.

Gertz J. 2002. Defining Permanent Paper. *Information Standards Quarterly*, 14(2):1-5.

The Abbey Newsletter says "The author reviews and explains clearly the standards development process, the nature of permanence, ASTM paper aging research, accelerated aging, and three new ASTM test methods (aging with light, pollutant, and dry oven exposure). She says that the library and archival community will set the performance levels required for permanence on each test."

Worth reading for any one caring for collection records, field notes, or copying of original materials. [DD]

Harbord, R. 2002. How do you value specimens? The Biology Curator 22:43-44.

Hilberry, J.D. 2002. Behind the scenes, strategies for visible storage. Museum News 81(4):34-40.

Kitchener, A. C. 2002. Using Mammal collections. . . The Biology Curator 22:24-27.

Moore, S. 2002. Leaching and degradation of lipids in zoological fluid-preserved collections. The Biology Curator 22:44-46.

**The Natural Hazards Observer.** 2002. Vol. XXVI(6)

This issue includes natural disasters, terrorism, generous bibliography. May seem obsessive, but this is a publication that has a no nonsense approach to issues impacting collections, collection institutions, and personnel. [DD]

ISSN 0737-5425. Printed in the USA. Published bimonthly. The *Observer* is free to subscribers within the U.S. Subscriptions beyond the U.S. cost \$24.00 per year. Back issues of the *Observer* are available for \$4.00 each, plus shipping and handling. Orders must be prepaid. Checks should be payable to the University of Colorado.

Copies of the *Observer* and the Hazards Center's e-mail newsletter, *Disaster Research*, are also available from the Natural Hazards Center's World Wide Web site: <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards>.

Mailing address:

Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center  
Institute of Behavioral Science #6  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
482 UCB  
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0482.

Sabin, R.C. 2002. Collecting under contract: balancing the needs of museum reference collections and the requirement of the 'client'. The Biology Curator 22:40-43.

Sullivan, T.J., M. Abraham, and D.J.G. Griffen. 2000. NAGPRA: effective repatriation programs and cultural change in Museums. Curator 43(3):231-260.

Tunncliffe, S.D. 2002. The educational value of natural history collections in learning about biodiversity. The Biology Curator 22:27-40.

Tunncliffe, S.D. and M. Laterveer. Nixs Aan 2002. Spare Ribs: an interactive exhibition about skeletons. *The Biology Curator* 22:9-12.

Williams, R.S. 2002. Care of Plastics: Malignant plastics. *Western Association for Art Conservation Newsletter*. Vol 24. Number 1

Information on this and other topics can be found at the Canadian Conservation Institute website: [www.cci-icc.gc.ca](http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca), under Conservation Information, where the plastics article will also appear.

This is a comprehensive, informative look at plastics in collections. It includes spot tests to detect malignant plastics and a bibliography. [DD]

#### Books:

Allard, F (ed) 1998. *Natural Ventilation in Buildings* Oikos 368 pages, hardcover. Item#7158, \$75.00.

Order from Iris Communications, Inc., PO Box 20, Lorane, OR 97451. (800/346-0104 or 541/767-0355; fax 541/767/0357). More info at <http://oikos.com/catalog>.

The publisher's blurb says, "Ventilating buildings naturally - with minimal use of mechanical devices - offers environmental, economic, comfort and health benefits. Approaches can be high-tech or low-tech, but always need to be part of an integrated design strategy. A range of technical barriers, such as building codes, fire regulations and acoustics, also need to be taken into account."

The book includes a CD-ROM with software to assist in the calculation of airflow rate in natural ventilation configurations.

Worth looking at for collection managers who may be involved in new building or remodeling projects affecting their collections. [DD]

Ghiselin, Michael T., and Alan Leniko, ed. 2000 *Culture and institutions of Natural History*. California Academy of Sciences.

Little, B.J., ed. 2002. *Public Benefits of Archaeology*. University of Florida Press; Gainesville. 208 pp.

Michael A. Mares, ed. 2001 *A University Natural History Museum for the new Millennium: The Sam Noble Museum of Natural History*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

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#### SPNHC 2002

*Continued from page 3*

enthusiasm. Carolyn Rose, who was unable to attend the meeting, was presented with the SPNHC Award. Ann Pinzi received the President's Award, and Jean-Marc Gagnon and Ingrid Birker were presented with Special Service Certificates for their efforts as co-chairs of this meeting. The Faber Grant was not awarded, since no proposals had been received.

The McCord Museum, an elegant structure near the University, was the site of this year's banquet. The food was good, the historical exhibits fascinating, and the jazz quartet delightful.

It was a terrific meeting. Details of the technical program and contact information can still be found on the SPNHC website under "previous meetings."

#### Presidential Report

*Continued from page 2*

Looking forward, I have taken on the leadership of a society that is stable, active and productive: as such, I feel that SPNHC would not benefit from major changes in the immediate future. However there are three areas where I would like to concentrate my efforts in the next two years. As the first President of SPNHC who is not based in North America, the first of these, raising our international profile, seems natural. I would hope to see a rising trend in international membership and contributions to meetings and publications in the next few years. One approach towards achieving this goal would be to hold a future annual meeting outside North America and the possibility of a London, UK, meeting in 2005 is currently being investigated. Discussion of this at Council and elsewhere has so far indicated that the cost to participants should, on average, be little more than for those travelling to the more expensive East Coast venues from the West Coast. We will continue to look into this and would appreciate views from the membership.

An overseas meeting will also, I hope, address the second issue on my list – interactions with other societies. There are possibilities for co-hosting the UK meeting with local societies such as the Biology Curators Group and the Geology Curators Group. I would see this as having benefits to all groups. I would also like to review our relationship with The Natural Sciences Collections Alliance. We currently complement each other and any overlap reinforces messages and is to the benefit of natural history collections as a whole. With the value of traditional collections to systematics again being questioned (remember the 1990 Clifford *et al* paper in *Nature*) our organizations will maintain a watching brief and, if necessary, be prepared to lobby on these issues.

Thirdly, we have been successful this year in receiving a substantial donation towards our publications and I would like us to re-visit the role of donations and endowments in raising extra funds for the Society; for example, to sponsor students, or to subsidise publications and meetings. There is, I am sure, a lot of fund raising and PR experience in our committees and membership at large waiting to be tapped. Although we will not be starting on this immediately I would still appreciate views and comments.

Finally I would like to thank all those in the committees and membership at large who contribute so much to make the society successful especially in times when our home workloads get larger and resources often get less. Let me end on an 18th-century quote that sounds familiar today and reminds us all of our primary purpose. The Oxford botanist, Sherard, in a reference to Sir Hans Sloane remarked that he "is now busy with his shells . . . Had he set upon his plants, as I would have had him, he might have preserved them in some measure; for they [the plants] will be eat up (if they are not already) in a little time."

## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to submit job descriptions, please send postings to the Newsletter Editor. See the SPNHC web site, [www.spnhc.org](http://www.spnhc.org), for current postings.

*Registrar/Collections Manager, Dallas Museum of Natural History.* The Dallas Museum of Natural History, a museum of nature and science, seeks an experienced, creative, full-time registrar /collections manager to manage, organize, and assist in the care of the permanent collection; maintain electronic and manual collection records; process loans and exhibition records; oversee crating, shipping, and storage of artifacts; supervise the movement of all objects within the museum; prepare condition reports; conduct inventories; assist with exhibition installations; conduct registration photo/video shoots. Required qualifications: Bachelor's degree in an appropriate field, such as geology, biology, anthropology or museum studies; excellent written and verbal communication skills; computer literacy, including knowledge of database and word-processing programs; ability to work well under pressure in a team-oriented environment; willingness to work outside of normal business hours; demonstrated understanding of and strong commitment to customer service. Preferred qualifications: master's degree in one of the applicable fields; previous experience as preparator or registrar in a museum. Resume, salary requirements and cover letter to: Employment Manager, Dallas Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 150349, Dallas, TX 75315; fax 214-428-4356; e-mail: [employment@dmnhnet.org](mailto:employment@dmnhnet.org) EOE

*Museum Assistant I, Division of Entomology, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.* The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History is seeking a Museum Assistant I in the Division of Entomology to assist moving its collections into a newly built Environmental Sciences Facility. This is a full time position for two years from the date of hire. Duties: Under the direction of the Collections Manager, assist in the preparation and physical transfer of dry and fluid-preserved insect and spider specimens and in reorganizing and curating the moved collections. These duties include, but may not be limited to, preparing, inventorying, identifying, sorting and cataloguing insect specimens; physically transferring storage units; rearranging the collections by specific Linnaean taxonomic classifications; generating and installing labels; and performing clerical functions associated with these activities. The applicant will assist the Collections Manager in monitoring activities of volunteers and students, providing assistance to visiting researchers, and ensuring the care, security and proper handling of all collections. Qualifications: Six years experience, four of them in the same job family at the next lower level, and a high school level education; or four years of related work experience and an Associate degree; or little or no work experience and a Bachelor's degree in a related field; or an equivalent combination of experience and education. Bachelor's degree in Biology with course work in entomology preferred. Experience with entomological collections, and the sufficient taxonomic expertise to sort, curate, and identify insects at the family level. Priority will be given to applicants with a proficiency in Lepidoptera systematics, although this is not a criterion for excluding consideration. Please visit <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/jobs/> for full details of the position and application procedures. Information about the Museum and the Entomology Division can be obtained from the Peabody web site <http://www.peabody.yale.edu>. Please note that in accordance with Yale Policy and applicable law, Yale is not able to help potential applicants obtain visas to work at Yale. Yale University is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer. For any questions regarding the duties please contact: Raymond J. Pupedis, PhD, Collections Manager Entomology Division, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, 170 Whitney Avenue, PO Box 208118, New Haven, CT 06520-8118, Tel. (203)432-5001, Fax(203)432-9816, e-mail: [raymond.pupedis@yale.edu](mailto:raymond.pupedis@yale.edu).

## 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 Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804; (563) 324-1054 ext. 226; email [chandler@putnam.org](mailto:chandler@putnam.org) or [dinoceras@juno.com](mailto:dinoceras@juno.com).

### August 2002

- August 7, 2002. **Disaster Mitigation for Document Collections**, a Smithsonian Center for Material Research and Education (SCMRE) course. For more information, see: [http://www.si.edu/scmre/courses\\_2002.html](http://www.si.edu/scmre/courses_2002.html).
- August 7 - 10, 2002. **Annual Meeting AABGA**, Royal Botanic Garden, Hamilton/Burlington (Greater Toronto Area) Canada.
- August 13 - 17, 2002. **Visitor Studies Association (VSA) 2002 Annual Conference**, Cody, Wyoming, USA. Visit the VSA web site at <http://museum.cl.msu.edu/vsa> for more details.
- August 21, 2002. **Preservation Workshop**, a Smithsonian Center for Material Research and Education (SCMRE) course. For more information, see: [http://www.si.edu/scmre/courses\\_2002.html](http://www.si.edu/scmre/courses_2002.html).

### September 2002

- September 1, 2002. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), **Collaborative Research Grants deadline**.
- September 4 - 7, 2002. **2002 Museum Computer Network (MCN) Annual Conference**, in partnership with the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), Toronto, Ontario, Canada. See: <http://www.mcn.edu/mcn2002/> for details.
- September 6 - 8, 2002. **6<sup>th</sup> European Elasmobranch Association Meeting**, Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom.
- September 7, 2002. **NINCH Copyright Town Meeting: Creating Museum IP Policy in a Digital World**, workshop presented in collaboration with the Museum Computer Network and the Canadian Heritage Information Network. Register at <http://www.mcn.edu/mcn2002/register.htm>.
- September 11 - 13, 2002. **Managing Preservation: Fundamentals of Preservation**, 1<sup>st</sup> in a series of 5 coordinated workshops presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, to be held at NEDCC's facility in Andover, Massachusetts, USA. Details available at [www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org). Contact: Lori Foley, NDCC, 100 Brickstone Sq., Andover, MA 01810 USA; (978) 470-1010 (phone).
- September 11 - 15, 2002. **Descansando Para La Jornada: Resting for the Journey, Western Museums Association 2002 Annual Meeting**, Tucson, Arizona, USA. Check the website at <http://www.westmuse.org>.
- September 16, 2002. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), **Public Programs Consultation Grants (Museums, Libraries and Special Projects) & Public Programs for Libraries, Museums, or Special Projects Grants (Planning) deadline**.
- September 16 - 27, 2002. **From Concept to Blueprint: A Mentored Workshop for Museum Educational Web site Development**, an

immersion course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Register online at <http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/forms/promo/crm-reg.htm>.

September 20 - 22, 2002. **Current Issues in Museum Management**, Orlando, Florida, USA. For information on this and other current seminars, visit <http://www.aam-us.org>.

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

September 23 - 28, 2002. **Exhibit Design and Installation**, an immersion course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Visit: <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ha488k.htm> for more information. Contact: Lisa Mort-Putland, CRMP, Continuing Studies, Univ. of Victoria, PO Box 3030 STN CSC Victoria BC Canada V8W 3N6; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (); [lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca](mailto:lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca) (email).

September 25 - 28, 2002. **120<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union**, in conjunction with the **3<sup>rd</sup> North American Ornithological Conference**, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. For more information: <http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-02>.

September 29 - October 4, 2002. **5<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Dipterology**, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. Contact: Sally Brown, Conference Connections at [sally.brown@uq.net.au](mailto:sally.brown@uq.net.au) (email); <http://www.uq.edu.au/entomology/diperol/diptconf.html> (website).

September 23 - October 5, 2002. **Studies in Building Conservation**, an immersion course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Visit: <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ha489d.htm> for more information. Contact: Lisa Mort-Putland, CRMP, Continuing Studies, Univ. of Victoria, PO Box 3030 STN CSC Victoria BC Canada V8W 3N6; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (); [lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca](mailto:lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca) (email).

## October 2002

October 2 - 5, 2002. **Mountain-Plains Museums Association & Kansas Museums Association 2002 Annual Conference**, Topeka, Kansas, USA.

October 8 - 13, 2002. **National Preservation Conference**, presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Register online at <http://www.nthpconference.org> or your registration to 202-588-6472.

October 12 - 15, 2002. **Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference**, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, hosted by Discovery Place, Inc. Check out <http://www.astc.org> for more information.

October 15, 2002. **IMLS Conservation Project Support Grant deadline**.

October 16 - 19, 2002. **Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) Annual Meeting**, Richmond, Virginia, USA. For more information: (225) 383-5042 (phone); (225) 343-8669 (FAX); [SEMCdirect@aol.com](mailto:SEMCdirect@aol.com) (email); <http://www.semcdirect.net> (web site).

October 16 - 19, 2002. **Leadership in Museums: Are Our Core Values Shifting?, INTERCOM Annual Meeting**, Dublin, Ireland. Contact: Mr. Aidan Walsh, Museum & Heritage Consultancy Services, Tromroe, Castlepollard, County Westmeath, Ireland; +353 (0)1 446-2912 (phone); [aidanwalsh50@eircom.net](mailto:aidanwalsh50@eircom.net) (email).

October 20 - 25, 2002. **7<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly of the Asia Pacific Organization International Council of Museums (ICOM)**, Shanghai, China.

October 21 - 25, 2002. **History, technology, & Preservation of Paper-Based Artifacts**, a Smithsonian Center for Material Research and Education (SCMRE) course. For more information, see: [http://www.si.edu/scmre/courses\\_2002.html](http://www.si.edu/scmre/courses_2002.html).

## November 2002

November 1, 2002. **Getty Research Grants 2003 deadline**.

November 4 - 9, 2002. **Leading Change in Cultural Organizations**, an immersion course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Visit: <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ha488pla.htm> for more information. Contact: Lisa Mort-Putland, CRMP, Continuing Studies, Univ. of Victoria, PO Box 3030 STN CSC Victoria BC Canada V8W 3N6; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (fax); [lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca](mailto:lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca) (email).

November 11 - 12, 2002. **Visual Reference Desk (VRD) 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Digital Reference Conference, Charting the Course of Reference: Toward a Preferred Future**, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

November 13 - 15, 2002. **Education, Enterprise, & Economics: The Value of Museums, New England Museums Association (NEMA) Annual Conference**, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA. For more information: (617) 242-2283 (phone); (617) 241-5797 (FAX); <http://www.nemanet.org> (website).

November 13 - 15, 2002. **Plant Species-Level Systematics: Patterns, Processes & New Applications**, Leiden, The Netherlands, organized by National Herbarium of the Netherlands, International Assoc. of Plant Taxonomists, & the Linnean Society of London. For further information, visit the symposium website at <http://www.nationaalherbarium.nl/symposium2002/home.htm>.

November 14 - 16, 2002. **2002 Assoc. of Midwest Museums (AMM) & Minnesota Assoc. of Museums (MAM) Joint Annual Conference**, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. Contact: David M. Tanner, (314) 454-3110 (phone) or [mmcdirect@aol.com](mailto:mmcdirect@aol.com) (email); check out the website at <http://www.midwestmuseums.org>.

November 18 - 23, 2002. **Cultural Tourism**, an immersion course offered by the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Visit: <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/ha489h3.htm> for more information. Contact: Lisa Mort-Putland, CRMP, Continuing Studies, Univ. of Victoria, PO Box 3030 STN CSC Victoria BC Canada V8W 3N6; (250) 721-8462 (phone); (250) 721-8774 (); [lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca](mailto:lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca) (email).

November 25 - 29, 2002. **Museum Training in a Globalising World: Annual Meeting of ICOM Training Committee (ICTOP)**, New Delhi, India. For details, go to <http://www.icom.org/ictop/india-1.html>.

## December 2002

December 1, 2002. **IMLS Museum Assessment Program grant deadline** for all MAP assessments—Governance, Institutional, Collections Management, & Public Dimensions.

December 1, 2002. **IMLS Conservation Assessment Program Grant deadline**.

December 11 - 13, 2002. **Managing Preservation: Collections Maintenance**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in a series of 5 coordinated workshops presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, to be held at NEDCC's facility in Andover, Massachusetts, USA. Details available at [www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org). Contact: Lori Foley, NDCC, 100 Brickstone Sq., Andover, MA 01810 USA; (978) 470-1010 (phone).

December 13 - 14, 2002. **Current Issues in Collections Stewardship: Mastering the Essentials**, Pueblo Grande Museum, Phoenix, Arizona, USA. For information on this and other current seminars, visit <http://www.aam-us.org>.

December 31, 2002. **AAM Accreditation application deadline**. Applications are available online at <http://www.aam-us.org/accred.htm>. Call (202) 289-9116 to obtain a copy by mail.

## January 2003

January 4 - 8, 2003. **Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Meeting**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

January 10 - 11, 2003. **Building Community Connections**, Los Angeles, California, USA. For information on this and other current seminars, visit <http://www.aam-us.org>.

January 15, 2003. **IMLS Learning Opportunity Grant deadline**.

January 17 - 18, 2003. **Building Community Connections**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. For information on this and other current seminars, visit <http://www.aam-us.org>.

## March 2003

March 1, 2003. **IMLS National Leadership Grants for Museums On-Line, Museums in the Community, & Professional Practices deadline**.

March 19 -22, 2003. **Museums and the Web: An International Conference**, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, organized by Archives and Museum Informatics.

March 26 - 28, 2002. **Managing Preservation: Emergency Preservation**, 3rd in a series of 5 coordinated workshops presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, to be held at NEDCC's facility in Andover, Massachusetts, USA. Details available at [www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org). Contact: Lori Foley, NDCC, 100 Brickstone Sq., Andover, MA 01810 USA; (978) 470-1010 (phone).

March 26 - 28, 2003. **Legal Problems in Museum Administration**, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. For information on this and other current seminars, visit <http://www.aam-us.org>.

## April 2003

April 1, 2003. **IMLS National Leadership Grants for Library-Museum Collaborations deadline**.

April 7 - 12, 2003. **2003 Visual Resources Association Annual Conference**, Houston, Texas, USA.

## May 2003

May 18 - 22, 2003. **AAM Annual Meeting**, Portland, Oregon, USA.

## June 2003

June 5 - 6, 2002. **Managing Preservation: Preservation Technologies**, 4th in a series of 5 coordinated workshops presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, to be held at NEDCC's facility in Andover, Massachusetts, USA. Details available at [www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org). Contact: Lori Foley, NDCC, 100 Brickstone Sq., Andover, MA 01810 USA; (978) 470-1010 (phone).

## July 2003

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

## August 2003

August 5 - 9, 2003. **121<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union**, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, USA.

## September 2003

September 11 - 12, 2002. **Managing Preservation: Preservation Administration**, 5th in a series of 5 coordinated workshops presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, to be held at

NEDCC's facility in Andover, Massachusetts, USA. Details available at [www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org). Contact: Lori Foley, NDCC, 100 Brickstone Sq., Andover, MA 01810 USA; (978) 470-1010 (phone).

## November 2003

November 8 - 11, 2003. **Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference**, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, hosted by the Science Museum of Minnesota. Check out <http://www.astc.org> for more information.

## March 2004

March 31 - April 3, 2004. **Museums and the Web: An International Conference**, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, organized by Archives and Museum Informatics.

## May 2004

May 6 - 10, 2004. **AAM Annual Meeting**, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

## September 2004

September 19 - 22, 2004. **Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference**, San Jose, California, USA, hosted by the Tech Museum of Innovation. Check out <http://www.astc.org> for more information.

## May 2005

May 1 - 5, 2005. **AAM Annual Meeting**, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.

## October 2005

October 15 - 18, 2005. **Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference**, Richmond, Virginia, USA, hosted by the Science Museum of Virginia. Check out <http://www.astc.org> for more information.

## And Finally.....

Ann Pinzi writes "While at the [Montreal] meeting, I picked up an old 'bookmark' circa 1986? or so, and it had the following poem on it - maybe it would classify as a piece of SPNHC nostalgia...."

The Society for the Preservation  
of Natural History Collections  
Has led me to ponder on salvation  
and other strange reflections.  
As we battle against time  
And try to combat grime;  
Broken legs and broken wings  
We wonder how to mend the things,  
Chameleons, fish and sea stars  
Drying out in museum jars.  
Pyrite disease  
Leads to mental unease; Air pollution,  
What solution?  
Climate control?  
Oh, my soul!  
Running out of storage space?  
We know a system that's an ace;  
But how to afford it is the question —  
Anyone got a good suggestion?  
Though this may sound pessimistic  
We look at it in a way realistic.  
For we will find our way to salvation  
With thoughts, ideas and reflections,  
The Society for the Preservation of  
Natural History Collections

D. Alison



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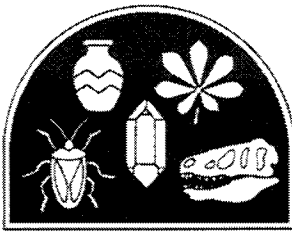
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SPNHC Newsletter  
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USA

**Visit SPNHC at [www.spnhc.org](http://www.spnhc.org)!**

## **The 18th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**

**Modern Museums- Balancing Tradition and  
Technology**

Conference: June 15-19, 2003

Workshop: June 20-21, 2003\*

**Hosted by Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas**

For more information, contact Richard Monk at [rich.monk@ttu.edu](mailto:rich.monk@ttu.edu)

\* American Society of Mammalogists meeting: June 21-25, 2003