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“Improving preservation, conservation and management of natural history collections to ensure their continuing value to society.”

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## 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# SPNHC NEWSLETTER

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

September 2005  
Volume 19, Number 2

## DNA Barcoding: A New Mission for Museum Collections



*David E. Schindel*

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Taxonomists have had at their disposal an increasing array of tools with which to delineate, define and describe new species. What began with word descriptions has diversified to include scientific illustration, morphometrics, electron microscopy, sound and video data, and an ever-widening circle of molecular techniques. The latest tool to be introduced into taxonomy, “DNA barcoding,” has captured the public’s eye and is showing signs of increasing the base of support for natural history collections. Barcoding is building strong working partnerships among museums, molecular biology labs, gene sequence databases, and the many consumers of taxonomic information (e.g., government agencies, private companies, and the general public).

DNA barcoding uses short gene sequences from a standardized position in the genome as a species-level diagnostic character set. It is a powerful complement to morphological characters that are often absent (when specimens are damaged or incomplete) or ineffective (on immature life stages or on males and females of highly dimorphic species.) The mitochondrial gene cytochrome c oxidase I (COI) has proven effective as the barcode region for almost all the higher animal groups

tested to date. Divergence at this site is rapid, and as a result only about 650 base-pairs at the 5’ end of the gene are needed. Selection of the optimal barcode region for plants is underway.

Barcoding uses the normal gene sequencing techniques that have been used in molecular taxonomic studies for decades: DNA extraction, PCR amplification, sequencing reactions and capillary sequencing. What is new about DNA barcoding is the standardization and large scale with which it is being implemented. In the past, a researcher might select any gene or genes of interest for a taxonomic study of a particular group. Different researchers could and did select different gene regions. If someone wanted to identify an unknown organism using gene sequencing methods, he or she would have to sequence all the regions that had been used previously. By focusing on one or a few standardized regions, it becomes possible to identify unknowns rapidly and cost-effectively.

Public interest, potential users of barcode data, and standardization have opened the door to barcoding on a massive scale. The

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Continued from page 1:  
.....DNA Barcoding

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation saw this potential in early 2003 and it commissioned two planning workshops that were held at the Banbury conference center at Cold Spring Harbor. These workshops led to the design of a global "Barcode Initiative" whose mission is to create a public database of reference DNA barcode data, improve methods for barcoding, and promote the use of barcoding in taxonomic and applied research.

Based on this design, Scott Miller, Curator of Lepidoptera at NMNH and Associate Director for Science at the National Zoo, submitted a successful proposal to the Sloan Foundation for creation of the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL; see <http://barcoding.si.edu>). CBOL was officially launched at an inaugural conference at the Smithsonian in May 2004 and a Secretariat Office was opened in NMNH several months later. The Consortium has grown to include 80 Member Organizations from 35 countries on six continents, mostly museums, herbaria, and other biodiversity research organizations. The first international barcode conference was held at the Natural History Museum, London, and it was attended by 230 participants from 44 countries.

Two large-scale "barcoding campaigns" have been launched since the London conference. The Fish Barcode of Life campaign (FishBOL) aims to obtain barcodes of all fish species by 2010. Barcode data for fish will be highly effective in identifying larval fish (thereby improving studies of fish population dynamics and the regulation of the fishing industry) and fish that have been filleted or otherwise processed (allowing detection of mislabeling and economic fraud). The All Birds Barcoding Initiative (ABBI) has set the goal of barcoding all 10,000 bird species in five years. The US Federal Aviation Administration and the US Air Force have supported the barcoding of North America's 675 species, a project that is nearing completion. ABBI data are critical in efforts to minimize bird collisions with aircraft.

CBOL has also created four Working Groups that are improving the methods used in barcoding:

- The Database Working Group has established an active partnership with GenBank at the National Institute of Health (NIH) and is in final stages of establishing data standards for barcode records in GenBank. In order to receive the BARCODE keyword flag in GenBank, a data record must be linked to a voucher specimen in a collection and a valid species name in the literature, including newly proposed names.
- The DNA Working Group is attacking "the formalin problem" – the difficulties associated with extracting intact DNA from formalin-fixed specimens. The Working Group, in association with the National Academy of Sciences, is planning a research workshop that will bring together chemists, biophysicists and bioinformaticians who will review past efforts and design a new research agenda leading to a solution. NIH funded a series of studies on the formalin problem in 2001, and many of the new protocols that were developed have not yet been tested on natural history

specimens. Solving the formalin problem would increase the value and impact of natural history collections enormously, and would reduce the cost of barcoding projects significantly.

- The Data Analysis Working Group is bringing together statisticians, mathematicians and population geneticists who will be refining the methods used to analyze, interpret and display barcode data.
- The Plant Working Group has received two \$400K grants from the Sloan and Moore Foundations to identify the optimal barcode region in plants.

Natural history collections are facing opportunities that haven't existed in the past. Awareness of threats to biodiversity has never been higher and concern about the introduction of invasive alien and pest species is high and increasing. The spread of infectious diseases through animal vectors is front-page news. Natural history collections are essential tools for addressing these problems and the museums and herbaria that house them should be centers of related activities. The recent list of funding priorities issued by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy cited the need for inter-agency cooperation in supporting scientific collections (see [http://www.ostp.gov/html/budget/2007/ostp\\_omb\\_guidancememo\\_FY07.pdf](http://www.ostp.gov/html/budget/2007/ostp_omb_guidancememo_FY07.pdf)).

Unfortunately, these opportunities arise at a time when the corps of expert taxonomists is shrinking instead of booming, and operating budgets are under pressure. Ironically, access to expert taxonomic advice is getting harder at a time when the need for this access is increasing. DNA barcoding has the potential to be the conduit for information from natural history collections to their waiting stakeholders.

## Remember this ???



We are members of a world team. We are partners in a grand adventure. Our thinking must be worldwide.

Wendell Wilkie

This design for the SPNHC logo (plus accompanying quotation) was used on publications such as *Collection Forum* during the first two years of the societies existence. Thereafter it was replaced by the logo we use at present.

# Presidential Report

IRIS HARDY

Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic), 1 Challenger Drive, P.O.Box 1006  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 4A2

Most professional conferences have reported noticeable declines in attendance since 2000. An exception however was our most recent annual SPNHC meeting held in London at the National History Museum from June 12-19th, 2005. More than 200 participants, representing more than 20 countries worldwide attended this joint meeting. This added an additional seven new countries to our roster, obviously a benefit of having this year's meeting outside of North America. Together our expertise, representation for collections worldwide and knowledge were well received by the other participating groups and their members namely the Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA) <http://www.natsca.org>, the Geological Curators Group (GCG), and the ICOM-CC Natural History Collections Working Group. This meeting has enabled many collaborative links and initiatives of national, European, and global significance as together we continue to develop networks with one another, through our memberships both nationally and internationally. What better way to encourage participation by our members and their various represented institutions as together we establish acknowledgement and protection of all aspects of natural history collections worldwide?

Some highlights of the meeting included the keynote address by Lord William May, renowned chief scientific advisor to the British government and President of the Royal Society of London. He started his presentation with an overview of the work of Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820), a botanist who participated in Cook's first great voyage (1768-1771), later returning with some 1300 botanical specimens. Banks is most noted for the shrubs or trees of the genus *Mimosa*, with some 75 species bearing his name "banksi". He later published the first Linnean descriptions of plants and animals and eventually became the Director of Kew Gardens. Lord May referred to these types of collections obtained in the 1700's as equivalent to stamp collecting or systematic arrangements of curiosities, whereas today's collections are better organized and better known.

Lord May also briefly touched on the UN project on global economy and *the realization that we really don't know what we don't know*. Estimates show that only some 1.5 million species have been identified to date and that we have no idea what numbers of variants are included in this estimate. How many distinct plants and animals are there? And then there are extinction rates - based on the fossil record it is estimated that it takes from 1 to 10 million years for each species to reach its point of extinction. But in the next century this rate is expected to accelerate by a factor of ten.

Lord May's closing remarks included a comment that it is our responsibility to preserve what we have and to make these same collections even more accessible. These collections represent our true legacy of the past, but unfortunately collections are not "funding friendly". At the same time that we must accelerate the rate of addition to our knowledge base, we have to better preserve what we already have. We also need to determine and identify organisms' behaviours in their particular ecosystems. It is hoped that under this UN project, a complete catalogue of life will be completed in the next 25 years. Is this truly realistic? Huge financial, legal, and competitive threats to our collections exist day-to-day. The bottom line is that most often collections are simply considered to be too costly to maintain.

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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 Division of Ichthyology, Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Dyche Hall, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045-7561, USA.

**Changes of address** should be directed to Lisa Palmer, Treasurer, PO Box 797, Washington, DC 20044-0797; [palmer.lisa@nsmh.si.edu](mailto:palmer.lisa@nsmh.si.edu).

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

**Deadline** for the next Newsletter is February 1, 2006.

Continued from page 3:  
.....Presidential Report

Lord May stressed that competition for the same funds from other areas of opportunity, include the presently recognized biodiversity crises, technology internationalism, technological permits, and web presence. And all the time we are trying to generate new ways of addressing why we have collections, and what to do with them in the future. Curators have to demonstrate the true value of their collection(s) and define this in terms of critical mass, since Curators are the gatekeepers to their access.

In his summation Lord May noted that collections represent the models of world diversity, and to increase their significance they have to be more relevant to societal needs. We need to establish standards and take an active role in international networking of these worldwide collections and their standards. We need to identify those standards that your particular museum or institute needs to maintain, a standard being anything that we use to consistently define what we do. We need written policies and procedures covering statutory requirements, internal audits, formal loans, conservation, collection audits, acquisitions, collection impact statements, field collection, code of conduct for primary acquisitions, determination of necessary procedural documentation, acquisition databases, etc. Fortunately for most attendees at this conference, many of these same topics were well addressed over the following three days by some 78 presentations under such topics as: conservation (19), natural history collections standards (25), geological collections (13), IPM (Integrated Pest Management (7)), and data standards (14).

The Special Interest Groups (SIG's) were exceptionally well attended this year and summaries of these discussions appear later in this Newsletter, as well as in GCG's *Coprolite*. Having monitored the Geology Special Interest Group I was pleasantly surprised by the large turnout and common themes discussed. Highlights included a need to identify membership specialities (**referred to as roving experts**) no matter to which of the participating organizations they belong, and that this information should be made available online globally. There will definitely be some follow-up with the GCC group in the coming year to determine a process whereby a listing of our **experts** could be developed jointly online, and perhaps use this same process to determine a venue where curators might also be able to check on bogus loan requests for geomaterials.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris A. Hardy



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Conservation Committee Report

The focus of the discussion at the annual meeting of the Conservation Committee was the committee's Resource Display Units (RDU's). Suggestions were made regarding: raising the visibility of the RDU supplies and vendors lists on the Conservation Committee web pages; presenting borrowers with the option of a smaller version of the RDU, perhaps by eliminating the display panels or by offering binders or boxes of samples from specific categories of materials, so that shipping costs and set-up time are diminished; investigating the possibility of commercial sponsorship for refurbishment or shipping of the RDU's; and working with NatSCA to explore the development of RDU's for the UK. On another topic, Dries van Dam reported that he is continuing to seek funding for the development and implementation of his web-based decision-making model for the conservation of fluid-preserved specimens.

In addition to Dries, participants at the meeting were Elana Benamy, Iris Hardy, Cindy Ramotnik, and Lori Benson, who led the discussion in the absence of both Conservation Committee chairs. We would like to extend out thanks to Lori for agreeing to take on this responsibility on very short notice.

In 2005-2006, the goals of the Conservation Committee will continue to be: 1) improving professional expertise in collections management and care, 2) increasing the body of knowledge on the management and care of collections, and 3) increasing collaboration with other organizations. Activities will include: exploring the possibility of format and content changes to the RDU's; working with the Education & Training Committee to evaluate the feasibility of an Adhesives Workshop; continuing to compile and provide citations to the SPNHC Newsletter; drafting a Conservation Committee web page that will contain a list of past and current projects and links to the Leadership Manual; compiling an annotated list of funding agencies for possible posting on the SPNHC website; and continuing research that will inform and enhance the preservation of natural history collections.

David von Endt has continued as Chair of the Research sub-committee, and Gretchen Anderson has continued as chair of the Adhesives Workshop sub-committee, exploring the possibility of an Adhesives Workshop at a future SPNHC annual meeting.

As co-chairs of the RDU sub-committee, Cindy Ramotnik and Janet Waddington continue to maintain and ship the RDU's to borrowing institutions and organizations. In May, Cindy delivered the American RDU to the Denver Museum of Nature and

Science, where it was used during a National Park Service workshop on collections management. Contact Cindy at [ramotnik@unm.edu](mailto:ramotnik@unm.edu) or Janet at [janetw@rom.on.ca](mailto:janetw@rom.on.ca) if you are interested in borrowing the displays or if you have suggestions for improving them.

Marcia Revelez, Chair of the Citations Sub-Committee, reports that the sub-committee has recently completed the task of compiling a list of all the publications that have been reviewed for the SPNHC Newsletter's "Publications of Interest" and that it is currently at work evaluating the list for gaps in coverage. Future plans include making the list available to the SPNHC membership, perhaps in a future newsletter, for wider comment. She continues to collect citations for the Newsletter from generous reviewers, and would like to take this opportunity to welcome another new recruit: Jennifer Holt, IPM Technician and Dermestid Facility Manager from the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. Please contact Marcy at [mrevelez@ou.edu](mailto:mrevelez@ou.edu) if you are interested in obtaining a copy of the publications list or if you would like to join the sub-committee as a reviewer.

We would like to thank all of the sub-committee Chairs for their commitment and hard work over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hamann and Jude Southward (co-chairs)

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## Documentation Committee Report

Ten people attended the Documentation Committee meeting in London. Discussion included bridge building with other groups sharing our interests, the implementation of the SPNHC website redesign, and understanding registration needs in the natural history community. Going forward, co-chairs Kelly Goulette and Richard Monk will divide their committee leadership responsibilities between registration and database initiatives.

The NHCOLL-L listserv, serving more than 700 subscribers, continues to be a very active forum for members of the natural history community. Gregory Watkins-Colwell manages the list. To subscribe, go to <http://www.spnhc.org/nhcoll.htm>.

Committee members are actively working toward building bridges with other organizations around standards development and implementation as well as data sharing initiatives. Vicki Gambill continues to work with members of the Registrar's Committee of the American Association of Museums. Richard Monk will be attending the annual meeting of the Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG) this fall.

The committee has identified the need for a concise resource for registration practices specific to natural history collections among

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## Membership

Membership applications for individuals (US\$25), Libraries (US\$30) or Associate/Institutional (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, Country, Zip/Postal Code)*  
*Voice, Fax, E-mail address*

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

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

Membership application/renewal form by Word file: <http://www.spnhc.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*

*Continued from page 5:  
.....Documentation Committee Report*

registrars, non-registrars, and students alike. To understand these needs better and respond to them in a prioritized way, the committee is preparing a survey for members of the natural history community.

Chris Chandler continues to collate meetings, workshops, short courses, and important deadlines for the calendar section of the SPNHC Newsletter. Please contact Chris at [chandler@putnam.org](mailto:chandler@putnam.org) with any important announcements.

Welcome new members:

Julian Carter, National Museums & Galleries of Wales  
Jessica D. Cundiff, Museum of Comparative Zoology  
Paul Davis, The Natural History Museum, London  
James Macklin, The Academy of Natural Sciences  
Donna Young, Liverpool Museum  
Julie Droke, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Goulette and Richard Monk (co-chairs)

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## Education & Training Committee Report

At the 2005 meeting in London, three full-day workshops were presented: "Standards in the Care and Management of Natural History Collections," coordinated by Paul Davis, with assistance from Carol Butler, Alison Hems and Nick Poole; "Assessing Risks to Your Collections," led by Rob Waller; and "Integrated Pest Management," taught by Adrian Doyle, Dave Pinniger and Tom Strang. The "Standards" workshop was presented on 17 June, the "Assessing Risks" workshop was given on 18 June, and "Integrated Pest Management" was presented twice, on 17 and 18 June 2005.

Ongoing committee activities for 2005-2006 include coordinating with the newsletter editor on a new "How To" article series, and continuing to identify future workshop topics. Potential workshop ideas under consideration for the 2006 SPNHC-NSCA meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, are georeferencing and digital imaging. The host committee will take the lead on developing the Albuquerque workshops. A future collaboration with the Documentation Committee is possible, pending the development and results of their upcoming survey (see Documentation Committee report for survey description).

Many thanks to Laura Abraczinskas and Lori Benson for their hard work and dedication over the past four years as Co-Chairs of the Education and Training Committee. Carol Butler has joined the committee and agreed to serve as new Co-Chair along with Linda Hollenberg. Continuing goals (indicated in bold) and activities of the Education and Training Committee

include **1) improving membership development** by improving membership services; **2) improving professional expertise in managing and caring for collections** by communicating the importance of participation in professional development activities, providing training opportunities, developing workshops, and providing for the active exchange of information; and **3) increasing collaboration with other organizations**.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Butler and Linda Hollenberg (co-chairs)

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## Finance Committee Report

During the last year, the Finance Committee worked on financial matters specifically relating to: financing upcoming publications, segregating life membership money into its own account, and applying for a SPNHC business credit card to increase our credit rating.

In the year to come, the Finance Committee anticipates a review of our insurance policy to help reduce this cost, as well as to review our investment strategies and financial policies.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Palmer and Rob Waller (co-chairs)

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## Publications Committee Report

Andy Bentley and Lori Schlenker have produced two issues of the SPNHC Newsletter. Pdf copies of the 2003 and 2004 issues are available on the SPNHC website. Watch for a new regular column of "how-to" articles aimed at non-specialists. These are being developed as a form of outreach to non-professionals, but it was noted that they would be useful for non-specialist professionals as well.

Jon Greggs continues to manage the SPNHC Website during the redesign period. An ongoing challenge is still the generation of current content.

Collection Forum volume 19 is published and the full text of volume 18 is available on the SPNHC website. Volume 19 is labeled as the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition because it is being published in our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, but in fact we are two years behind. We expect to publish a special proceedings volume from the London meeting. Several other papers are in review, thanks in large part to the efforts of Cathy Hawks in gathering submissions from a symposium on contaminated collections

and in small part to delays in getting papers through the review process.

Members are reminded that manuscripts for Collection Forum are always welcome. Please check the website under Publications for the revised guidelines to authors. As well as papers of a more philosophical nature, we are also welcoming short articles describing an innovative technique for collections storage or care.

**Associate Editors are needed for Collection Forum.** If you have any questions about Collection Forum, or would like to be an associate editor, please contact the Managing Editor at janetw@rom.on.ca.

We need to redouble our efforts to attract manuscripts and get them reviewed in a timely manner, and to try and regain author confidence so that we can get back to a predictable publication schedule.

*Museum Studies: Perspectives and Innovations (A Volume in Honor of Carolyn L. Rose)* edited by Steve Williams and Cathy Hawks, is in preparation. This book will be published by SPNHC and distributed through University Products. A contract designer has been hired to do the layout.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Waddington, Chair

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## Report of the Treasurer

In 2004, the Society's total net assets increased to \$183,048 from a total of \$165,429 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2004 totaled \$190,053. Operating income was generated from two sources: membership dues and publication sales. Approximately \$19,000 in membership dues was received. Sales of our four publications brought in approximately \$6,650. It was a good year for donations. Restricted and unrestricted donations totaled \$3,988 including \$3,533 from the 2003 local committee at Texas Tech University.

One hundred and four library subscribers, and 454 individuals and associates renewed their membership in calendar year 2004. Of the 558 SPNHC members, 76 joined SPNHC for the first time.

Major expenses for the Society in 2004 were \$3,825 for two issues of *SPNHC Newsletter*. Election expenses, including printing and mailing of the ballots, came to \$589. Other Committee expenses totaled \$88. Additional Society expenses include: \$1,311 for postage, supplies, legal fees, post office box rental and contractual support for the Treasurer's Office, \$2,802 for insurance, \$560 in bank and merchant fees, \$3,375 for the 2003 financial review, tax preparation and filing, and \$50 for web domain registration.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments gained approximately \$4,798 value and our money market funds earned \$1,183 in dividends. Our CD earned approximately \$58 in interest. For additional information concerning the 2004 finances, please contact the SPNHC Treasurer.

The first part of 2005 has seen good income activity. Thus far, approximately \$11,340 has been received from membership renewals, including approximately 98 library subscriptions, and 353 individual and associate members. Thus far, of the 451 members, 35 are new. Life memberships increased from 19 to 20 members. One hundred and forty members paying in 2004 have yet to renew in 2005. Please help SPNHC save time and money by paying your dues today.

Midway into 2005, sales of all our publications total \$3,739. We have also gained \$150 for use of our mailing list. Once again our donors promise to make 2005 a healthy and financially stable year. We have received \$40 in donations. Thank you!

Expenses thus incurred in FY 2005 include \$562 for office supplies, postage and contractual support, \$100 for the P.O. Box, \$105 in merchant card fees, \$553 in Election Committee expenses, and \$1,511 for Newsletter 19(1). The financial review of the 2004 SPNHC financial records has been performed and taxes filed. The Society anticipates expenses related to a new, fourth publication towards the end 2005. Please contact the SPNHC Treasurer for further details.

For their help throughout the year, I would like to extend thanks to Andy Bentley (University of Kansas), James Bryant (Riverside Municipal Museum), Jon Greggs (University of Calgary), Cathy Hawks (Independent Conservator), Iris Hardy (Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic), Sue McLaren (Carnegie Museum of Natural History), Judith Price (Canadian Museum of Nature), Rich Rabeler (University of Michigan), Janet Waddington (Royal Ontario Museum), Rob Waller (Canadian Museum of Nature), Tim White (Yale University) and Steve Williams (Baylor University). The Smithsonian Institution Division of Fishes provides general office support for the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Palmer, Treasurer

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

**SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (ABentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2006**

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) REPORTS

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### Botany SIG

Nineteen participants from four countries attended the Botany Special Interest Group meeting chaired by Rich Rabeler. After an initial discussion of international shipping concerns (including non-CITES problems getting material from Sweden into the USA, and from the US to Australia, Brazil, and Mexico), much of the hour was devoted to discussing many aspects of specimen imaging:

- Images vs. loans: Institutions serving images have seen the number of loan requests decline; many they do receive are now targeted, based on the researcher viewing the images and selecting the specimens to borrow.
- The web vs. collection activity: Recording web activity (visits or hits) is important as justification of collection activity - all uses of the images will not be cited in traditional literature!
- Virtual loans: Some institutions offer "virtual loans", imaging specimens when asked by a researcher.
- Image copyright: Copyright and attribution of images should be clearly stated on the website and in any loan paperwork.
- Annotation of images: Some researchers are providing "digital annotations" for the images they have received. There is no easy way to distribute this info yet, although a project is underway to investigate automated return of annotations to the owner of the image.
- Virtual Herbaria: One exciting concept that imaging is facilitating is the creation of "virtual herbaria" via collaborations between several institutions. An example is "rebuilding" the pre-World War II Berlin herbarium collections by assembling images of specimens known to have been in the Berlin collection. There may be additional outlets for public exposure (virtual field guides, etc.) as imaging continues.
- Protection of data on threatened plants: While the CITES appendices provide information on species of global concern, what resources should be used to determine plants threatened more locally? This situation is especially difficult when trying to determine information to withhold on specimens collected in other countries or states.

Richard K. Rabeler  
(with thanks to James Macklin for notes)

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## Conservation SIG

A number of intertwining topics were raised during the Conservation Special Interest Group discussion. Some of these were: the need for conservation training in the natural history collections area, training programs and resources currently available, and interactions between conservators and natural history collections staff.

For formal training in conservation, several approaches were mentioned. There are a few special programs in conservation with a specialization in natural history collections. One that was mentioned is the Copenhagen School of Conservation which offers a five year program in Natural History Collections conservation. More often, someone who already has a degree in a natural history discipline enrolls in a more traditional conservation training program. This was the path followed by all three conservators at the Natural History Museum in Cardiff. [Interestingly, these conservators are now providing natural history collections conservation training on an individual basis. A similar approach is being taken in Edinburgh.] A student in the Victoria and Albert's Conservation Program can get a placement in The Natural History Museum for a practicum.

Some of the resources available to natural history collections staff who have not had extensive formal conservation training are some of the conservation listservers and networks. It was felt though, that the real solution (in addition to more specialized conservation training programs) lies in increased interaction between conservators and natural history collections staff. Some venues for this would be ICOM-CC Natural History Working Group and AIC-OSG (Object Specialty Group). Perhaps a Natural History subgroup within AIC can be established. There need to be meetings that are less specialized and more interdisciplinary to encourage these interactions.

Finally, it was suggested that SPNHC have more "conservator-type" workshops at meetings (or even between meetings). Among the topics suggested were: Cleaning, Sampling, Filling and inpainting, Casting, Mounting, Packing for Shipping, Skeletal Preparation, Pyrite, Anoxic Environments, Metals, Cabinets, Documentation/Photography (of conservation treatments), and Hazardous Collections Materials.

Elana Benamy

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## Databases & Documentation SIG

Twenty SPNHC delegates from at least six countries and Program Officer Larry Speers from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) attended the one-hour discussion. All participants are currently involved in databasing activities at



their home institutions. The various discussion points have been grouped into categories below.

**Fossil Collections on the Internet** - GBIF has increased community building, and there are now more than 7 million records (all biota) currently on-line. Fossils are being served via GBIF as well. Paleontology collections databases are on-line via the Paleontology Portal.

**Data Standards and Imaging** - The Darwin Core is combining with the ABCD (Access to Biological Collection Data) standard, and these standards are complementary. Look for forthcoming additions to the Darwin Core. Darwin Core 2 has a concept for images (accepts URLs). There is a forthcoming manual (European) regarding imaging standards for natural history collections. Some institutions are starting to include a policy clause asking for permission to publish specimen images on the web.

**Digitization of Field Notes** - Some institutions are putting field notes on the Internet. The American Museum of Natural History has a "Congo Expedition" website that includes images and field notes. Potential issues including copyright and permission from authors for digitizing field notes should be covered by internal institutional policies. United States Federal employees may be in a different situation. For some institutions, field notes and other products of research are the property of the institution. U.S. laws regarding copyright and the Internet may be changing soon. Some participants' institutions lack a database policy. Digital data preservation policies should be instituted, and the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) is working with the Canadian National Archives to develop a template. Refer to the GBIF and CHIN websites for documents and information on digitization and intellectual property.

**Quality Checking Tools, Data Capture, and Georeferencing** - There is a forthcoming tool via GBIF for data quality checking and data cleaning. It will find outliers that can be easily flagged and fixed. Also being developed are tools (e.g. BioGeoMancer) for streamlining the georeferencing process. Collecting itineraries can be used to fix database errors. By cross-checking specimen records with scanned or hard-copy field journals and field notes, collectors' itineraries can be reconstructed and then checked for outlier records. Refer to the GBIF Digitisation of Natural History Collections Programme (DIGIT) for information on discussion groups and documents on data quality and data cleaning.

For specimen data capture, an assembly line flow and partitioning steps out is the most efficient. In one case, two workers were capturing thousands of records per week. One participant mentioned a preformatted sheet for entering herbarium data. Different types of specimens/collections may have different systems or non-standard formats though. One institution assembled a handwriting sample book to help decipher handwriting. An advantage of specimen image capture coupled with data capture is that a permanent image of the specimen label becomes part of the database record.

One participant highlighted the use of **voice recognition software** for data capture, which resulted in three times the "normal" data capture rate, but it required two people – one to read and one to fix the text. Lookup tables and code words had to be set up in advance. The software can be "trained" for multiple operators. It was also used in the field to record field notes.

There was a question as to how much time and effort should be spent on **georeferencing** "difficult" localities, and it may be best to initially flag such records and work on them later. One participant reported a georeferencing rate of about 5 minutes per record. Slicing up the georeferencing work load (by country for example) is efficient.

**Status of Web Authority Files for Taxonomic Hierarchies** - On-line authority files are still a combination, but the GBIF Electronic Catalogue of Known Organisms (ECAT) project is working on it. GBIF would like the community to work together on both taxonomic and georeferencing resources. An example was given that GBIF Canada providers have seven different taxonomic systems for birds, but data can be "flipped" within these (i.e. records can be seen in any mode).

**Status of Barcoding** - Barcoding is a tool being used for lots of collections, including herbaria, entomology and some vertebrate collections. The INBIO National Biodiversity Institute has barcoded specimens, and the Museum of Texas Tech University (TTU) has done mammals. Depending on the specimen type, the barcode is placed on a label, tag or herbarium sheet.

See the following websites for more information

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) - <http://www.GBIF.org>  
 The Paleontology Portal - <http://www.paleoportal.org>  
 Darwin Core - <http://darwincore.calacademy.org/>  
 Access to Biological Collection Data (ABCD) - <http://www.bgbm.org/TDWG/CODATA/Schema/default.htm>  
 American Museum of Natural History Congo Expedition - <http://diglib1.amnh.org/index2.html>  
 Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) - <http://www.chin.gc.ca>  
 BioGeoMancer - <http://www.biogeomancer.org/>  
 Digitisation of Natural History Collections (DIGIT) Programme - <http://www.gbif.org/prog/digit>  
 Electronic Catalogue of Known Organisms (ECAT) - <http://www.gbif.org/prog/ecat>  
 INBIO National Biodiversity Institute - <http://www.inbio.ac.cr/es/default.html>  
 Museum of Texas Tech University (TTU) - <http://www.nsr.ttu.edu/>

Laura Abraczinskas  
*(Special thanks to Judith Price for conferring on discussion points, and providing helpful information and comments (LMA).)*

## Fluid collections SIG

The Working Group Natural History Collections organised a workshop about decision-making focused on fluid collections. Dries van Dam introduced the "Decision-model for the conservation and restoration of fluid preserved specimens", which has been published as an attachment to the working group's latest newsletter (<http://icom-cc.icom.museum/WG/NaturalHistoryCollections>).

This model, which was adapted from an existing decision-model for the conservation and restoration of modern and contemporary art, suggests a decision-making trajectory for conservation problems associated with fluid preserved specimens. Basically, the decision model serves as a guideline to:

- Determine if a change in condition affects the meaning of the specimen in such a way that intervention must be considered.
- Propose various possible solutions for the conservation problem.
- Come to a final treatment plan by carefully weighing the conservation options against the consequences.

At the workshop, 3 study cases concerning various conservation problems seen in fluid collections were presented to the participants who were divided in teams. With the aid of the model each team was asked to come to a sound decision on the actions that should be taken and consequently draw the final treatment plan. At the end of the course the plans were compared and discussed. The proposed treatment plans together with their motivations clearly showed that all participants were all specialists in the field of fluid preservation. It also showed that, due to the complexity of fluid preserved specimens, cautiousness should be taken towards our actions. The model provided in these demands and it was generally felt that the model could be an important tool in raising standards in fluid preservation.

Finally, the Working Group wants to thank all participants of the workshop, the conference committee, SPNHC, NatSCA and GCG for stimulating more collaboration between our societies.

Dries van Dam and Vicky Purewal (co-ordinators)

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## Geology SIG

More than 16 participants attended the SIG geological meeting held in the De La Beche Room, NHM. In no specific order they were: Jean DeMouthe, Linda Wichstrom, Iris Hardy (chair), Linda Klise, Janet Waddington, Caroline Smith, Donas Hagstrom, Helen Fothergill, Leslie Hale, Isabel Van Wavereu, Nigel Monaghan, Condly Howells, Helen Kerbey, Patrick Jack-

son-Wyse, Eliza Howlett and Linda Welzenbach. After a brief explanation as to why SIG's exist and how they are generally reported in upcoming SPNHC Newsletters, the floor was open for general discussion on common concerns, observations and needs we tried to identify for overseeing geological collections.

- 1 There is a need for a common web site for access to the available services of experts. Examples given were model makers, preparators, cast makers as well as for general advice on fossil identification. Such a web resource could provide direct access to contacts/experts in various fields (**roving experts**) with whom services could be negotiated online such travel expenses, per diems etc.
- 2 Often don't realize what you have in a collection until discovered during a reorganization, move or updating of inventory; **roving experts** could help in determination of value.
- 3 Student collections for thesis work are for the most part not well catalogued or documented. Material ends up deselected and most often times tossed when determining whether to keep the slides (thin sections) or original rock material sampled. There is a need to establish guidelines for both the supervisor and the student from would assist them in determining what material should be kept. This could also have some impact on future funds for both the associated university and/or student. Institutions (museum or university) must have a curatorial plan in place. This could be made a part of a curriculum course studies program enabling the student to become familiarized with curatorial standards and to better understand type specimens and their significance for future geological research. There is often reluctance by most museums to borrow types, if you can more readily borrow someone else's material. One comment is that you shouldn't lend to institutions that don't have curators.
- 4 Networking between curators. Perhaps something can be initiated between SPNHC and CGC to confirm that geological loan requests are above board.
- 5 Websites containing figured specimens might assist in reducing unnecessary quantities of sample material requested for loans. Serious enquiries only. Unfortunately most collections are not 100% inventoried. Reference made to FENSCORE, a database of person's entire collection.
- 6 Most participants agreed they need a collection plan such that one can establish which materials to keep and which can be discarded. It was also generally agreed that geomaterials should be returned to the host country of origin. Colonial collections on the

net? A project initiated by Jerry Lipps, Berkeley in 1996 for paleo collections was briefly mentioned and discussed. Should this information be on the SPNHC website?

- 7 Paleo collections were briefly mentioned and discussed. Should this information be on the SPNHC website?
- 8 General agreement that there are volumes of unaccessioned material of great value still unknown. Need to revisit historical collections collected in the '70's to '90's, and perhaps consider transfers via online interaction as noted above under item #4.

Iris Hardy

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## Zoology SIG

Participants to the meeting are listed below (in no specific order), along with zoology collection-specific issues that are of concern to them in their institution:

**Maggie Reilly** (Hunterian Museum, Glasgow): Getting a new storage facility

**Judy Chupasko** (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University): need new facility + continue new collections

**Lisa Palmer** (Smithsonian Institution): fluid-preserved move to new storage + compactors

**Rebecca Smith** (The Manchester (University) Museum): post new-facility construction + documentation standards

**Paolo Viscardi** (National Museum of Ireland, Dublin): old heritage buildings + infestations + historical collections

**Rhian Bowen** (Bristol Museum & Art Gallery): new funding, storage

**Rosina Down** (retired, University & College of London Zoology Collection): lack of space, contamination, 4 staff

**Jean-Marc Gagnon** (Canadian Museum of Nature): Chair

The main issue seems to be one of building (poor quality, lack of space, improper storage, and lack of environmental control).

The limited number of staff is also noted for many institutions. More staff: Is this the solution? There is, in places, the issue of bringing all available staff to contribute. In particular, can we change the senior staff's way of doing things?

It was also noted that these are not new but constant problems with little changes over time.

We all agree that The National Museum of Ireland in Dublin seem to be operating, in term of resources and building facilities, at the level of or below the level of a museum in a developing country.

It was suggested that an independent conservation assessment may be necessary. Further, detailed valuations of the collections, followed by a formal collection risk assessment, with real, valid figures, may help build the case to demonstrate the value of those collections and convince authorities of the importance of investing in the facilities and their staff. This approach can be applied to any institution where having a proper collection facility is an issue.

Under such challenging situations, staff at these institutions may need to stop all or most activities in order to make these reports available and build a strong case for new funding to support & improve existing facilities and build better storage facilities.

Jean-Marc Gagnon

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## Help Compile Financial Data on Natural History Museums

In mid-September the American Association of Museums is distributing 7,000 copies of the 2005 Museum Financial Information Survey to U.S. museums, including at least 130 natural history museums. Last time this survey was conducted, in 2002, only 34 natural history museums answered, severely limiting our ability to analyze the financial pressures facing our field. The survey collects information on where museums are getting their money from and where they are spending it, how much is devoted to collections care, security, etc. Some museums have used the data from the 2002 survey to successfully lobby for more funding from local governments, galvanize their boards to increase fundraising, and increase spending on collections care. With enough data from natural history museums, it can help us in this way as well.

A list of museums receiving the 2005 survey is posted on the AAM Web site at [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org). (The surveys are sent to the attention of the museum's director.) If your museum is on the list, please make sure that it is being answered, and help make sure the financial data on collections care is correct. If your museum is not on the list but wants to participate, contact Beth Merritt at AAM ([bmerritt@aam-us.org](mailto:bmerritt@aam-us.org)) and ask for a copy of the survey.

In the past few years many natural history museums have come under great financial stress, resulting in staff layoffs, reductions in research, even transfer of collections. Good data on the financial performance of our peers will help us find successful ways to turn this around. Do your part—help make sure we have good data.

<http://www.aam-us.org>

Iris Hardy, President, SPNHC  
Beth Merritt, liaison to the AAM Registrars Committee

## Adult education as a tool for volunteer training and recruitment

*Julia D. Sigwart*

Museum Collections Researcher, National Museum of Ireland & University College Dublin  
[julia.sigwart@ucd.ie](mailto:julia.sigwart@ucd.ie); <http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/museum/>

We all know that volunteer labour is integral to the normal functioning of almost every museum, in both the public and research sides of Museum life. There is naturally a constant concern about standards to ensure that the volunteer-museum relationship is constructive for all parties. Particularly treacherous is striking an effective balance between initial training investment from (paid) staff and the capricious promise of unpaid effort, compared to the eventual benefits volunteers bring. The National Museum of Ireland Natural History Division is scandalously understaffed—with two (2) full time curators for a significant European capital's collections—thus recruiting a core of reliable volunteers is clearly a priority under our new scheme to improve collections access. However, for historical socioeconomic reasons in the Republic of Ireland there is not the established culture of “volunteerism” that other countries can depend on. Adult education is a creative and effective solution to answer both recruitment *and* training issues for museum volunteers.

In Autumn 2004, we elected to pursue an Adult Education module as an addition to our joint teaching programme with University College Dublin. The resulting course “*Dead Zoo: behind the scenes in the Natural History Museum*” aimed to introduce interested members of the public to the living scientific research face of the National Museum of Ireland (NMINH). The other, unadvertised aim of this course was to train a group of prospective volunteers with an effective six-week orientation programme.

The class was administered through the University College Dublin Adult Education Centre and advertised through the annual UCD “interest courses” brochure. The Adult Education Centre was particularly eager to help as they have experienced a chronic shortage in tutors for science-based interest courses, despite demand from the public. The established administration of the Centre also handled all queries, registration, and student fees. A small honorarium was paid to two tutors who presented the six weekly sessions. Classes were scheduled during working hours, two hours per week, and held in the NMINH exhibits building. Place and time were carefully selected—all students who were free to attend the class would potentially be free in future to volunteer. Topics were selected from a range of subjects, including lectures and discussions on the breadth of uses of museum objects, background in biodiversity and evolution, and an introduction to object conservation. Learners were typically retired individuals, with a keen interest but no academic background in the sciences.

Many of the learners who took this course said that they

enjoyed it immensely—the small class size and novel setting made for an exciting contrast to the typical dowdy evening lecture series. The course was particularly praised for being held in the daytime—the only Adult Education course not offered in the after-work hours—as retired individuals many of the learners are often hesitant to travel alone in the city after dark. Covering a breadth of topics, loosely themed on “collections-based biology” also allowed learners who missed one or more classes to feel they could return without having fallen behind in lessons.

These learners come away with a common basic knowledge about collections and museum procedures taught in a structured course, and we impressed upon them the important contributions that could be made by volunteering. Indeed, since the course required a fee, volunteering (for free) can feel even more rewarding. This learning experience was highly successful for the 16 students enrolled, and “*Dead Zoo*” was an integral part in our Teaching Programme 2004, which was awarded the top prize for outreach in the all-Ireland Museum of the Year Awards. Six individuals (i.e. one-third of the class) have stayed on as volunteers in various capacities, suited to their interests and abilities. More importantly, the whole class has come away with a new understanding that there is a life “behind the scenes” of the Dead Zoo.

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## Museum label solution for wet collections

Alpha Systems, a leader in data collection, mobile computing, bar code equipment and media products, has developed a museum tag solution for wet collections. Now collection tags can be printed on demand in a matter of seconds with thermal transfer printing technology. Using this technology together with the special ribbon and a 5.0 mil top coated spun bound white polyester tag it produces a durable, long lasting, scratch and smudge resistant tag which is resistant to long term exposure to alcohol or formaldehyde solutions. The Thermal Printers are available in 203dpi, 300dpi and 400dpi with many options such as a present sensor for sensing label sizes and a cutter and tray for cutting and collecting tags. Also available is a label and design software that links to most ODBC databases and allows you to format your tag and easily add bar codes, images, text and data. Visit <http://www.alphasystems.com/Mtag1.html> or call Howard Newman (804)744-9870.



## ***“The Road to Productive Partnerships”***

Joint Annual Meeting of SPNHC and NSCA  
23-27 May, 2006  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

The University of New Mexico, Museum of Southwestern Biology and the U.S. Geological Survey Arid Lands Field Station will be hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. After a twelve year hiatus, the meeting will once again be a joint endeavor with the Natural Science Collections Alliance.

Next year's meeting will explore *The Road to Productive Partnerships* and will focus on collaborations of scientific collections with partners such as government agencies, local and international agencies, and non-profit groups. By working together to share talents and using a standard language and infrastructure, there are endless possibilities for productive partnerships.

In addition to invited speakers and oral and poster presentations, our program will feature a series of special sessions with relevant and wide-ranging topics of interest for today's museum professional. Selected topics will include border and permit issues, transportation of dangerous goods, infectious disease, data sharing, and bioinformatics.

A series of workshops will be offered on one day and will highlight recent advances in georeferencing, digital imaging, and data sharing. Several pre-meeting full-day and half-day field trips will be available as well as a reception and banquet, and unsurpassed networking opportunities.



The meeting will be held at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, located in the heart of Albuquerque's historical district and just off Route 66. Please join us in the “Land of Enchantment” next May and don't forget to take that left turn at Albuquerque!

For more information go to <http://www.spnhc.org> and follow the link to “Annual Meetings” or contact Cindy Ramotnik at [ramotnik@unm.edu](mailto:ramotnik@unm.edu)

## SPNHC QUIZ - How *In The Know* are you?

It's our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, and we've now had 20 Annual Meetings. How many have you attended? How many do you know anything about? Try this quiz to discover how much you know about our past meetings. And Happy Anniversary! ... Ann Pinzl

For each meeting commented upon, supply the year and location.

Scoring Points: 2.5 points for year, and 2.5 points for location i. e. maximum 5 points per question = 100 total.

There are also some bonus points available, so you can have an outstanding score if you're really *in the know*.

- 1) *This was our first meeting off of North American soil.*
- 2) *Stephen Jay Gould was the keynote speaker, as we dealt with *The Record of Nature Through Countless Ages* .*
- 3) *We left our main meeting site to spend the day at an Ivy League University's new Collections Building which we visited from the bottom up. [score another 2 points if you can name the University; score another two if you can name the museum]*
- 4) *This was a joint meeting with the organization previously known as the Association of Systematics Collections (ASC).*
- 5) *This was our first meeting with a special training Workshop. Yes, this was an early one. [score an extra 3 points if you know the topic of this Workshop]*
- 6) *We had our Icebreaker by an alligator-infested swamp in keeping with the living collections theme.*
- 7) *When SPNHC met at this venerable older institution, the theme was *Historic Natural History Collections*.*
- 8) *The speakers weren't long-winded, but we might have gotten winded as we fought the wind to get to this meeting.*
- 9) *This was our first Annual Meeting, attended by 44 people from 18 states and three countries.*
- 10) *We were in for (a) moving experience(s) with the "Collections on the Move" workshop, and accounts of moving a frozen gorilla and fossil elephants in presented papers. [subtract 2 points if you were surprised by a possible need to move a frozen gorilla or fossil elephant]*
- 11) *The logo for this meeting was a butterfly against a yellow background.*
- 12) *Yellow was also a featured color at this meeting, only this time, the imagery had a broken black border indicating its "hazardous" nature". [score an extra 2 points for knowing the "why" of the black marking on yellow]*
- 13) *SPNHC members and tall ships assembled in this city, rich in maritime history, and natural history, too.*
- 14) *We received souvenir flyswatters for the workshop at this meeting. [score an extra 2 points if you know why].*
- 15) *Tradition (like even honoring this city's native son) and technology (like going digital, even digital specimens) were balanced this time around. [score an extra 2 points for knowing who the native son is; subtract two points, if you can't name him once you're aware of the meeting location]*
- 16) *Preventive conservation took a practical turn at the this meeting, in part thanks to a world renowned conservation center. [score an extra 2 points for naming this cooperating organization]*
- 17) *Our second Annual Meeting had double the attendance (102) of our first meeting, and was held at a city that is one of two to host us twice.*
- 18) *It's true: Quality Management leads to Quality Collection Care - and that was the topic for this meeting's Workshop.*
- 19) *SCRME (now called the Conservation Analytical Laboratory) co-hosted this SPNHC Annual Meeting.*
- 20) *This meeting was held at two distinct, but nearby sites. [score an extra 3 points if you can name both locations]*

## “How To” Series Call For Articles

The Education and Training Committee announces a call for newsletter articles for a new “How To” series for the SPNHC Newsletter. The idea for the series was formulated from various discussions during the 2004 meetings, and we are hoping to launch the series in the next newsletter. As conveyed by Janet Waddington, who was involved in the early discussions, “the idea was originally proposed to be a form of outreach to non-professionals, but it was agreed that lots of professionals could also benefit from basic instruction in areas in which they do not have expertise but might be expected to take responsibility.” Examples of ideas proposed during initial discussions included “How to properly store paper records in your collection”, “How to pin an insect”, and “How to press a plant”.

Each article would be about a page in length (or less) and designed to fit on a single page for ease of printing out and keeping or using in an outreach or educational context. Articles for the series will be coordinated by the Newsletter Editor and the Education and Training Committee. If you have an idea for this series, or a prepared article, please contact Andy Bentley, Newsletter Editor, ([abentley@ku.edu](mailto:abentley@ku.edu)), or Education and Training Committee Co-Chairs Lori Benson ([loribenson@usa.net](mailto:loribenson@usa.net)) or Laura Abraczinskas ([abraczi1@msu.edu](mailto:abraczi1@msu.edu)). Thank you for your contributions!

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## Help Wanted

Are you interested in being an Associate Editor for Collection Forum? Qualifications include some experience with or understanding of the peer review editorial process, and the ability to commit to move manuscripts through the review process in a timely fashion when you receive them.

Don't want to be an Associate Editor but would be willing to review manuscripts?

Please reply, with some indication of your experience and your general area(s) of knowledge/specialization, to: Janet Waddington, Managing Editor, Collection Forum ([janetw@rom.on.ca](mailto:janetw@rom.on.ca))

Visit SPNHC on-line at:



**[www.spnhc.org](http://www.spnhc.org)**

## 16th International Meeting of the Society for the History of Natural History

Sept. 21 - 24, 2006 Redpath Museum of Natural History McGill,  
University Montreal, Canada

Natural Science in the New World: The Descriptive Enterprise

The history of natural history in Canada is not as well known as it should be, but it is rich. One of the first naturalist's descriptions of the New World was Jacques Cartier's account of “diamonds” at the mouth of Rivière du Cap-Rouge in 1541. This episode gave Quebec's Cap Diamant its name and the saying “faux comme des diamants du Canada”. Other early naturalists' descriptions came from Champlain, Denys, Cornut, Sarrasin and Louis Nicolas. Surveyors and explorers mapped the country's landscape and included Thomas Davies, William Logan, the Hudson Bay Company Voyageurs and the Arctic expeditions of Franklin and Frobisher. In the 19th century Montreal served as a base for the study and documentation of natural ‘philosophy’ by important figures such as John William Dawson and the botanist Frère Marie-Victorin. There is also a fascinating Aboriginal understanding of natural history.

Meetings exploring these topics will be held at the Redpath Museum and the Jardin Botanique with special visits to the Biodôme de Montreal, the Insectarium, the Lyman Entomological Museum and the Ecomuseum in Ste-Anne de Bellevue, Blacker-Wood Rare Books and the Osler Medical Library at McGill and the McCord Museum.

Information: Ingrid Birker, Paleontology Curator, Redpath Museum ([ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca](mailto:ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca)); Victoria Dickenson, Director, McCord Museum ([victoria.dickenson@mccord.mcgill.ca](mailto:victoria.dickenson@mccord.mcgill.ca)); Johanne Landry, Directrice, Insectarium de Montreal ([johanne\\_landry@ville.montreal.qc.ca](mailto:johanne_landry@ville.montreal.qc.ca)).

Registration: \$175 CAD without Banquet and field trips.

Established in 1882 as the first natural history museum in Canada, the Redpath Museum fosters the study of geological, biological and cultural diversity. See <http://www.mcgill.ca/redpath>.

Specializing in the history of Canada, Quebec and Montreal from the 18th century to the present time, the McCord Museum conserves and presents over one million objects, images and manuscripts. See <http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/>.

With its collection of 22,000 plant species and cultivars, 10 exhibition greenhouses, some thirty thematic gardens, and teams of researchers and activities staff, the Jardin Botanique

*Continued from page 15:  
.....16th Int. Meeting Hist. of Nat. Hist.*

ranks as one of the world's largest and most spectacular botanical gardens. Together with the Biodome and the Insectarium, this impressive museum complex brings nature to the fore. See <http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en> and <http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/insectarium>.

Montreal is a cosmopolitan, multi-lingual, multi-ethnic city located on an island in the St. Lawrence River in the Canadian province of Quebec. The gateway to the Great Lakes water system, this "city of culture" offers a vibrant nightlife, numerous recreational activities, excellent educational institutions and a low cost of living. Montreal is less than a day's drive or a one-to-two-hour flight from most major cities in the north-eastern part of the North American continent. Montreal facts and figures: <http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca>. See Montreal live at <http://www.montrealcam.com>.

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## Call for Nominations - SPNHC

The Elections Committee of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections announces that nominations for the 2006 election will be received by the Committee Chair from now until 31 October 2005.

Members participating in this election will be selecting a President-Elect, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large to take office in May 2006. The office of President is intended as a six-year leadership commitment - two as President-Elect, two as President, and two as Past-President; the By-laws of the Society include procedures if circumstances arise that prevent serving through the three offices. The Secretary is elected to a two-year term and can be nominated for re-election. The Members-at-Large serve three-year terms and serve to bring the voice of the membership to Council and support Committee functions and leadership as required by current needs. The two Members-at-Large whose terms expire this year can also be nominated to serve for another term.

I encourage all Active and Honorary members 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:

Mailing address: University of Michigan Herbarium, 3600 Varsity Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-2287, USA; [rabeler@umich.edu](mailto:rabeler@umich.edu); Tel: (734) 615-6200; Fax: (734) 647-5719

## MUSEUM SOS

The MuseumSOS website (<http://www.museum-sos.org>) is a new resource for disaster planning, covering issues of preparedness, response, and recovery specifically for museum collections. The site was one of the outcomes of the 2004 SPNHC conference "MuseumSOS: Strategies for Emergency Response and Salvage", which was held at the American Museum of Natural History in May 2004, and features presentations and workshop materials from the meeting.

The site was partly funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation (grant # NSF DBI-353533), is hosted by the American Museum of Natural History, and was designed and constructed by Wall-to-Wall Studios (<http://www.wall-to-wall.com>) a Pittsburgh-based web-design studio. The design of the site follows a 'content-forward' model, which emphasizes rapid access and delivery of information.

The site provides case studies of individual collection emergencies giving examples of where emergency plans have succeeded or failed. It also provides guidance on developing collections preparedness and response plans (CollPRPs) for institutions. There is a strong emphasis on the importance of developing strategic partnerships, locally, nationally, and internationally, providing support and assistance in the aftermath of an emergency. There is also a wide range of materials aimed at responding to the critical first 24 hours after disaster strikes.

MuseumSOS is more than a website for the SPNHC 2004 meeting. It is intended as a continuing resource for anyone who is planning, mitigating, or responding to an emergency situation in the context of a collection-holding institution. We rely on you to help keep this website up to date by sending related content or links that are not included to [MuseumSOS@amnh.org](mailto:MuseumSOS@amnh.org).

Lisa Kronthal & Chris Norris  
American Museum of Natural History

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

**SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley ([ABentley@ku.edu](mailto:ABentley@ku.edu)) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2006**





## Heritage Emergency National Task Force

(<http://www.heritageemergency.org>)



**Advice for the Hurricane Season:** Please feel free to pass along to your members and constituents two Task Force news releases on the hurricane season: Preparing Your Institution for Hurricanes <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/NEWS/hurricanes.htm> and Save Your Treasures the Right Way <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/news/SaveTreasRight.htm>.

**New Spin on the Wheel:** Speaking of hurricanes – got Wheels? The fourth edition of the Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel is now available from Heritage Preservation. The latest version has been updated with a completely revised Electronic Records section. The new, improved Wheel features a water-resistant coating and magnets on the handle. Now you can keep one Wheel on your filing cabinet and another at home on the fridge!

**Guide to Federal Funding Resources:** Did you know there are 15 federal grant and loan programs available to help cultural institutions and historic sites both prepare for and recover from disasters? Information on these resources will soon be available in Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions. This new Task Force publication has been made possible with support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Before and After Disasters is an updated and expanded version of Resources for Recovery, last issued in 2000. Each agency profile provides a summary of grant or loan programs, information on eligibility and funding levels, and helpful examples. The booklet also features on-line preservation resources that can benefit institutions and the communities they serve. Before and After Disasters will be released in September.

**Alliance for Response:** Spotlight on New York: The first phase of Alliance for Response brought cultural heritage leaders and emergency management professionals together through forums in four cities. All have resulted in new partnerships and projects.

The New York Forum, co-sponsored by the Museum, Library and Cultural Properties Facility Group of Greater NYC, led to a unique training opportunity. Representatives from the regional office of the National Archives and Records Administration, who normally conduct disaster workshops for federal agencies, volunteered to adapt their curriculum to the special needs of cultural institutions. A training session featuring museum and library “scenarios” was held in late May at the American Museum of Natural History. Nearly 70 people attended.

**More of a Good Thing:** The Fidelity Foundation has awarded Heritage Preservation a grant for a new initiative to build on the achievements of Alliance for Response. Phase II of the project has three goals: 1) to help sustain the activities resulting from the first Alliance for Response Forums; 2) to conduct three new forums in Chicago, Seattle, and the Southeastern U.S.; and 3) to promote cooperation with emergency managers and facilitate the development of additional forums through a “Team-building Kit.” Look for an announcement in the fall about follow-up projects in Boston, Dallas, New York, and Ohio.

**Cultural Heritage Course for Emergency Responders:** In June, FEMA hosted a 3-day focus group to outline a “cultural heritage” component for its national training programs. The group met at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and included first responders, emergency managers, and experts from the museum, library, and historic preservation communities.

The primary audience for the training will be the thousands of fire service, law enforcement, emergency management, and local government personnel who take FEMA courses. Its goal will be to enhance coordination with the cultural and historic preservation communities and better protect collections, buildings, and sites.

Working with facilitators, the focus group defined learning objectives for the course in the areas of preparedness, response, and recovery. The next step will be to develop a 45-minute segment for the NETC Integrated Emergency Management Course, FEMA's premier training program for communities. The long-term wish list includes a 3-day dedicated course, a component designed for the National Fire Academy, and perhaps a video for fire stations.

**FEMA Mitigation Guide Now On-line:** How-To Guide #6: Integrating Historic Property and Cultural Resource Considerations into Hazard Mitigation Planning, is now available on-line as a PDF document at <http://www.fema.gov/fima/howto6.shtm>. The printed version of the How-To Guide will be available in early August; call the FEMA publications office at (800) 480-2520 to order.

The guide shows communities how to develop and then implement a pre-disaster planning strategy for their historic properties and cultural resources. It should provide community planners with the tools and resources they need to consider historic properties in mitigation planning activities. While the emphasis is on the built environment, the guide also addresses other types of cultural heritage, including museum collections, works of art, books, and documents.

For more information on the Heritage Emergency National Task Force and its projects, contact Jane Long at (202) 233-0800 or [jlong@heritagepreservation.org](mailto:jlong@heritagepreservation.org).



The 2005 Annual Meeting hosted by the Natural History Museum, London, marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SPNHC and, significantly, the first time the meeting has been held outside North America. Organized as it was, in conjunction with Geology Curators Group (GCG), The Natural Science Collections Association (NatSCA), and the ICOM-CC Natural History Collections Working Group, the meeting also supported a long term SPNHC objective of collaboration with other organizations, and made for a very dynamic event. A quick scan of the list of participants shows close to 200 names from about 17 countries, with large contingents from Europe, and participants from as far a field as South Africa and New Zealand, not to mention the USA and Canada, attending an ambitious program of talks and posters presented over three days, as well as a full roster of day trips, collection tours, special interest group discussions, and two days of professional workshops.

The theme of the meeting was “Realising Standards.” Almost every talk or poster related in some way to this theme, whether it was setting or recommending standards, or simply demonstrating how a “standard” had been met. The Natural History Museum is an ideal venue for this theme. Its sprawling facility ranges in age from the classic Victorian Waterhouse building of 1881 to the Darwin Centre, opened in 2002 to house the wet collections, with Darwin Centre II being planned to house the insect collections. It was a real eye opener to me to see what is happening in UK museums. All museums in England (to expand to the whole UK) must comply with the SPECTRUM standard for collections documentation; the NHM will be no exception, with a goal of databasing its collection of over 70 million specimens. In addition, NHM has a strict integrated pest management policy, enforced from the top down, that was highlighted in the IPM workshop and could serve as a model for any other institution. Pest management becomes a greater challenge as museums are increasingly pressured to open their galleries to use for commercial activities, especially involving food.

Meeting activities started with a choice of four optional day trips to The Oxford University Museum of Natural History, the Horniman Museum, Kew Gardens, or the Walter Rothschild Zoological Museum at Tring. The Oxford trip included an introduction to the architecture and construction of this historic building as well as glimpses into the collections and their romantic histories (including the site of the great debate on Darwin’s theory of evolution between Thomas Huxley and Bishop Wilberforce). It was sobering to view the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Tradescant Collection, to see journals and collections made by Charles Darwin, and maps and journals of William Smith, and to see how the museum is applying modern collection management standards and 21<sup>st</sup> century research technology within the challenges of a 145 year old building. This awe was rekindled during tours of the collections at the Natural History Museum in London, whose collections include specimens from around the world, collected over 400 years and including survey collections made by early British explorers.

The technical sessions comprised 42 oral presentations and 29 posters. While the talks were roughly grouped to accommodate the special interests of the cosponsoring groups, there were no sessions that could be missed. The poster session departed somewhat from tradition by being held only at a specific time and in a gallery some distance from the lecture hall. Attendance was encouraged by the addition of food and drink. If I had to quibble over the organization, it would be that there was no printed list of posters, making it impossible to plan which ones to view. One and a half hours was not long enough to see every poster as well as to chat with other attendees in a very crowded room. Nonetheless, the combined technical and social event was a great way to meet people and exchange ideas.

As always, the informally planned parts of the meeting were every bit as important as the formal talks and posters. The infusion of GCG members brought a new perspective to the



Banquet - main hall, The Natural History Museum, London



geology special interest group discussions, ably facilitated by Iris Hardy. In a single hour we touched on such topics as: setting up an electronic network for specialist resources (e.g. preparators, model makers for galleries, as well as discipline specialists for collections without a full time curator); deaccessioning (termed deselection to acknowledge that many collections have not been formally accessioned – and stressing the problem of finding appropriate new repositories for collections); increasing access (and therefore use) through better organization; enforcing the need for students to curate their research collections before they graduate (coupled with including some level of collection management training for students working with collections). Some of these topics had also been the subject of talks, not necessarily by geologists. Clearly there are other initiatives out there that SPNHC can strive to become a part of.

No meeting is complete without its social aspects, and these were numerous, from the scheduled icebreaker held in the Darwin Centre and Jerwood Gallery (under the scrutiny of a temporary photographic exhibit of eerily human ape faces), to the poster session, to the numerous opportunities to gather in the evenings. Despite the high cost of hotels, there is no shortage of convivial watering holes in South Kensington. Those who went to banquet (and it was a goodly crowd) were treated to a magical evening. The main hall of the Natural History Museum was transformed with a star studded curtain across one end, with mist wafting from the balconies. *Diplodocus* looked on benignly as we enjoyed an elegantly served gourmet meal with seemingly unlimited wine at one end of the hall and rousing disco at the other. We were only reminded that this was in fact a museum when the guards shepherded us all out of the building and off the premises at precisely midnight. Cinderella's coach was nowhere to be seen.

The local organizing committee is to be commended for planning and implementing a superb meeting. Even within North

America, distance often makes attendance difficult. Having the meeting on the other side of the Atlantic opened up attendance to Europeans who might otherwise never have considered attending a SPNHC meeting. It is to be hoped that this new doorway may stay open, to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

I am grateful to the Royal Ontario Museum and to the Canadian Museums Association for a bursary funded by the Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage, which made it possible for me to attend this meeting.

Janet Waddington  
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto



Fluid collection tank storage at the Darwin Center



Assessing risks to your collections workshop



Poster session

*Continued from page 19...*

2005 marked the first time that SPNHC has ventured off the North American continent and that first event was very successful. During 12-18 June, about 200 attendees from 20 nations and three European organizations converged on the Natural History Museum in London for a joint session focusing on Collection Standards.

For those of you who have attended an Annual Meeting, you would have found the usual components - meetings, paper sessions, a poster session, an exhibit area, a selection of field trips and collection tours, and of course a lot of time to mingle and meet at social events such as the Ice-breaker and Banquet - in a spectacular venue in a very vibrant city. Dining and dancing at the Banquet in subdued lighting in the shadow of a Diplodocus in the main exhibit hall of the Natural History Museum may set a new standard for future conference planners. The mix of presenters provided an excellent chance for many of our North American members to interchange ideas with their European colleagues and to learn more about projects (and ideas) on both sides of the Atlantic.

SPNHC meetings are also known for having one or more workshop sessions following the main meeting. London was no exception, with three workshops (Risk, Integrated Pest Management, and Standards in the Care and Management of Natural History Collections) presented to appreciative audiences. For some of us, part of the excitement was making a first trip to Europe. London was wonderful, especially after one got used to a few details (looking left at an intersection, "minding the gap" in the London Underground, looking for street names on buildings rather than on corner sign posts, etc.). With many sights nearby (Victoria & Albert Museum across the street, Kensington Park down the street, and central London a subway ride away), the chances to explore London were tempting - I know a number of folks (including myself) who stayed on to see more! The field trips gave many us a chance to see some of the countryside; I chose the trip to Kew Gar-

dens (logical for a botanist), where we not only strolled the grounds and the greenhouses, but also were given a tour of the herbarium and library and later, either the Arboretum or the on-site composting operation.

The organizers are to be congratulated for assembling a very fitting meeting for our 20th Anniversary!

Rich Rabeler, University of Michigan



*The main hall - The Natural History Museum, London*



*Sightseeing - Jane Mygatt at Stonehenge*



*Jane Mygatt and Cheryl Carpenter on the Thames*



*J-M Gagnon*

*All work and no play ... - "cutting a rug" until the wee hours!!!*



*J Mygatt*

*Tower bridge*

## Call for papers for COLLECTION FORUM

This is your invitation to submit manuscripts to Collection Forum, the journal of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC).

Collection Forum is an internationally respected peer reviewed journal. We have recently revised the selection criteria to reflect the fact that papers in Collection Forum do not just address research on natural history collections care. In addition to presentations of original research, we also welcome articles of a more philosophical nature, as well as short papers describing an innovative technique for collections storage or care. Please see the SPNHC website for the revised Instructions to Authors.

Collection Forum is your journal

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## Publications of Interest

This section is from the Citations Sub-Committee of the Conservation Committee and is chaired by Marcia A. Revelez. Citations were submitted by Victoria Book (VB), Diana Dicus (DD), Kimball Garrett (KG), Barbara Moore (BM), Joanna Morton (JM), Lisa Palmer (LP), Ann Pinzl (AP), Cindy Ramotnik (CR), Marcia Revelez (MR), John Simmons (JS), Janet Waddington (JW), Steve Williams (SW), and Christina Wolfe (CW). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Marcia A. Revelez, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua, Norman, OK 73072; (405) 325-7988 (voice); (405) 325-7699 (fax); mrevez@ou.edu (e-mail).

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*The Abbey Newsletter. May/June 2004. Volume 27 (3).*

Page 17. "Dry Water for Sprinkler Systems." Provides sources for information on non-destructive fire suppressant. Worthwhile reading for collection managers. (DD)

Page 23. *Airborne Pollutants in Museums, Galleries and Archives: Risk Assessment, Control Strategies, and Preservation Management.* Book published May 2004 by the Canadian Conservation Institute. Paperback, 8.5" x 11". 168 pp. ISBN 0-662-34059-0.

-- Defines key airborne pollutants, suggests basic tools to assess risk, and gives guidelines for control strategies. Helpful to museum directors, building and collection managers, conservation professionals, conservators, exhibit designers, HVAC engineers, indoor air consultants, and architects. In Canada CAN \$50; other countries: US \$50. Contact the CCI Publications Sales Office at 613 998 3721, ext 250. (DD)

*The Abbey Newsletter July/August 2004, Volume 27 (4) and The Abbey Newsletter September/October 2004, Volume 27 (5)*

-- A number of discussions on integration and automation of archival documents, preservation microfilming, hybrid systems and digitization quality issues. (DD)

Ackery, P.R., J.M. Testa, P.D. Ready, A.M. Doyle and D.B. Pinniger. 2004. Effects of high temperature pest eradication on DNA in entomo-

logical collections. *Studies in Conservation* 49 (1): 35-40. (BM)

Adair, M. 2004. [Book Review] Curating archaeological collections: From the field to the repository, by Lynne S. Sullivan and S. Terry Childs. *Collections* 1 (2): 204-207. (SW)

Altschuler, B. (ed.) 2005. *Collecting the New: Museums and contemporary art.* Princeton University Press, 208 pp. ISBN 0691119406. (MR)

Andrei, M. A. 2004. Breathing new life into stuffed animals: The Society of American Taxidermists, 1880-1885. *Collections* 1 (2): 155-201. (SW)

Anon. 2004. In Yellowstone's attic. Park builds new museum for five-million-artifact collection. *Common Ground* 9 (4): 7 (JS)

Arensterin, R.P. et al. 2003. Tips From the National Museum of the American Indian Collections Move. *AIC Objects Specialty Group Postprints* 10: 92-106. (VB)

Barclay, R., C. Dignard, and C. Schlichting. 2004. *The gentle art of applied pressure.* Canadian Conservation Institute, 44 pp. (MR)

Barinaga, M. 2004. California Academy starts on the museum of its dreams. *Science* 304: 669-670. (CW)

Beckett, M. 2004. Mary Ida Roper & her herbarium. *NatSCA News* 3: 52-55. (AP)

Bemis, W.E. et al. 2004. Methods for preparing dry, partially articulated skeletons of osteichthyans, with notes on making Ridewood dissections of the cranial skeleton. *Copeia* 2004 (3): 603-609. (LP)

Brown, P.A., and E. De Boise. 2005. Procedures for preparation and conservation of whole insect permanent microscope side mounts within the Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, London. *NatSCA News* 5: 25-30. (AP)(JS)

Bullock, V. 2005. Water use in conservation treatment: a case for standards? *The Textile Specialty Group postprints of papers delivered at the Textile Subgroup Session: American Institute for Conservation...annual meeting* 14: 105-114. (VB)

Cappitelli, F., E. Zanardini, and C. Sorlini 2004. The biodeterioration of synthetic resins used in conservation. *Macromolecular bio-science* 4: 399-406. (VB)

Cassman, V. and N. Odegaard. 2004. Human Remains and the Conservator's Role. *Studies in Conservation* 49: 271-282. (VB)

Causey, D., D.H. Janzen, A.T. Peterson, D. Vieglais, L. Krishtalka, J.H. Beach, and E.O. Wiley. 2004. Museum collections and taxonomy. *Science* 305: 1106-1107. (MR)

Chiari, G. *Cooperation in conservation science.* The Getty Conservation Institute Newsletter 19(3). (MR)

Corado, R. 2005. The importance of information on specimen labels. *Ornitologia Neotropical* 16: 277-278. [rene@wfvz.org]

— Another plea, this time to workers in Neotropical regions, to (legibly) record full data on specimen labels, including stomach/crop contents, bare part colors, weight, skull ossification, gonad size, etc., along with standard information on date and locality of collection. (KG)

Davidson, A. 2003. Preparation of a Fossil Dinosaur. *AIC Objects Specialty Group Postprints* 10: 49-61. (VB)

De la Torre, M. (ed.). 2005 *Heritage Values in Site Management: Four Case Studies.* The Getty Conservation Institute, 230 pp. ISBN 0892367970. (VB)

- DeCastro, O., and B. Menale. 2004. PCR amplification of Michele Tenore's historical specimens and facility to utilize an alternative approach to resolve taxonomic problems. *Taxon* 53 (1): 147-151.  
— Potential use of molecular methods for amplifying DNA from historical samples to resolve the identification of herbarium specimens. (AP)
- Diamond, J. 2005. Obituary: Ernst Mayr (1904-2005). *Nature* 433 (7027): 700-701. (JS)
- Dickerman, R. W. 2004. Characteristics and distribution of *Ardea herodias fannini* with comments on the effect of washing on the holotype. *Northwestern Naturalist* 85: 130-133.  
— Discusses effects of degreasing agents and soaps used in skin preparation on feather color. In particular, powder down, which imparts a pale "bloom" on unworn feathers, can be removed through such treatment, resulting in abnormally dark plumage. Such color change has implications for heron taxonomy and nomenclature. Study includes a control/treatment comparison. (KG)
- Dilevko, J. and L. Gottlieb. 2004. *The evolution of library and museum partnerships: historical antecedents, contemporary manifestations, and future directions* (Libraries Unlimited Library Management Collection). Libraries Unlimited, 264 pp. ISBN 1591580641. (MR)
- Dowling, H. 2004. On the structure of snake hemipenes with comments on their proper preparation for analysis: a reply to Cadle, Myers, Prudente, and Zaher. *Herpetological Review* 35 (4): 320-328. (CW)  
— The original paper was:
- Dowling, H. 2002. "Intraspecific variation of the hemipenis," a correction, with comments on other erroneous descriptions. *Herpetological Review* 33 (1): 12-14.  
— Comments were from:
- Myers, C.W. and J.E. Cadle. 2003. On the snake hemipenis, with notes on *Psomophis* and techniques of eversion: A response to Dowling. *Herpetological Review* 34 (4): 295-302.
- Zaher, H. and A.L.C. Prudente. 2003. Hemipenes of *Siphlophis* (Serpentes, Xenodontinae) and techniques of hemipenal preparation in snakes: A response to Dowling. *Herpetological Review* 34 (4): 302-307.
- Doyle, A.M. 2004. A large scale "microclimate" enclosure for pyritic specimens. *The Geological Curator* 7 (9): 329-335.  
— Describes a method of controlling the RH in a cabinet, by wrapping the cabinet in barrier film and controlling the interior RH with a humidity control agent. (JW)
- Evelyn, D. 2005. American museums in global communities: a report from AAM/ICOMM. *Curator* 48: 20-22. (MR)
- Fellowes, D. and P. Hagan. 2003. Pyrite oxidation: the conservation of historic shipwrecks and geological and palaeontological specimens. *Reviews in Conservation*, Number 4. (VB)
- Floray, S. P. 2004. Disposal of nitrate film. *Conserv O Gram* 2/22: 1-4. (MR)
- Fontenot, C.L. 2004. Cajun-French common names for Louisiana amphibians and reptiles. *Herpetological Review* 35 (4): 337-338. (CW)
- Fraser, J. 2004. Museums and civility. *Curator* 47: 252-256. (MR)
- Funk, V.A., P.C. Hoch, L.A. Prather, and W.L. Wagner. 2005. The importance of vouchers. *Taxon* 54 (1): 127-129.  
— Objection to recent editorial policies in some journals to exclude voucher information. (AP)
- Gardner, J.B. and E.E. Merritt. 2004. *The AAM guide to collections planning*. American Association of Museums, 93 pp. ISBN 0931201888. (MR)
- Green, P.R. 2004. A method for undertaking a full conservation audit of special collections of books and manuscripts. *Collection Management* 28: 23-42. (MR)
- Geeta, R., A. Levy, J.M. Hoch, and M. Mark. 2004. Taxonomists and the CBD. *Science* 305: 1105.  
— (with response from Wheeler et al.) (CW)
- Gropp, R.E. 2004. Expanding access to natural history collections. *BioScience* 54(5): 392.  
— An article providing background on the "Legacy Infrastructure Network for Natural Environments." (CW)
- Guild, S. and M. MacDonald. 2004. *TB #26 Mould prevention and collection recovery: guidelines for heritage collections*, Technical bulletin, 26. Canadian Conservation Institute ISBN 0-662-35932-1., 34 pp. (MR) (VB)
- Gurian, E.H. 2005. Museum practices crossing borders. *Curator* 48: 18-19. (MR)
- Hancock, E.G. 2005. William Hunter's insect collection and emerging descriptive taxonomy in the eighteenth century (NatSCA News 4, 2004)—addition and appendices. *NatSCA News* 5: 9-10 (JS)
- Hanner, R., A. Corthals, and H. C. Dessauer. 2004. Salvage of genetically valuable tissues following a freezer failure. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 34: 452-455.  
— Yield of molecular information was tested after a collection of lizard tissues stored in an ultracold freezer accidentally thawed for up to one week. Protein electrophoretic work and DNA yields were generally good, but RNA could not be recovered. The authors warn strongly against discarding tissue samples that have undergone thaws on the assumption that they have no research value since they demonstrate such material can still yield good results. (KG)
- Hanson, E., E. Doehne, J. Fidler, J. Larson, B. Martin, M. Matteini, C. Rodriguez-Navarro, E. Sebastian Pardo, C. Price, A. de Tagle, J. M. Teutonico, and N. Weiss. 2003. A review of selected inorganic consolidants and protective treatments of porous calcareous materials. *Reviews in Conservation*, Number 4. (VB)
- Hawks, C., K. Makos, D. Bell, P.F. Wambach and G. E. Burroughs. 2004. An inexpensive method to test for mercury vapor in herbarium cabinets. *Taxon* 53 (3): 783-790. (AP)
- Hein, G.E. 2004. John Dewey and museum education. *Curator* 47: 413-427. (MR)
- Heyning, J.E. 2004. The future of natural history collections. *Collections* 1 (1): 6-9. (SW)
- Hofenk de Graaff, J.H. 2004. *The colourful past, the origins, chemistry and identification of natural dyestuffs*. Archetype Publications, 374 pp. (VB)  
— Provides a quick overview of well-known dyestuffs that can be found in objects of cultural value; book presents information on the most relevant dyestuffs use for dyeing textiles, the relation between dyestuffs and organic pigments in paintings and their historical relevance (taken from AIC News, Nov. 2004)
- Hooper-Greenhill, E. 2004. Learning from culture: the importance of the museums and galleries education program (phase I) in England. *Curator* 47: 428-449. (MR)
- Johnson, J.S. et al. 2003. Practical Aspects of Consultation with Communities. *AIC Objects Specialty Group Postprints* 10: 43-48. (VB)

- Kamh, G.M.E. 2004. Geological study and weathering processes on archaeological sites at humid regions: Hilltop Beeston Castle, Great Britain, a case study. *Internationale Zeitschrift für Bauinstandsetzen = International journal for restoration* 10 (3) (English): 251-274. (VB)
- Kang, S.M., A. Unger, and J.J. Morrell. 2004. The effect of supercritical carbon dioxide extraction on color retention and pesticide reduction of wooden artifacts. *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 43 (2): 151-160. (VB)
- Knapp, T. and D. Vogt-O'Conner. 2004. Caring for cellulose nitrate film. *Conserve O Gram* 14(8): 1-4. (MR)
- Koestler, R., V. Koestler, A. Charola, F. Nieto-Fernandez (eds.). 2004. *Art, biology, and conservation: biodeterioration of works of art (Metropolitan Museum of Art Series)*. Yale University Press, 576 pp. ISBN 0300104820. (MR)
- Latini, G. and C. A. Brebbia (eds.). 2004. *Earthquake resistant engineering structures IV*. WIT Press, 440 pp. (VB)
- Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Earthquake Resistant Engineering Structures (ERES); contains some of the latest research relating to the protection of the built environment in earthquake prone regions of the world, involving not only finding ways of determining the optimal design and construction of new facilities, but also upgrading or rehabilitating existing structures (taken from AIC News, Nov. 2004).
- Lord, G.D. 2005. The importance of space and place. *Curator* 48: 23-26. (MR)
- Laswon, M. 2004. A method of mounting parchment using hair silk. *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 43 (2): 175-184. (VB)
- Lyal, C.H. and A.L. Weitzman. 2004. Taxonomy: exploring the impediment. *Science* 305: 1106. (CW)
- Martin, J.T. 2004. Taxonomists and conservation. *Science* 305: 1104. (with response from Wheeler et al.) (CW)
- Mason, K.S. 2004. *Natural Museums: U.S. National Parks, 1872-1916*. Michigan State University Press, 108 pp. ISBN 0870137115. (MR)
- McCarthy, D. 2004. Innovative methods for documenting cultural resources integrating GIS and GPS technologies. *CRM* 1 (2): 86-91. (JS)
- Merritt, E.E. 2005. Running in place, but faster: new changes in museum standards. *Museum News* 84 (2): 61-66. (AP)
- Moore, S. 2005. Conservation of a foetal elephant's hind limb, Cole Museum of Zoology, Reading University. *NatSCA News* 5: 21-24. (JS)
- Moore, S. 2005. The origins of NatSCA—a personal history. *NatSCA News* 5: 31. (JS)
- Morris, P. 2005. Walter Potter (1835-1918) and his Museum of Curiosities. *NatSCA News* 5: 4-8. (JS)
- Natural Hazards Observer*. January 2004. Volume XXVIII Number 3; March 2004. Volume XXVIII Number 4; May 2004. Volume XXVIII Number 5; July 2004. Number 6. September 2004. Volume XXIX. Number 1; November 2004. Volume XXIX. Number 2.
- These issues have an on-going discussion of "Disasters Waiting to Happen." They are intended to encourage discussion about creative approaches to mitigation to events such as volcanic eruptions, earthquake, fire and drought. (DD)
- Natural Hazards Observer*. January 2005. Volume XXIX Number 3. Page 1. *Worst-Case Thinking. An Idea Whose Times Has Come*.
- Comments by Lee Clarke, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Worst-case thinking is possibilistic thinking. It is useful in developing disaster preparedness plans. Clarke has a book coming out in fall 2005 from University of Chicago Press, *Worst Cases*. (DD)
- Natural Science Collections Alliance. 2004. *Collective Knowledge: the value of natural science collections*, 20 pp. (MR)
- Nowlen, P. 2005. Ethics and leadership. *Curator* 48: 30-32. (MR)
- Odegaard, N. 2005. *Old poisons, new problems: a museum resource for managing contaminated cultural materials*. Rowman & Littlefield, 208 pp. ISBN 0759105154. (MR)
- Odegaard, N., et al. 2003 (released in June 2005). New Ideas for the Testing, Documentation, and Storage of Objects Previously Treated for Pesticides. *AIC Objects Specialty Group Postprints* 10: 33-42. (VB)
- Odegaard, N. 2005. Changing the Way Professions Work: Collaboration in the Preservation of Ethnographic & Archaeological Objects. *GCI Newsletters* 20.1 (Spring 2005). (VB)
- Ogden, S. (ed.). 2004. *Caring for American Indian objects: a practical and cultural guide*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 262 pp. ISBN 0873515056 (VB)
- 21 contributors, 14 of whom are American Indians, discuss general aspects of museum care, explain techniques for particular materials, and address important cultural considerations; 48 color photos, 63 b&w photos
- Palmer, D. 2005. Museum—a medical history [Hunterian Museum]. *Nature* 434(7029): 23 (JS)
- Pankhurst, R.J. 2004. Computer technology for the future of SW Asiatic botany. *Turk. J. Bot.* 28: 129-130. (AP)
- Papenfuss, T.J. 2004. Repairing preserved lizard specimens with broken tails using super glue. *Herpetological Review* 35 (3): 251. (CW), (CR)
- Pasiuk, J. 2004. Safe plastics and fabrics for exhibit and storage. *Conserve O Gram* 18 (2): 1-7. (MR) (VB)
- Pekarik, A.J. 2003. Long-term thinking: what about the stuff? *Curator* 46 (4): 367-370.
- Essay on current role of collections & their preservation with respect to public programs; some specific comments re natural history collections; introduction to the "Heritage Health Index" project. (AP)
- Pennisi, E. 2004. Museums that made a master. *Science* 305: 37. (CW)
- Pereira, M. 2004. Choosing UV-filtering window films. *Conserve O Gram* 3(10): 1-6. (MR) (VB)
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- Piotrovsky, M. 2005. The concept of universal museums. *Curator* 48: 10-12. (MR)
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- Williams, S.L. 2004. Critical concepts concerning non-living collections. *Collections* 1: 37-66. (SW)
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- Young, A.M. 2004. Taxonomy and natural history. *Science* 305: 1107. (CW)
- Zomlefer, W.D., and D.E. Giannasi. 2004. *Infrastructure upgrades for the University of Georgia herbarium*. [www.plantbio.uga.edu/herbarium/funding.html](http://www.plantbio.uga.edu/herbarium/funding.html).  
— Outline of GA project, including funding sources; floor plan. (AP)

#### Publication news:

- NEW JOURNAL – e-Preservation Science  
([www.e-preservation-science.org](http://www.e-preservation-science.org))  
— To be known as "e-PS", has been launched and will bring together cutting-edge research in all aspects of preservation and con-



ervation science; topics should be of interest in the field of preservation research and will include studies in stability, environmental studies, and condition assessment of cultural heritage, and studies of materials and procedures used for its conservation and preservation (VB, taken from AIC News, November 2004)

NEW JOURNAL – *Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals*

— The first issue debuted in August 2004 and is published quarterly; it is a journal aimed at aspects of collections care including library science, law, museum studies, conservation, and life and social sciences. (MR)

Available from NISO ([www.niso.org](http://www.niso.org)) – a new version of the “Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections” is now available for download from the National Information Standards Organization (NISO). It includes information on standards, guidelines, best practices, explanations, discussions, clearing-houses, and case studies for collections, objects, metadata, and projects. (VB, taken from AIC News, November 2004)

The *Abbey Newsletter* does not intend to continue publishing. There may be one final volume. (DD)

The *Mold Reporter* will continue publishing. It is a publication of Abbey Publications, Inc. as was *The Abbey Newsletter*. It is suggested that The *Mold Reporter* be subscribed to by any collection holding institution. Contact Abbey Publications, Inc., 7105 Geneva Drive, Austin, TX 78723. (DD)

The *Mold Reporter* presents practical information and cites relevant literature appropriate for institutions and for home owners. (DD)

*Natural Hazards Observer*, ISSN 0737-5425, and *Disaster Research* are available from <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/>. Subscription is free within the United States. Subscriptions outside the U.S. cost \$24.00 per year. Back issues are available for \$4.00 each plus shipping and handling. Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, University of Colorado at Boulder, 482 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0482. (DD)

## Calendar of Events

*The Calendar of Events is maintained by Christine Chandler of the Documentation Committee. Application deadlines, conferences and symposia relevant to collection management, computerization and conservation of natural history collections are listed. Notices may be submitted to Christine at Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804; (563) 324-1054 ext. 226; email: [chandler@putnam.org](mailto:chandler@putnam.org) or [dinoceras@juno.com](mailto:dinoceras@juno.com).*

2005

### August 2005

August 10 - 12, 2005. **Second Latin American Congress of Vertebrate Paleontology**, hosted by Museu Nacional/UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For more information, visit the conference web site at <http://acd.ufrj/mndgp/2clpv>.

August 13 - 17, 2005. **Learning from Plants, Botany 2005**, Austin, Texas, USA. Participating Societies: American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS), American Fern Society (AFS), American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT), and Botanical Society of America (BSA). Direct any questions about the meetings to BSA Meetings Manager: Johanne Storgan, BSA Meetings Office, 2813 Blossum Ave., Columbus, OH 43231; (614) 899-9356 (phone); (614) 895-7866 (fax); [johanne@botany.org](mailto:johanne@botany.org).

August 13 - 19, 2006. **24<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress**, Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany. See the web site at <http://www.i-o-c.org> for more information; <http://www.2005.botanyconference.org>.

August 23 - 27, 2005. **123rd Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union**, hosted by the University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California, USA. For more information, visit the meeting web site at <http://www.aou.org/2005meeting>.

### September 2005

September 5 - 30, 2005. **Integrated Pest Management**, an online course from the Northern States Conservation Center (NSCC) and the California Association of Museums (CAM). For more information check out the website at <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/trol.html>.

September 9 - October 21, 2005. **Storage for Infinity: An Overview of Museum Storage Principles**, an online course from the Northern States Conservation Center (NSCC) and the California Association of Museums (CAM). For more information check out the website at <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/trol.html>.

September 10 - 16, 2005. **ICOM-CC 14<sup>th</sup> Triennial Meeting**, The Hague, The Netherlands. For information, go to the web site at <http://www.icom-cc.icom.museum> or email [secretariat@icom-cc.org](mailto:secretariat@icom-cc.org).

September 12 - 16, 2005. **Recovery of Wet Materials Following a Disaster**, a Conservation Refresher Course at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For more information contact the Center at (815) 244-1173 or check out the 2005 course catalog at <http://www.campbellcenter.org> (web).

September 12 - 16, 2005. **Collections Management in Storage**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For more information contact the Center at (815) 244-1173 or check out the 2005 course catalog at <http://www.campbellcenter.org> (web).

September 14 - 18, 2005. **Spot Testing for Materials Characterization**, a Conservation Refresher Course at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For more information contact the Center at (815) 244-1173 or check out the 2005 course catalog at <http://www.campbellcenter.org> (web).

September 16, 2005. **NSF Informal Science Education Grants (preliminary proposal) deadline**. For more information go to <http://www.nsf.gov>.

September 18 - 21, 2005. **Campus Museum Security Workshop**, Mauston, Wisconsin, USA, presented by the Cultural Property Protection Group (CPPG). For more information contact (800) 823-1174 (phone) or check out <http://www.cppgrp.com>.

September 18 - October 15, 2005. **Collections Management: Cataloging Your Collections**, an online course from the Northern States Conservation Center (NSCC) and the California Association of Museums (CAM). For more information check out the website at <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/trol.html>.

September 19 - 21, 2005. **Computer Software for Collections Management**, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA. For more information contact the Center

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at (815) 244-1173 or check out the 2005 course catalog at <http://www.campbellcenter.org> (web).

September 28 - October 2, 2005. **Annual Meeting of the Western Museums Association**, Pasadena & Los Angeles, California, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.westmuse.org>.

### October 2005

October 2 - 6, 2005. **60th Annual Conference of World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)**, New York City, New York, USA, hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

October 3 - 28, 2005. **Exhibit Fundamentals: Ideas to Installation**, an online course from the Northern States Conservation Center (NSCC) and the California Association of Museums (CAM). For more information check out the website at <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/trol.html>.

October 3 - 28, 2005. **Disaster Planning I: Introduction to Disaster Preparedness Planning**, an online course from the Northern States Conservation Center (NSCC) and the California Association of Museums (CAM). For more information check out the website at <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/trol.html>.

October 4 - 8, 2005. **Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) 2005 Annual Meeting**, Jekyll Island, Georgia, USA.

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

October 16 - 19 2005. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America**, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Visit <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings> for details.

October 19 - 22, 2005. **65th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology**, Mesa, Arizona, USA. For details go to <http://www.vertpaleo.org>.

October 26 - 28, 2005. **2005 Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) Conference**, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. For details go to <http://www.midwestmuseums.org>.

October 29 - 30, 2005. **Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums Annual Meeting**, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Go to <http://www.midatlanticmuseums.org> for more information.

October 31 - December 16, 2005. **Disaster Planning II: Writing a Disaster Preparedness Plan**, an online course from the Northern States Conservation Center (NSCC) and the California Association of Museums (CAM). For more information check out the website at <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/trol.html>.

### November 2005

November 6 - 9, 2005. **Entomological Society of America (ESA 2005) annual meeting**, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. For more information, check out the meeting web site at [http://www.entsoc.org/annual\\_meeting/2005/index.htm](http://www.entsoc.org/annual_meeting/2005/index.htm).

November 7 - December 2, 2005. **Applying Numbers to Collection Objects: Materials and Methods of Object Numbering**, an online course from the Northern States Conservation Center (NSCC) and the California Association of Museums (CAM). For more information check out the website at <http://www.collectioncare.org/training/trol.html>.

November 14 - 19, 2005. **Collections Management**, a six-day immersion course offered by the University of Victoria Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program. For more information check out the website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/upcoming.aspx>.

November 16 - 18, 2005. **New England Museum Association (NEMA)**

**Annual Conference**, Burlington, Massachusetts, USA. For more information, check out <http://www.nemanet.org> (web).

### December 2005

December 11 - 14, 2005. **66th Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Bridges to Understanding: Linking Multiple Perspectives**, will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.

### 2006

#### February 2006

February 20 - 25, 2006. **Conservation in Context**, a six-day immersion course offered by the University of Victoria Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program. For more information check out the website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/upcoming.aspx>.

#### March 2006

March 6 - 11, 2006. **Communicating Through Exhibitions**, a six-day immersion course offered by the University of Victoria Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program. For more information check out the website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/upcoming.aspx>.

March 12 - 17, 2006. **Museums and Communities**, a six-day immersion course offered by the University of Victoria Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program. For more information check out the website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/upcoming.aspx>.

#### April 2006

April 27 - May 1, 2006. **AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo™ (AAM Centennial), A Centennial of Ideas: Exploring Tomorrow's Museums**, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. For more information visit <http://www.aam-us.org/am06> or phone (202) 289-9113.

#### May 2006

May 1 - July 30, 2006. **Caring for Collections**, a distance course offered by the University of Victoria Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program. For more information check out the website at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/upcoming.aspx>.

#### August 2006

August 13 - 19, 2006. **24th International Ornithological Congress**, Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany. See the web site at <http://www.i-o-c.org> for more information.

#### September 2006

September 21 - 24, 2006. **16th International Meeting of the Society for the History of Natural History**, Redpath Museum of Natural History McGill, University of Montreal, Canada. For more information see page 15 of this newsletter for contact information.

#### October 2006

October 13 - 15, 2006. **40th Canadian Paleontology Conference (CPC)**, Redpath Museum/McGill University. CPC is the annual meeting of the Paleontology Division of the Geological Association of Canada. Field trips co-organized with SVP 2006 (in Ottawa, Canada) and held on October 16 - 18. Contact Ingrid Birker: [Ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca](mailto:Ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca) for more information.

October 22 - 25, 2006. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Visit <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings> for details.

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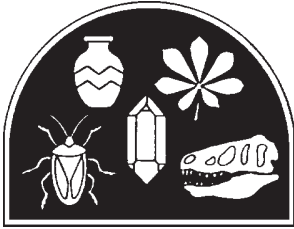
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## SPNHC Newsletter

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

### **SPNHC QUIZ answers** (from Page 14)

- 1) 2005 *The Natural History Museum, London, England*
- 2) 1995 *The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Ontario, Canada*
- 3) 2004 *American Museum of Natural History New York, New York, USA*  
 [We visited Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History.]
- 4) 1994 *Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis Missouri, USA*
- 5) 1988 *Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*  
 [The 1988 topic was Health Hazards Associated with Natural History Museums.]
- 6) 2001 *California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, USA*  
 (The "swamp" was part of the Steinhart Aquarium at the Academy.)
- 7) 1996 *The Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA*
- 8) 1990 *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois USA*
- 9) 1986 *The National Museum of Natural History/Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA*
- 10) 1998 *University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*
- 11) 1993 *Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*
- 12) 2002 *Redpath Museum, Montréal, Québec, Canada. (co-hosted by the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada)*  
 [The universal hazard sign applied to the workshop topic: Hazardous Collections and Mitigation.]
- 13) 2000 *Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and the Geological Survey of Canada*
- 14) 1992 *University of Nebraska State Museum Lincoln, Nebraska, USA*  
 [The flyswatters accompanied the Pest Management Workshop.]
- 15) 2003 *Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA*  
 [Lubbock's native son of note is Buddy Holly; we had our banquet at the Buddy Holly Center.]
- 16) 1991 *Canadian Museum of Nature/musée canadien de la nature, Ottawa, Canada*  
 [The Canadian Conservation Institute was the other participant.]
- 17) 1987 *Redpath Museum/McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada*
- 18) 1997 *University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA*
- 19) 1999 *The National Museum of Natural History/Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA*
- 20) 1989 *Drumheller (hosted by the Tyrell Museum of Paleontology), and Calgary (hosted by the Biological Sciences Department, University of Calgary) Alberta, Canada*



### **Scoring**

90 - 100+ points	Excellent! You have been around for a while - You should be a Life Member!
80 - 89 points	Grand! You are very well versed in SPNHC - are you contributing to SPNHC?
70 - 79 points	Good Going! And keep going to those meetings!
60 - 69 points	Alright! You must be doing something right!