

SPNHC NEWSLETTER

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

September 2010
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Pink is the New Black – Re-branding the taxonomic impediment as species discovery

Cameron Slatyer and Amy Jarrott

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Cameron Slatyer was Director of Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) until March 2010. A former ecologist, Cameron has 12 years experience leading innovative policy and program creation for Australian governments.

Amy Jarrott has 10 years of communications experience and was the manager of Policy and Communications at ABRS until April 2010. Her favourite colour is pink.

This paper is based on a presentation by Cameron Slatyer at the 2009 SPNHC Conference

Earlier this year, the Australian Government Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts launched Bush Blitz – a three-year, \$10 million program to document the biodiversity of Australia's national reserve system. An innovative partnership between industry, government and the non-government sector, it represents the first significant new investment in multi-year taxonomic research funding in Australia in nearly fifteen years. This landmark event, which launched Australia's contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, is especially significant due to the collaboration of the global resources company, BHP Billiton. This paper examines what prompted government and the private sector to invest in an area that had been, for so long, static in funding terms.

A staggering task faces the world's taxonomists. A recent review estimates there are over 11 million species on the planet, of which around 83 percent are yet to be described (A. D. Chapman, 2009, *Numbers of Living Species in Australia and the World*, 2nd ed).

This lack of knowledge, which encumbers conservation and sustainable development, has been described as the 'taxonomic impediment'. As a concept, the taxonomic impediment gained widespread usage following its adoption by the Convention on Biological Diversity and inclusion in the 1998 Darwin Declaration. It has been invoked globally by agen-

cies and taxonomists seeking to justify increased investment in natural history collections and taxonomy.

In Australia, for a decade following the Darwin Declaration, there was no sustained change in funding for taxonomic research. At the same time, Australia's taxonomic workforce declined and aged steadily; currently, the most conservative estimate suggests a net loss of 27% of the workforce over the next 10 years; the worst estimate is a loss of over 50% (*Survey of Australian Taxonomic Capacity 2003/2006*).

Continued on page 2

INSIDE...

Pink is the New Black. 1
Presidential report 3
Committee reports 4
Sessional Committee reports 10
SPNHC Representative reports 12
Membership profile 13
Travel Grant profiles 18
SPNHC 2011 19
Collections Stewardship 20
Digitization of Biological Collections. 23
SPNHC 2010 report 26
Pubs of interest 28
Calendar 33

..... and much more!

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Continued from page 1:
Pink is the new Black

In 2008, the ABRS, the Australian Government focal point for taxonomy, reviewed the funding situation and found two, major contributing factors. Firstly, and most importantly, the term 'taxonomy' itself was found to be a significant contributor. Taxonomy is easily conflated with taxation or taxidermy by lay people and the increasing use of taxonomy in the information technology sector adds further confusion.



Figure 1: Field gear branded with the Bush Blitz logo

Secondly, the taxonomic impediment, while a useful scientific concept for defining a problem, is, in policy terms, of limited use. The impediment draws the attention of potential funding sources to the scale of the problem in a way that plays down the possibility of meaningful outcomes. The Australian experience, where less than 25% of the continent's biodiversity has been described, easily conveys the negativity of the concept; if every taxonomist in Australia began work tomorrow and maintained a consistent rate of publication of 50 species per annum, it would take \$84 billion and around a century to complete the task.

Given these factors, we decided to implement a new strategy – one based on communication and marketing principles and supported by a considered communications package. We decided to use positive messages that focused on solutions, rather than problems. In addition, we recognised taxonomy needed to be attached to charismatic policy challenges likely to attract attention, rather than to be an end in its own right.

The first step in our communications package was re-branding taxonomy as 'species discovery'. Species discovery encapsulates the excitement at the core of taxonomy and can be easily communicated with excitement to a lay audience.

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, 2011.

Around the species discovery tag, we built a series of attention-grabbing key messages – or 'fast facts' – such as "45% of Australia's land area is yet to be visited by a scientist".

Our initial, core vehicle for communicating our messages was sponsorship of a Eureka Prize, part of the Australian Museum's prominent science awards. The evolution of this prize allowed us to highlight and support Australia's young species discovery scientists. As spokespeople, these enthusiastic, early career researchers were attractive to media and presented a positive face for the future of taxonomy.

We enlisted a number of other high-profile spokespeople to promote the species discovery message. Chris Darwin, the great-great-grandson of Charles, became involved in championing the cause during the 2009 celebration year. Sir David Attenborough was a key figure in supporting ABRS's innovative *Numbers of Living Species in Australia and the World* report highlighting planetary biodiversity.



Figure 2: A species discovery scientist builds his collection, supported by Bush Blitz

The centrepiece of our strategy, however, was the development of a new, discovery-themed funding package. We recognised that an initiative linked to other government policy needs was likely to be highly attractive to a variety of funding sources. So, we developed the idea of a biological survey that would target Australia's iconic national parks and reserves, a high priority for the Australian Government. Focusing the survey on these areas also attracted the attention of state and territory conservation agencies and industry.

The Earthwatch Institute Australia was a key partner from the beginning, allowing the opportunity for corporate volunteers to be involved, on-ground, in the survey work. Joint development of a simple, but catchy, title – Bush Blitz, an eye-catching logo and a web presence rounded out the package.

Continued on page 25

Presidential Report

Jean-Marc Gagnon

Chief Collections Manager
Invertebrate Collections
Canadian Museum of Nature
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



As Chief Collections Manager at the Canadian Museum of Nature, I have been formally involved in collections management for the past 15 years. Prior to that, my academic training (M.Sc., Université de Montréal; Ph.D., Memorial University of Newfoundland) and postdoctoral research (Fisheries & Ocean Canada, Mont-Joli & University du Québec à Rimouski) provided great opportunities to get well-acquainted with taxonomy and basic collection management principles. My specialty group is soft-bottom marine invertebrates, with particular interest in deep water polychaetes, bivalves and crustaceans.

Like many SPNHC members, I did not actually train for a career in the field of natural history collection management, but my early experience in zoology and marine invertebrate ecology and taxonomy, particularly aspects related to collection and preservation of samples, attracted a lot of my attention (a trait acquired probably under the influence of my former supervisor, Dr. Pierre Brunel). On the research side, I still try to keep my feet wet by working on a few collaborative projects.

Thanks to Rob Waller, I was quickly introduced to SPNHC as soon as I joined the Museum, with my first annual meeting attendance in St. Louis, MO, in 1994. Since then, I have missed only three meetings. And of course, working closely with Jerry Fitzgerald, Rob Waller and Judith Price for so many years has been a great experience, allowing me to learn a lot from their different perspectives, and being encouraged to take on a more active role within the Society. Undoubtedly, along with the new past-president of SPNHC, they have been mentors during my career. So, if you are new to SPNHC and to the field of natural history collection management and conservation, I welcome you and encourage you to find good mentors! If you have been with us for many years and don't have one, or would like to be a mentor, it is not too late. We now have a Sessional Committee working on that.

And like my predecessors, I hope that you will find the next two years exciting as SPNHC continues to work hard on improving best practices in the field of natural history collection management and conservation, our international representation and collaboration with other organizations on projects that will benefit all of us.

As newly appointed President of SPNHC, I have to admit that this two-year term started with a big bang: the delivery of our 2010 annual conference in Ottawa. It was, I hope, a productive and pleasant experience for all who attended. It was certainly a wonderful experience for the local organizing committee but I have to say that organizing a conference and trying to be present at the same time as a member of SPNHC Executive was not my best idea. To say the least, it was quite exhausting.

Fortunately, we have a wonderful team on SPNHC Council, and I particularly want to welcome three new colleagues now joining the ranks: Chris Norris as new President-Elect, Jessica Cundiff and Claire Valentine as new Members-at-Large (MAL) and Richard Sabin replacing Paul Davis as MAL. Of course, with new members arriving, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to those leaving (albeit not going too far): Tim White for his great leadership and the many accomplishments through teamwork over the past 6 years; Laura Abraczinskas for being so great to work with; and Jean Demouthe for her patience and excellent work as Managing Editor.

With a particularly hot summer hitting many of us after the annual meeting, a flurry of activities dropped many projects on our desks. For our colleagues at the California Academy of Sciences, it is the organization of the next SPNHC annual meeting

Continued on page 4



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, Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas, Dyche Hall, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045-7593, USA.

Changes of address should be directed to SPNHC Treasurer, Planetarium Station, PO Box 526, New York, NY 10024-0526, USA.

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, 2011.

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

in San Francisco, which will be held jointly with the NSC Alliance. You can read more about the 2011 meeting elsewhere in this newsletter. On the election side, there are two vacant MAL positions to be filled for next year and Kelly Sendall is getting the process going earlier than before: a call for nominations was made this summer and we hope to have completed the election by the end of the calendar year. This way, newly elected council members will have more time to plan their participation at the next annual meeting.

Some exciting new opportunities are also at our door. The new version of SPNHC's website will soon be unveiled and will continue to evolve to better serve our community, and particularly to offer the flexibility to support regional SPNHC nodes. Of course, we are already looking for the next venue outside North America for holding an annual meeting, which will also contribute to improving and expanding our international presence and representation.

Judging from the many talks and sessions during this year's annual meeting, digitization of collection data and ancillary information will continue to be a hot topic for the next few years. In the U.S., the Strategic Plan to digitize the nation's biological collections has been released and will hopefully meet with the favor of the Obama administration and Congress. We'll keep an eye on this potentially huge project since any progress made in the U.S. will certainly contribute to global digitization efforts and hopefully help convince other countries like Canada that the short and long-term benefits are worth the investment.

Finally, while some efforts over the next two years will continue to be directed at updating or formalizing some of our processes, such as completing the review of our *Policies and Guidelines for Planning and Conducting Annual Meetings*, we need to address what I see as a challenge within our Society, the apparent decrease in number of active conservators within our membership, by developing a strategy to attract the next generation of natural history conservators. Of course, we will be reporting progress on these activities in future issues of the Newsletter, but keep an eye on the website for quick updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives Committee

BACKGROUND

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) houses the archives of SPNHC. From 1993 to 2007, SPNHC deposited 16 groups of material totaling 23.5 cubic feet and spanning the years from 1981 through 2007. Examples of this material include *Collection Forum*, SPNHC newsletters, documentation of annual meetings, financial files, election ballots, member-at-large files, various committee files, videos, CDs, and photographs.

PROCEDURE

The committee receives, lists, and transfers material to the Smithsonian Institution Archives when sufficient quantities accumulate. All material that is deposited within a fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) is assigned the same accession number and housed in the same storage box/unit. Some SPNHC archives need to be rehoused in archival materials prior to transfer to SIA. All material that has been received since the last deposit is currently being held by the committee.

CURRENT WORK

The archives chair responded to six information requests, related to material suggested for deposit or the 25th anniversary celebration at the 2010 annual meeting. Also, material for deposit in archives was received from Lori Benson, Catharine Hawks, Richard Rabeler and Ann Pinzl. The Carolyn Rose files (9.3 linear feet) and the other material that has been received are currently being prepared for deposit in SIA.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hollenberg, Chair

Best Practices Committee

At this year's annual meeting Council voted to make the Best Practices Sessional Committee a standing committee. The Best Practices Committee met at this year's annual meeting in Ottawa and reviewed priorities for the next year. A number of goals were identified including the (1) the completion of a best practices article for the SPNHC Newsletter on collection stewardship, (2) hosting of a topical best practices session at our annual meeting, (3) identification of best practices sessions at discipline society meetings, and (4) support of Society initiatives. For the 2010 annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, Ann Molineaux (University of Texas) and Tim White (Yale University) have organized a technical session entitled Geological and Paleobiological Collections: Best Practices for Access and Use in a Changing World. The session is being sponsored by SPNHC, the Paleontological Society, Mineralogical Society of America and the Geoscience Information Society, and a number of SPNHC members are participating in this session.

SPNHC will be joining forces with the American Institute for Conservation in the development of a web-based tool for the storage of museum collections, including natural science materials. This AIC-SPNHC tool will begin with articles from the SPNHC reference book *Storage of Natural History Collections* and new solutions will be added over time. SPNHC, AIC and other organizations will provide editors to review new articles for collection storage.

Along with the Documentation Committee, Chairs Liz Leith and Marcy Revelez from the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum

of Natural History are hosting an intern who is researching the status and breadth of standards, guidelines and best practices in natural history and other aspects of collections management, conservation and collections care, and databasing and digitization. The results of this effort will provide background information for the establishment of the Best Practices section on the SPNHC web site and direction for future topical sessions, workshops and other projects.

Respectfully submitted,
James Macklin and Tim White, Co-chairs

Conference Committee

Arrangements for the 2011 meeting, hosted by the California Academy of Sciences, are well under way. The meeting will be held jointly with the Natural Science Collections Alliance and the local organizing committee is considering options for joint or NSCA-sponsored conference sessions. Following an enthusiastic response from the membership at the 2010 Annual Business Meeting, SPNHC Council has voted to formally accept an invitation from the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History to host the 2012 meeting in New Haven, Connecticut. An invitation for 2013 has been received from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and the Committee is in contact with a potential European venue for the 2014 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Norris, Chair

Conservation Committee

Gretchen Anderson and Rob Waller have accepted the position of co-chairs for the Conservation Committee.

Resource Display Units (RDU) Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Cindy Ramotnik (ramotnik@unm.edu) (US)
Kelly Sendall (ksendall@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca) (CA)

The Canadian unit was reviewed and upgraded during the past year, but was not rented out. The US unit was rented once during the year. This is a valuable resource for the membership. The RDU's pull together conservation grade products useful in the storage and display of our collections.

Consider renting the unit for a conference in your area! Contact your local co-chair for more information. If there is anyone interested in developing a version of the RDU for Europe, please contact Gretchen Anderson.

Fluid Collections Subcommittee

Chair: Andy Bentley (abentley@ku.edu)

Interest in this topic has been recently re-ignited with the holding of a workshop at The Natural History Museum in London (hosted

Membership

Membership applications for Individuals (US\$35), Student, certified (US\$20), Subscription or Library (US\$45), Corporate/Commercial (US\$300) or Institutional (US\$65) may be submitted to:

*SPNHC Treasurer
Planetarium Station
P.O. Box 526
New York, NY 10024-0526
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) and by Word file available at: <http://www.spnhc.org/files/renewal-2008.pdf>.

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 US\$875. The fee is 25 times the Individual Membership rate, currently US\$35. Life Memberships may be paid in one of three ways:

- (1) one-time payment of US\$875;
- (2) two-year installments of US\$475/1st year and US\$400/2nd year;
- (3) three-year installments of US\$420/1st year, US\$280/2nd year and US\$175/3rd year.

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

Treasurer

Continued from page 5:
.....Committee Reports

by Richard Sabin) on June 11th entitled "Unlocking and Developing Collections for Genomic Research". The workshop followed the day after an afternoon meeting held at The Linnean Society of London (<http://www.linnean.org>) entitled: "Sequencing the Red and the Dead".

Given the tremendous advances being made in DNA sequencing technology it is now possible to generate and analyse extensive genomic information from endangered and extinct organisms. New frozen collections and museum collections could provide vital samples to study changes taking place over time in changing environments. The workshop highlighted insights into the techniques that are now being used to generate molecular data from extinct and endangered animals and plants and explored some of the fascinating opportunities these approaches might offer for conservation and evolutionary biology.

The workshop aimed to share experiences and develop and discuss policies, procedures, priorities and scope for this type of work.

The discussion about extraction of DNA from formalin-fixed vertebrate specimens was a component part of the workshop. At the present time, they are still working with industry colleagues to try and reach a working agreement. They plan to publish initial outcomes from the workshop some time soon. The general consensus was that next-gen sequencing platforms are allowing the issues of cross-linking and fragmentation of DNA to be overcome. We look forward to hearing more from Richard about this and maybe approaching BCoL for support.

Historic Adhesives Subcommittee

Chair: Rebecca Morin (RMorin@calacademy.org)

The goal of the Historic Adhesives project is to gather information on the adhesives commonly used in natural history museums and collections. This information was often not written down, or if it was, it is not easily accessible today. Much of the data is locked in the institutional memory of older generations of preparators. We need to begin gathering it before it is lost forever. A survey form will be developed to systematically mine the institutional memory from preparators and other sources so that we can move forward in gathering this data. Jude Southward has a set of criteria and ideas that are being forwarded to the new team.

Risk Assessment: Standards for relating change in state of specimen to loss in value

Chair: Armando Mendez (a.mendez@nhm.ac.uk)

This is a new subcommittee and the objective is the development of a curation portal (probably within the SPNHC website) which will include fact sheets of damage to different natural history specimens (including perhaps, books, manuscripts and

artwork) through different mechanisms (insects, sunlight, humidity, bad handling, etc.) and recommended best practice, remedial and prevention techniques. The damage described could be rated by curators and society members and the information could be used to present stronger cases to upgrade prevention and best practices.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Anderson, Chair

Documentation Committee

Since the 2010 annual meeting, the Documentation Committee has been hard at work!

Beginning June 16th, the SNOMNH has been hosting an 8-week internship as part of the NSF/RCN Collections Web grant. Our intern, Melissa Barton, holds a Master's in Museum and Field Studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder and has proven herself invaluable in her search for "the answers to all of our problems." As part of the internship, she created a survey (see post elsewhere in this newsletter for details), which attempts to identify problems the natural history collections community is currently having with respect to best practices. Of these, the most commonly addressed topics will become the Committee's mission to track down information and case studies and to create new guidelines, if necessary. Stay tuned for the results of the survey, which will be published in *Collection Forum*.

Melissa has also compiled an enormous amount of information about Registration, Permits, and Legal/Ethical Issues that will be used as content in part of the Best Practices section of the new and improved SPNHC website. We hope to continue gathering pertinent information on various other best practices topics upon completion of this internship so the SPNHC website can become a central hub of information (including links to other, established, websites and resources) for museum professionals. If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the Co-chairs. We especially need help in addressing international issues (although we're waiting on addressing transportation issues until the dust has settled from the recent discussions with transportation companies!).

We are always looking for new members and if you are interested, please contact Marcy Revelez (mrevelez@ou.edu) or Liz Leith (etereba@ou.edu).

Citations Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair:

Margaret Landis (paleocatstar@ou.edu)

Larissa Busch has stepped down as chair of the Citations subcommittee and the committee would like to acknowledge her service and contributions to the committee. Margaret Landis has graciously agreed to take over the chairmanship of the Citations Subcommittee. Margaret Landis is the collec-

tion manager for Paleobotany, Micropaleontology, and Mineralogy at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, and is looking forward to working with the citations group. We are looking for individuals who would be willing to help us look for citations (you know we all do it as part of our job) and especially international members to assist with checking international publications/journals. Even if you do not feel like you can make a long term commitment, if you run across a reference that you think everyone should know about we would appreciate you e-mailing us to make sure we catch it to share with the members.

In addition to the bi-annual citations listed in the SPNHC Newsletter, we are continuing to work on the database of past citations. As the plans to upload a searchable database of all citations onto the SPNHC website was postponed until the website has undergone its facelift, the time is being spent data checking the End Note database (and correcting for extra spaces, typos/misspellings, etc.) as well creating a word bank to help facilitate the search engine for this database. The database currently does not have abstracts of the citations, but we are exploring the possibility to add abstracts for the over 1,600 citations.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Revelez and Liz Leith, Co-chairs

Election Committee

Election 2010

Elections Online (<http://www.electionsonline.us/>) was used again, as last year, to give members the option of voting online.

Positions filled were President-Elect, Secretary and two Members-at-Large. These are:

Christopher Norris (Pres-Elect), Peabody Museum, Yale
Judith Price (Secretary), CMN, Ottawa

Claire Valentine (MAL), NHM, London

Jessica Cundiff (MAL), MCZ, Harvard

Richard Sabin (MAL*), NHM, London

*Richard is to relieve MAL position of Paul Brown for remainder of term

There were 16 nominations received; 8 for MAL, 3 for President-Elect, and 2 for Secretary. One member nominated for President-Elect, and another for Secretary declined to stand. The election started on February 9, 2010 with an email message sent to all members on a 'voting list' (provided to Elections Online based on the Treasurer's most recent membership list). A few weeks later a reminder email was sent to all members that had not yet voted online. At the close of the election on April 9, the total number of valid returned ballots (online and paper) was de-

termined to be 201, or 47.8% of the eligible members – no significant increase from the previous year.

This election was the second where members could vote online. Only 9.0% of the eligible members chose to return a paper ballot. Only 2 ballots were spoiled, and 2 others were discovered to have already been submitted online.

Nominations for 2 Member-at-Large positions were accepted until August 31 for the upcoming 2010 Election. **Voting for this year's election will be from October 15 - November 30, 2010.** The intention is to deliver the results of the election to our President before the end of the year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: On June 29th an email was sent to all members urging all to consider nominating another member to the position of Member-at-Large. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THAT MESSAGE please contact the Treasurer at bbrown@amnh.org so that she or someone can check the email recorded with your membership and make any needed changes.

This year's election will be the last with ballots mailed out to members. The 2011 Election will be exclusively online with an option to print a paper ballot online to send in.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Sendall, Chair

Long Range Planning Committee

The Sessional Committee on Long Range Planning has been made a Standing Committee of the Society, in view of its critical and on-going role in defining strategic goals for SPNHC. The framework document for the Society's strategic plan has been circulated to committee members, and activities in the coming year will focus on fleshing out this skeleton document into a five-year plan to consolidate and build upon SPNHC's leadership role in the care of natural history collections.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Norris, Chair

Membership Committee

Membership Committee activities during 2009/10 were many and varied. Highlights include:

- a. Provided a membership profile page for each issue of the SPNHC Newsletter;
- b. Mailed approximately 110 membership kits to undergraduate and graduate museum studies programs worldwide in conjunction with announcing our new Travel Grant;

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7:

.....Committee Reports

- c. Printed the new SPNHC Membership Pamphlet that was designed by Wall to Wall Studios using photographs taken by Justine Cooper, who is affiliated with the American Museum of Natural History. Of the 3,000 brochures printed, approximately half have been distributed.
- d. Solicited an RFP for website renovation. Please refer to the joint report submitted by Chris Norris under Membership/Web New Website Report.
- e. Produced new tradeshow booth designed by Wall to Wall Studios. In order to raise the visibility of SPNHC, the former P&O Committee recommended that SPNHC acquire a vendor stand, herein called "SPNHC booth" as a marketing tool to be used at other professional meetings. The need to market SPNHC as an organization was enforced in the Membership Survey, organized by Laura Abraczinskas. SPNHC Council approved the purchase of the hardware this past February, and our new booth is making its debut at this meeting. We hope you look it over. Our next step is to develop venue sites and negotiate rates to economically travel the booth with Council approval. Several significant venues come to mind including, but not limited to: AIC (to help sell our newest publication), AAM, various discipline-based meetings within North America (e.g. ASM, ASIH, and SVP) as well as a host of international possibilities.
- f. The near completion of a new publication pamphlet. We intend to include the newest SPNHC publication on health and safety in the pamphlet and are waiting for finalization of the book jacket. The publication pamphlet will be another component in the SPNHC membership kit.
- g. Review of various museum's privacy statements to be used to development one for SPNHC.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Palmer, Chair

Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee of SPNHC helps to facilitate development needs for audiences of museum professionals ranging from those starting in the field to continuing education opportunities for those more experienced. Examples of these programs include workshops, leaflets, and mentoring opportunities.

During the SPNHC meeting at the University of Ottawa, Canada, on 31 May 2010, members of the committee met to discuss reaffirmation of its purpose and decided to propose its name be changed to the Professional Development Committee. This better reflects our main work.

The committee discussed ideas for workshops for the San Francisco meeting next year. These include an all-day Toxins/Poisons workshop, an all-day Practical Imaging workshop, and a Disaster Preparedness workshop. Also for potential offering would be a panel on permitting issues. The committee will work with the local San Francisco committee to identify resources, speakers, and details for the workshops at this meeting. The committee will help future local committees with brainstorming ideas and content resources.

The committee discussed how it can fit in with the three other committees working on the mentorship travel program. The best fit for the Professional Development committee with this program is to: 1) Serve a long-term monitoring function for mentors and mentees, facilitating cross-evaluation and checking on the progress of mentees over time, and 2) Provide a resource list of mentors to the Mentoring Sessional Committee, Membership Committee, and Local Committee staff. Lori Benson and other committee members have developed evaluation questions for mentors and mentees to help monitor progress in the program.

An idea to create a bibliography sorted by task is being worked on by Lori; a reference guide to internships and possible funding sources will be forwarded to the web committee for possible inclusion as a wiki feature.

A group led by Amanda Neill held an inspired "Demo Camp" for same-time demonstrations of new web-based collections management systems in Ottawa, reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Amanda has joined the Professional Development Committee and will again lead the next version of "Demo Camp" in San Francisco.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Stephenson, Co-chair

Publications Committee

This fall we will unveil the latest SPNHC title: Health & Safety for Museum Professionals, edited by Catharine Hawks, Michael McCann, Kathryn Makos, Lisa Goldberg, David Hinkamp, Dennis Ertel, and Patricia Silence. This nineteen chapter (632 pages!) book covers health and safety concerns, precautions, and remedies for all areas of museum work. This up-to-date reference is the ideal go-to book for conservators, exhibit producers, collection managers in all disciplines, and even administrators.

Volume 23 of Collection Forum is due out in late fall with manuscript topics ranging from IPM to evaluation of Invertebrate Paleontology Collections, and more! The 25th Anniversary volume, based on many of the topics covered at the Annual Meeting in Ottawa this year will closely follow. PDFs of past editions will be posted on the SPNHC web page very soon for the benefit of all. As always, we urge you to submit manuscripts

for future volumes to collectionforum@yale.edu. Instructions for authors can be found on the SPNHC web page.

Want to help?

The Publications Committee is looking for someone to help out as a Book Review Editor. This job entails requesting copies of new book releases and distributing those books to experts in the field to evaluate the book and write a review that will be published in Collection Forum. It's a great way to preview books hot off the press (sometimes before they are even released to the public!). Contact Susan if you are interested (susan.butts@yale.edu).

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Butts, Chair

Recognition and Grants Committee

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD AND CAROLYN B. ROSE AWARD

The Recognition and Grants Committee is requesting nominations for the President's Award and the Carolyn B. Rose Award.

The President's Award is presented to a member, or former member, whose activities have furthered the objectives of the Society through outstanding committee work, prolonged officer roles, or promotion of activities of the Society.

The Carolyn B. Rose Award (formerly the SPNHC Award) is our Society's highest honor and given to a practitioner (membership not required) whose work and efforts have promoted the values and objectives of the Society. Nominations should include a letter of nomination, a current curriculum vitae, and letters of recommendations.

Questions and nominations should be directed to the Chair of the Recognition & Grants Committee, Rich Rabeler (rabeler@umich.edu), and must be submitted by November 1, 2010.

CALL FOR THE 2010 FABER GRANT PROPOSALS

The Recognition and Grants Committee is requesting proposals for the Faber Grant, a cash grant of up to \$1000, to support a project addressing issues on the management, care, conservation, or use of natural history collections. Applicants for the Faber Grant must be SPNHC members in good standing for at least one year prior to the award date. The successful applicant will be expected to 1) present a final or interim report at the Annual Meeting of the Society, and 2) publish the results, with the understanding that the manuscript will be



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SPNHC's Travel Grant Program

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is pleased to announce a Travel Grant Program designed to assist members with the costs of attending the Society's annual meeting. Two grants were awarded for the 2010 meeting in Ottawa and grants will be available for attendance at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Society in San Francisco - 23-28 May 2011. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details on the conference.

A total of \$3,000 has been allocated to the program and grants will be for a minimum of \$750 USD each. The deadline for application will be in March 2011. Some conditions apply.

More details will be available on the conference website due for launch in January 2011.



25th Anniversary Year

SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

*Continued from page 9:
.....Committee Reports*

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

Questions and proposals should be directed to the Chair of the Recognition & Grants Committee, Rich Rabeler (rabeler@umich.edu), and must be submitted by February 1, 2010.

Web Committee

Work progresses on the major overhaul of the SPNHC website being undertaken by a group drawn from Membership and Web committees. A design concept has been developed from options presented by Wall-to-Wall Studios Inc (<http://www.walltowall.com/>), page templates are now under construction, and content from the current website is being extracted and updated for migration into the new site. The site will also feature login functionality for members, including a membership directory, access to the latest editions of the newsletter and Collection Forum, and the ability to join SPNHC and renew membership on-line. The new website is due to go live in September 2010.

Please forward any section updates to me as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Molineux, Chair

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ethics

The charges to the Sessional Ethics Committee initiated under Past President Rich Rabeler and continuing under President Jean-Marc Gagnon are:

1) Work with NSCA to assist with the American Association of Museums Natural History Code of Ethics project.

- 2) Contact major museums and discipline-specific societies (possibly the "top 15" as reflected in the 2007 membership survey) and gather copies of documents.
- 3) Produce a "document" (form to be determined) that will summarize a general ethics standard that could be posted on the SPNHC website and in Collections Forum.

The committee is in the process of contacting various societies and organizations to request their best practice documents on ethics. If any institution or sister society has such a document, the committee would sincerely appreciate receiving a copy (electronic preferred), which can be sent to the chairperson, Linda S. Ford (lford@oeb.harvard.edu). Committee members include Jennifer Doubt, Kelly Goulette, and Tim White.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ford, Chair

Mentorship

Chair of the Mentorship Committee was transferred to Andy Bentley from Chris Norris (due to his impending Presidential duties). We thank him for his service to this committee to date, and he will remain a valuable member of the committee.

The Mentorship Committee (together with help from other Committees and individuals) enjoyed a very successful launch of our Travel Grant scheme at the Ottawa meetings. Two grants were awarded to Bethany Palumbo (University of Lincoln, United Kingdom) and Lydia Garetano (Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Hawaii, USA). Both were mentored before (in preparing their presentations and arranging travel) and during the meeting by Chris Norris and Lisa Palmer, respectively. See elsewhere in this newsletter for bios on the two awardees. They have also collaboratively written our Ottawa conference report (also in this newsletter). We thank them both for their enthusiasm and for making this Travel Grant launch such a success.

In a unanimous vote at Council, the Travel Grant program was also renamed the Jerry Fitzgerald Travel Grant program in honor of one of our founding members.

The Mentorship Committee has now been tasked with implementing the remaining portions of our original charge:

1. A broader, more encompassing mentorship program designed to provide professional development to our student and emerging professional membership. A natural outgrowth of this would be the targeting of emerging professionals in the developing world. This would require a support infrastructure in these developing countries, the identification of potential mentors and the matching of these mentors with mentees. This process will entail an application and vetting procedure for both mentor and mentee with well-defined expectations and reporting structures.

- The development of regional nodes of SPNHC to enhance and expand on our international leverage through the provision of node specific materials. At the core of each node would be an international version of the SPNHC website. Initial forays will be made into Africa and South America, with established contacts already in place and a need identified. Other possibilities include European, Australasian and Asian nodes. Full implementation of this will depend on discussions with the website developers as to functionality and integration of these ideas into the new website design and infrastructure.

The mentorship program (especially in the developing world) will rely heavily on the node concept and both of these will integrate extensively with the new web infrastructure, soon to be implemented. Login capabilities will allow individual users to specify their region and thereby be able to filter content based on that region. The nodes will be a subset of the overall site and will not only draw from that content but complement it in numerous ways. Ideally, management of node content would be handed over to a representative from that region.

The Mentorship Committee will work on fleshing out aspects of both of these programs during the year with a joint Sessional Committee meeting planned for sometime in the fall.

If you are an international member of SPNHC (or others) and have any views on either of these programs, we would be very interested in hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley, Chair

25th Anniversary Celebration

The SPNHC Membership Booth made its debut at the 25th Anniversary Meeting in Ottawa. In order to raise the visibility of SPNHC, SPNHC purchased a vendor stand, called the SPNHC Membership Booth, as a marketing tool to be used at



other professional meetings. The need to market SPNHC as an organization was enforced in the recent Membership Survey. The Membership Committee is working out the details of venues that the booth will travel.

At the Ottawa meeting we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of SPNHC. Many people visited the display of memories and successes in the trade show area and signed the memory book. At the banquet we were delighted to welcome and thank 13 of the original Founders, Charter Members, and present and past Executive (several of whom belonged to two or even all three of those categories), with special recognition of founders Dan Faber, Jerry Fitzgerald, Shirley Albright, and Wyn Watson. Sally Shelton, while unable to attend, excelled with the composition of a 25th Anniversary Song – “Here’s to SPNHC”, sung to the tune of “My Darling Clementine”. This was performed by a resurrected band of “Deadbeats” ably led by soloists Bethany Palumbo (one of the 2010 recipients of the newly-minted Fitzgerald Travel Grant) and Leslie Skibinski, with the audience joining in the chorus.

Thanks to everyone - past and present – who has contributed to the success of SPNHC and to our celebration of 25 years of collections care.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Waddington, Chair

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SPNHC REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

AAM Registrar's Committee (AAM-RC)

The Registrar's Committee (RC) of the American Association of Museums (AAM) has had its hands full over the past year. The RC made a strong showing at the AAM Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, and it looks forward to participating in the next Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas (May 22-25, 2011). The theme for this upcoming meeting is "The Museum of Tomorrow," and the RC expects to sponsor several symposia about collection concerns.

The Registrar's Committee also hosted the successful International Registrar's Symposium 3 in Chicago. There were 215 registrars in attendance, of which 131 registrars were international participants from 28 different countries. The International Registrar's Symposium 4 is tentatively set for Houston, Texas (date TBA; possibly November 2011).

The RC also partnered with AAM to support Museum Advocacy Day on May 22-23, 2010. Participants in the day travelled to Washington, D.C. for advocacy and policy training. They then spoke with elected officials to communicate the importance of museums. The dates for Museum Advocacy Day 2011 are February 28th and March 1st in Washington, D.C.

The past year has also seen a refinement in the quality of collection management resources. A fifth edition of "Museum Registration Methods" by Rebecca Buck and Jean Gillmore includes rewritten and updated material. The RC also received an \$8000 matching grant to redesign its website.

Looking forward, the RC hopes to increase the number of participants in its mentoring program (details available on the RC website). It hopes to reconcile the discrepancy between its membership (900 members) and its listserv recipients (2000+ recipients). The RC also hopes to reach a large number of museum professionals through its live webinar, "Step-by-Step Collections Acquisition," on September 22, 2010 from 2:00 – 3:30pm (Eastern time). The webinar costs \$35 for AAM members and \$135 for nonmembers. More details about the webinar are available under "Professional Development" at the AAM website.

Submitted,
Crystal Boyd, SPNHC representative

American Society of Mammalogists (ASM)

Since 1972, the American Society of Mammalogists has had a standing committee called the Systematic Collections Committee as an outgrowth of an *ad hoc* committee formed at the request of the National Science Foundation. The Society has defined this committee's responsibilities as follows: (1) Advising curators worldwide in matters relating to collection administration, curation, and accreditation; (2) Maintaining a directory of mammal collections and conducting a survey of existing collections approximately once each decade; and (3) Maintaining a list of curatorial standards for mammal collections and managing a collection-accreditation program under the auspices of the Society.

During the 2009 ASM Annual Meeting the Committee conducted a site visit at the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks, Alaska. Virtually all committee members made an effort to attend this site visit on the evening of June 25th. There was also a site visit conducted by two members of the Committee on separate dates at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman, Oklahoma. The observations of the two visitors were coordinated to create a single Final Report. Each Final Report incorporates the institution's responses to 18 questions regarding the collection and its documentation and care with the observations and recommendations of the Systematic Collections Committee's visiting team.

As the current President of the American Society of Mammalogists, it was my duty to review the Committee's recommendations for accreditation and notify the collection's administration of the Committee's decision. This year, both collections have been recommended for accreditation and will be receiving a letter shortly to that effect as well as an Accreditation Certificate and a copy of the Final Report. Final Reports generally contain both positive observations and recommendations for improvement. The latter rarely comes as a surprise to collection staff. Rather, the Committee works with the staff to articulate areas for which they need greater administrative support. It is hoped that our recommendations will highlight the importance of the collection to the mammal research community and help to leverage greater institutional support for the collection.

The ability to interact with other colleagues who work in mammal collections is a continually enriching experience, making this one of the most popular of the 30 ASM standing committees. The balance between ensuring that standards are being followed and finding ways to support colleagues in their collection care goals is the key to the success of the ASM mammal collection accreditation program. Current Committee Chair Bill Stanley (Collection Manager in the Division of Mammals at the Field Museum) has done an outstanding job of guiding the accreditation process and mentoring new committee members to fulfill this important role for the Society.

If you are interested in a recent listing of *Mammal Collections of the Western Hemisphere*, a copy of the *Basic Curatorial*

SPNHC Membership Profile

Our members play many different roles from collection management and conservation to databasing and informatics to research and education. Most of our members come from a traditional research background while many new members are coming from the museum studies field. Our hope is to introduce our membership to a variety of individuals who are playing very dynamic roles in their museum's activities. We are casting our net broadly and selecting individuals from institutions of all sizes and backgrounds.

SNAPSHOT

What is your name? Mariko Kageyama

What is your position? Vertebrate Zoology Collections Manager

Where do you work? University of Colorado Museum of Natural History (UCM)

How many years have you been working in this capacity? I have been employed as UCM's Vertebrate Zoology Collections Manager since 2005 (also interim Invertebrate Zoology Collections Manager 2008-2010). Previously, I was Digital Imaging Specialist at the Department of Mammalogy, American Museum of Natural History (2004-2005). When I was a student, I enjoyed working part-time as Graduate Research Assistant at the Natural Science Research Laboratory of the Museum of Texas Tech University (2001-2003).

Educational Background. I have an MA in Museum Science from Texas Tech University (2003), MS in Biological Science (Zoology) from Kyoto University (1999), and BS in Applied Biological Sciences from Nagoya University, Japan (1997).

When did you join SPNHC? I have been a SPNHC member over 8 years since 2002. Richard Monk, my former advisor at Texas Tech University, recommended that I join.



IN-DEPTH

What drew you to the natural history field? My childhood dream was to become a zoologist or someone who specialized in animals. But I did not have a clear future vision until I entered college. I had opportunities to interact with great biologists who had tremendous influence on my career path as role models. I particularly became fascinated with taxonomy, systematics, "species concepts", and study of mammals. Once in graduate school, I fine-tuned my academic interests and concentrated on taxonomic and systematic questions surrounding Japanese endemic rodents. Not until the late 1990s, did major universities in Japan operate natural history collections as public repositories accessible to outside researchers. As a consequence, one of the major obstacles I had to face in my research project was lack of available and accessible museum collections for conducting morphological study. So, it was essential to go out to the field to collect specimens and build a new collection on my own other than visiting the historic mammal collection at the National Science Museum, Tokyo. I was jealous of museums in Europe and North America. My ambition for making a difference in the natural history museums in Japan inevitably grew during this period. Eventually I determined to take a leave of absence from the PhD program at Kyoto and study in the United States. The other justification for this decision was that graduate-level museum study programs with particular emphasis on natural history were (and still are) nonexistent in Japan. I am still planning on returning to Japan and contributing to museums there some day.

Describe the nature of the collections you work with. I work primarily with the collection of nearly 100,000 vertebrate specimens and associated documentation with geographic focus on Colorado and the Rocky Mountains region. About two thirds of the catalogued materials are herpetological voucher specimens preserved in fluid, and the rest are research collections of mammals, birds, and fish prepared and housed in a standard manner. Additionally, we have taxidermy mounts of birds and mammals for use in exhibits, and teaching collections of vertebrates that are actively used in biology courses and the museum's educational programs.

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13:
Membership Profile

What are your responsibilities for them? I am fully or partially responsible for almost everything that involves care, preservation, access, and management of the vertebrate collections, including basic curatorial work, collection database management, preventive conservation, scientific loans and inquiries, collection tours and visitor services, policies and standards, environmental health and safety, IPM, disaster planning, collection staff and volunteer training and supervision, and archives management. Fortunately, our institution and the university provide useful resources and logistic support to help us out, especially in facilities and IT-related areas.

What accomplishments are you most proud of? I can think of many highlights in the collection projects we have accomplished and are still working on, including "Moving Taxidermy Specimens from the Exhibit Gallery to the Collection Storage" project with generous support from the Faber Grant. But honestly, I am most proud of our team efforts over the years including a number of dedicated student assistants without which not so many things could have been accomplished. Our long-term goal is to upgrade our zoology collections collectively from all different perspectives of collections management to become one of the best quality university collections in the Mountains-Plains region. I admit we are still behind and working hard to catch up with today's collection standards, but I am proud of how much change we have made as a team with limited budget. The extent of the improvement may be minor, but to my eyes, every shelf and drawer and database entry looks fairly different compared to 5 years ago.

What do you find most fulfilling about your work? I find it very satisfying to detect existing and potential problems in my workplace in a big-picture as well as in details, and then try to resolve issues and provide solutions in the most consistent and effective ways possible. This is another great way of having a sense of accomplishment beside teamwork. Technology, scientific approaches and demands for natural history collections constantly change, and the professional standards also have changed significantly. It is fulfilling to think big and work toward increasing the capacity of the collections to be able to correspond to such newer trends and needs, while respecting and practicing traditional wisdom of preserving the collections.

What have you learned from SPNHC to be particularly helpful? SPNHC has been very helpful in my career development, especially since I graduated from school and started working in collections more independently with increased responsibility. SPNHC is unique in a way that brings together the momentum of natural history collections people who are willing to share their expertise and experiences to advance the field. Thanks to SPNHC, I can stay in tune with what is going on in the professional community through annual meetings, publications, listservs, and other networking opportunities. I acknowledge that the Society has been recently making strides toward going more international and more diverse in its mission and membership to tackle with emerging global challenges in the natural history field. I totally support this direction.

DemoCamp 2010 Report

As the result of a SIG meeting in Leiden in 2009, Amanda Neill proposed and chaired a new kind of session at SPNHC 2010: DemoCamp. DemoCamp provided a venue for live demonstrations (no PowerPoints allowed!) of technological tools of relevance to biologists, collections managers, and biodiversity information managers. Abstracts were submitted and voted on by an ad-hoc DemoCamp committee, and eight were selected, so two sessions were held. These were very well attended, with at one point over 120 people in the room. The live demonstrations included some products familiar to everyone, such as Specify, Morphbank, and BioGeomancer, but also included some products one may not have seen in action before: SALIX, Apiary, GEOLocate, Xper2, and the world premier of the Filtered Push prototype. A great deal of positive feedback was received after the sessions and DemoCamps are now planned at future SPNHC conferences. DemoCamp will be overseen by the Professional Development Committee and will be chaired by Amanda Neill in 2011. Please contact Amanda (aneill@brit.org) if you wish to be involved and be on the lookout next spring for a call for demonstrations.

COLLECTION FORUM

Manuscripts Needed!!

Collection Forum, the official journal of SPNHC, is seeking manuscripts for our upcoming volumes. Collection Forum is the perfect publication to:

- disseminate results from grants and projects,
- expand on a talk at the SPNHC Annual Meeting, or
- describe best practices developed at your institution.

Feel free to contact the managing editor, Susan Butts, at susan.butts@yale.edu or (203) 432-3037 with questions, to discuss your ideas for possible papers, or if you are ready to submit a manuscript. Instructions to authors are available on the SPNHC web site.



25th Anniversary Year

SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

Continued from page 12:
.....ASM Report

Standards used by the Committee during our accreditation process or a list of the currently accredited collections, go to the ASM website and view the Systematic Collections Committee webpage at <http://www.mammalogy.org/committees/index.asp>

Submitted,
Suzanne B. McLaren, SPNHC representative

American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT)

I have been serving as an ex-officio member of the ASPT Systematics Collections Committee since 2006. The chair of the committee leads a Curator's meeting during the annual Society meeting (Snowbird, Utah, USA on 25-29 July 2009); I appointed James Macklin to represent SPNHC at that meeting.

The committee has been actively promoting regional networking of U.S. herbaria, interfacing with the United States Virtual Herbarium project. I am currently leading the committee's effort to revise a Best Practices document for herbarium operations – first proposed in 1958 and last revised in 1978. We hope to have that document ready to present later this year.

The 2010 Annual meeting was held in Providence, Rhode Island, on 31 July – 4 August 2010. Besides the annual Curator's meeting, the committee sponsored a discussion session on permit requirements for herbaria, reacting in part to recent problems with importing mounted herbarium specimens into the United States.

Submitted,
Rich Rabeler, SPNHC representative

Geological Society of America (GSA)

We have been very active in our push to consolidate connection with GSA. Our first exciting joint sponsored session will take place at the Annual GSA meeting in Denver, Colorado, 31 October to 3 November, 2010. Abstracts are due August 10th. In addition there will be a SPNHC booth with the new banners in the "Paleo Alley" area of the exhibits. SPNHC has also applied, thank you Jean-Marc, to become an associated society of GSA. Many benefits will accrue if our application is successful, among the most obvious our publicity will be broadened and our exhibit booth cost will be lowered.

T113. Geological and Paleobiological Collections: Best Practices for Preservation, Access, and Use in a Changing World

Sponsors: Paleontological Society; Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections; Mineralogical Society of America; GSA Geoinformatics Division

Organizers: Ann Molineux (Texas Natural Science Center; annm@austin.utexas.edu), Tim White (Yale Peabody Museum; tim.white@yale.edu), Christopher Michael Holl (Princeton University; choll@princeton.edu)

This session provides an opportunity for geoscientists to examine ways to access geological and paleobiological specimens and effective methods to retrieve their related data, underscoring the inherent value of such resources for innovative research and education. As geoscience departments of many colleges and universities are reevaluating their priorities, the value and utility of the fundamental building blocks of past studies are coming under question. In addition, many museums have large backlogs of uncataloged and unprocessed materials that also present challenges for potential research and teaching purposes. In order to access these collections we need to investigate methods for assessing risk, value and priority for curation, improved collections care and the management of specimens and related information. The availability of new methodologies, database applications and internet resources has greatly increased the ability to efficiently manage geological and paleobiological collections for research, education and outreach. Other scientific disciplines, such as biological informatics, that have led to many innovations for collections access and use will be explored. There is a wealth of research and educational opportunities available for existing geological and paleobiological collections. The use of emerging technologies, widespread access to the Internet and construction of online "virtual collections" and data portals, using such data retrieval protocols as DiGIR, is making collections related information accessible to geoscientists and other scientists looking to test hypothesis regarding earth processes and the history of life. We welcome submissions that describe innovative research made possible through use of these collections and associated information.

To submit an abstract follow the links for session T113 on: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010/sessions/topical.asp>.

For more information please contact Ann, Tim or Chris.

Submitted
Ann Molineux, SPNHC representative

The Paleontological Society

The SPNHC Representative to the Paleontological Society was transferred from Ann Molineux to myself as I am a member of the Paleontological Society Collections Committee. The Paleontological Society meets jointly each year with the Geological Society of America (GSA). The Paleontological Society Collections Committee did not meet at the 2009 GSA meeting in Portland, Oregon. A committee meeting is planned

Continued from page 15:
Paleo Society Report

for the 2010 GSA meeting in Denver, Colorado, October 31 - November 3, and a representative report will be submitted following that meeting.

Submitted,
 Jessica Cundiff, SPNHC representative

Best Practices Survey

The Documentation Committee wants you to participate in a best practices survey (generated as part of a summer internship from the NSF/RCN Collections Web grant)!

This survey seeks to better understand the information and resource needs of the natural history collections community, including museums, parks, university collections, and other organizations caring for natural and cultural history collections. The purpose is to identify, collect, and provide information about best practices specific to natural history collections, including current helpful resources. **Holes or gaps in best practices need to be identified and addressed. This survey is the first step in identifying these holes.**

Please visit the following link to participate in the survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DLPDRNX>

We are seeking responses from people with registration and collections management responsibilities for natural history collections. Please feel free to pass this link on to other professionals or institutions you feel should be participating!

Thank you in advance for your help!

Documentation Committee

Global Plants Initiative call for partners

The Global Plants Initiative (GPI) is seeking additional partner herbaria. For herbarium collections managers who are not aware of this program, GPI is an international partnership creating a coordinated database of worldwide botanical type specimen images and related information. The project, which is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, began with African plants in 2003, later extended its focus to Latin America, and now includes type specimens worldwide. Participants capture data and create high resolution digital images of vascular type specimens from their collections. The goal of this



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project is a self-sustaining internet resource for botanical researchers.

Currently, more than 150 organizations from 55 countries are involved. The database includes 1,250,000 images and associated objects, of which several hundred thousand are type specimen images. When complete, the digital library will include images of more than 2 million type specimens.

Each scan is made at 600 dpi resulting in an image of approximately 200 MB. These show a great deal of morphological information online. The benefits to researchers are that more than one person can access type images simultaneously and many type specimens are available simultaneously. The benefit to collections is that the online availability of images will reduce potential damage from shipping them to researchers. The shared digital library, currently in beta mode, will be available through JSTOR subscription (costs, likely on a sliding scale, are not yet set).

Institutions may apply for funding through the Mellon Foundation (contact Doreen Tinajero at DNT@mellon.org) or may contact existing GPI partner institutions (see <http://plants.jstor.org>) to form ad hoc consortia in order to have their botanical type specimens scanned. The Mellon Foundation has provided partner institutions with HerbScan equipment (modified high-resolution scanners adapted to support the type specimens during imaging) as well as funding for staffing and computer equipment. Bulky type specimens (e.g., cacti, pine cones, etc.) will be imaged via camera giving a comparable high-resolution image.

Collection Manager of Mollusks Needed

POSITION DESCRIPTION: Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, seeks a collection manager to develop, manage, and organize the logistics of and participate in moving our mollusk collection of over 130,000 specimen lots to the department's new space. The position will involve archiving and labeling specimens, and exercising independent judgment in managing volunteers and work-study students and in processing and organizing the move. Position will also involve other collection management tasks to facilitate organizing, growing, and sharing data about the collection. Employee will participate in and oversee others in organizing families, enhancing computer database documentation of specimen lots, processing accessions into the collection, loan activity, environmental control and storage maintenance, retrieving materials in response to research requests, identifying and contacting potential donors, and documenting policies and procedures.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's degree in biology, museum science, or related field plus 2 years experience in a museum setting, or any equivalent combination of education

and experience. Ideal candidate is familiar with mollusks, zoological taxonomy, world geography, museum curation, and specimen conservation.

Must have facility with personal computer and applicable software packages such as Microsoft Word, Excel, collections database, and the various tools and hardware necessary for transferring the collection. To apply, please visit <http://www.carnegiemuseums.org/hr>. EOE.

Position funded for two years. We will begin reviewing applications 6 September 2010. For more information, contact Tim Pearce (pearcet@carnegiemnh.org; 412-622-1916).



SPNHC Newsletter Advertising

Why Advertise in the SPNHC Newsletter?

Members of SPNHC are the people who use your products and services. They are often the decision makers about products and procedures that will be used in their institutions. These people want to know about products and services that will help them do their jobs more effectively. They are interested in the latest techniques and materials available, as well as educational and travel opportunities, new publications, and events and programs related to natural history and collections.

All advertisements should be submitted as .tif or .pdf files, formatted for a PC. Ads can be placed in one-sixth, quarter, half or full page. It is recommended that image resolution be 300 dpi. Electronic files may be e-mailed (abentley@ku.edu) or sent on a disk to the newsletter editor. Any necessary printer's charges will be billed to the advertiser. Payment must accompany the insertion order and tear sheets will be sent after publication.

There is limited space in each newsletter and space will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Ad placement is at the discretion of the editor. More information can be found on the SPNHC website - www.spnhc.org.

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, 2011.

2010 Travel Grant Recipients

To help offset costs of attending the 25th Annual Meeting of SPNHC in Ottawa, Canada, SPNHC awarded the Fitzgerald Travel Grant to two individuals. This was the first time that this grant was awarded, and there were numerous applicants from which to choose. SPNHC would like to thank the Ottawa Local Committee in making this a successful grant process. SPNHC was pleased to award Lydia Garetano from the Bernice P. Bishop Museum (Hawaii) and Bethany Palumbo from the University of Lincoln (London). Below are brief biographies of the awardees. Congratulations Lydia and Bethany!

Lydia Garetano

I'm originally from Long Island, New York, and I graduated from Binghamton University in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology. I decided that I wanted to take a short break from New York so I moved to Hawai'i in August 2006 with hopes of working at the Bishop Museum. In November 2007, after one year and 4 applications, I secured a position as an intern in the Vertebrate Zoology collection under the direct supervision of Carla Kishinami. Carla was planning to retire in July 2009, and after the amazing opportunity to train directly under her, I was promoted to be the new Collections Manager of Vertebrate Zoology. Because I had no prior museum experience, I decided to enroll in the Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the spring of 2009. I expect to complete the program in the spring of 2011. Needless to say, my short break from New York turned out to be a little longer than expected.

It is coming close to the end of my first year as collections manager and my favorite aspect of the job is that I learn something new almost every day. I really enjoy working with natural history collections. I have had amazing experiences so far, at the museum and at the 2010 SPNHC conference, and I look forward to many more.



Standing in front of Moose at the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, 2010 SPNHC Annual Meeting are, from left to right, Bethany Palumbo and Lydia Garetano.

Bethany Palumbo

I have recently completed by BA Honours in Conservation and Restoration at the University of Lincoln in the UK. Before this, I had always focused on the arts with ambitions to work in costume design. During my foundation degree, however, I veered towards 3D design working in carpentry. When it was time to start making choices for study at a higher level, I wanted to focus on museum studies but was keen to remain creative and hands-on. The Conservation and Restoration undergraduate degree at Lincoln focused on both the scientific aspects of conservation and provided intensive learning in classical architecture and art history.

How I came to specialise in Natural Sciences was only through an admiration of the natural world, especially textures such as feathers and skins. Time spent volunteering in various professional institutions, I soon realised that Natural History collections are rarely as well-maintained as ceramic or art collections and soon decided that I would make the preventive and remedial conservation of Natural Sciences my specialism for the final year of my degree.

Plans for the future are to continue my research into the restoration of colour to avian taxidermy mounts and continue to volunteer in museums, gaining experience in all areas. This will in turn help me eventually find long-term employment. I don't mind where I end up, I'm always keen to have an adventure.



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

Sustainable Museums/Sustaining Collections

Joint Meeting of SPNHC and NSCA

23-28 May 2011

San Francisco, California

The California Academy of Sciences will be hosting the 26th annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections in a joint meeting with the Natural Science Collections Alliance.

Next year's meeting will focus on exploring new and innovative ways to make our museums "green" and sustainable, while also providing the standards of care necessary to protect our collections for future generations. These topics are particularly timely in light of the challenges we all face in the current economic climate, and we hope that our sharing of ideas at this meeting will help us all to meet these challenges.

In addition to the traditional invited speakers and oral and poster presentations, the program will include (by popular demand) Demo Camp II, workshops on poisons, imaging, and emergency preparedness, and several Special Interest Group meetings. Several pre-meeting full- and half-day field trips are planned to places such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Point Reyes National Seashore and the San Andreas Fault and (once again by popular demand) the Wine Country, where we plan to tour some "green" wineries.

The meeting will be held at the Hotel Kabuki in Japantown, located in the heart of San Francisco, with easy access to Chinatown, The Embarcadero, and Union Square. This venue offers us the opportunity to showcase San Francisco's unique and diverse culture in a setting that is exotic and at the same time provides wonderful meeting space for our events. There will be a Wednesday night social function at the Academy, giving attendees an opportunity to see our new museum. Collection tours of the new facility will also be on the agenda.

Please Join Us in The City by The Bay in 2011!!

Look for the conference web page in January, or contact Debra Trock at dtrock@calacademy.org for more information.

Collections Stewardship in a Changing World

By the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

Best Practices Committee¹

¹ Members of the SPNHC Best Practices Committee who contributed to this document: Barb Brown, Jessica Cundiff, Jean-Marc Gagnon, Cathy Hawks, Liz Leith, James Macklin, Chris Norris, Richard K. Rabeler, Cindy Ramotnik, Marcia A. Revelez, Tim White, and Paula Work

A “Best Practice” is defined as a technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has proven to reliably lead to a desired result. Best practices differ from “Standards” because while they are generally agreed upon, they are not legislated or enforced. Best practices are actions and philosophies that successfully solve problems, can be replicated, and demonstrate an awareness of standards.

The most effective best practices are those that are developed and agreed upon at a community level. Best practices are, in effect, community practices – ones that have evolved over time and have been widely employed because of their effectiveness. Because of this, professional organizations such as the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) play a critical role in the codification and dissemination of best practices.

Last fall, a group of Sessional Committee members and Council representatives of SPNHC met to discuss the role of the Society as it relates to best practices. This meeting affirmed the Society’s desire to promote best practices within the natural history collections community. A key point that emerged in brainstorming sessions was that the foundation of best practices, as they relate to the care of museum objects, is the decision to take responsibility for the care of the material. This paper addresses the issue of collection stewardship.

The institutional mission of entities that hold natural history and natural science collections - whether they be societies, institutions of higher learning, other organizations or agencies, or individuals - may or may not involve long-term collections care. In some of these institutions, the scope of the collections has moved outside of their core mission or exceeds the institution’s capacity to provide staff support. A typical example is where the collections were created to address specific research issues: as institutional research priorities shift over time, these older collections compete unsuccessfully for limited storage and/or curatorial resources. In time, such collections can become marginalized, moved to unsuitable storage, experience a lack of competent supervision, and/or may be disposed of in inappropriate ways. Many of these important scientific collections, which are still valuable resources for research, education, or exhibition, now suffer from various degrees of neglect and, in some cases, should be considered to be threatened or endangered collections.

You may have, or be affiliated with an institution that has, one of these collections. In 2006, Tiffany Adrain and Paula Work chaired a SPNHC sessional committee that looked at the is-

sue of endangered and “orphaned” (i.e., abandoned by its owner or without curatorial support) collections. The committee developed a best practice methodology and toolkit for those working with threatened collections, which can be located at www.spnhc.org.

In addition to the Threatened Collections Toolkit, SPNHC has also developed the following collection stewardship analysis to assist you in the decision-making process for establishing proper care of these collections. Some of the first aspects to consider are:

- 1) Does, or can, this collection serve your institutional mission or vision?
- 2) Does this collection have value for any of the following reasons: education, research, and/or exhibition (i.e., for teaching, scientific study and/or display)?
- 3) Is this collection known beyond your institution; for instance, by your community or scientific discipline? Does anyone else know about it? Is it referenced or cited? Is it indexed, accredited, or has it been on exhibit?
- 4) Are you aware of any encumbrances to the title of this collection that create ownership issues? (An encumbrance could include a conflict of interest, restricted donation, restricted intellectual property right, a collection made with federal grant monies, a collection with support money attached, designated species, culturally sensitive objects, material collected on federal lands, etc.)
- 5) Do you know who, within your institution, has authority to act for this collection? Is this an institutional collection, a permanent or long-term loan, a personal collection, or another type of collection?

After you have considered the above, and done your best to find answers to these questions, the next question you should ask is:

Do you want, or are you required, to keep this collection?

If the answer to this question is “no” – knowing the answers to the above questions will help define the most appropriate solution for disposition of the material. Consult the reference section on collections disposition at the end of this document to assist you with this process.

If the answer to this question is “yes” - knowing the answers to the same questions will facilitate proper stewardship of these assets.

If you have decided to keep your collection you will need to formalize policies and procedures for its care and management. Proper stewardship involves the following activities: governance and administration, collections care and management, and sources of resources. Below we list best practices for each category (as defined by SPNHC), which are designed to prevent the collection from becoming neglected or orphaned in the future. Institutions should reevaluate their actions periodically to make sure the policies and procedures in place continue to benefit the collection and serve the institution's mission. Additional references relating to specific topics within these categories can be found at the end of this document.

Governance and Administration

- Define who is legally responsible for stewardship of this collection (e.g., board, president, appointee).
- Define the administrative hierarchy for collections stewardship. Decision-makers should be identified here, including the extent of each person's decision-making powers. These could range from selecting and purchasing new storage furniture to approving or refusing new donations and deaccessioning objects. Also include the person(s) ultimately responsible for collections care and management. Examples of decision-makers include: president/CEO, department chair, faculty, curator, or collections manager.
- Identify available resources for support of this collection (i.e., space, people, funding).
- Adopt appropriate collections management policies - please consult the sources cited in the references.

Collections Care and Management

- Assessments – conduct qualitative and quantitative assessments of the collection condition, risks to the collection, etc.
- Accessibility – ensure that the collection is accessible to all potential users both through physical arrangement and documentation.
- Documentation – document policy and procedures used in managing the collection as well as at the specimen/object/lot level.
- Facilities and space planning – determine whether the facilities for housing the collection are adequate. If not, establish what improvements are needed and create a priority list of these needs.
- Environmental controls – while proper environmental conditions are important for safeguarding the collection, not all types of objects benefit from the same conditions. For collections preserved in fluids, rigorous temperature control is important (Simmons 1995). Humidity and temperature are important for paper-based collections, e.g., herbaria (Metsger and Byers 1999). For all other types of collections, see the decision tree produced by the Canadian Conservation Institute (Grattan and Michalski).

- Storage – in deciding storage needs, consider: proper housekeeping, establishing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, and preparing proper storage design (Moore and Williams 1995).
- Health and human safety – protection of workers exposed to hazards in the collection is an important consideration and should be done in conjunction with industrial hygienists and representatives of occupational safety organizations (e.g., OSHA in the United States, <http://www.osha.gov>).
- Security – determine the level of security precautions based on the relationship to the nature of the objects and whether the area is a public exhibit or a restricted research collection/space (Keller and Wilson, 1995).

Sources of Resources (people and money)

- Staffing – determine adequate staffing needs, including number of staff (from administrative to collection management), professional or educational prerequisites for hiring staff, and a detailed list of duties each staff member will be required to fulfill.
- Training – museum professionals need to continue their training and education as new and innovative approaches to collections care are created. An active training program for the staff is paramount to the successful care of a collection.
- Grants/External funding – be proactive in seeking grants or other external funding. If the collection has many needs, tailor your projects to meet popular trends to increase your chances of success (digitization or databasing, for example). Be aware that in the U.S., some granting agencies check to see if you have a line item designated for collections care in your annual budget.

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*Continued from page 21:
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Storage Renewal for the Primate Collection at the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Thanks to a generous donation from the Royal Society of Medicine, Odontological Section, the primate collection held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in London is the focus of a storage renewal project. The almost 3,000 primate skulls were removed from display in the college's Hunterian Museum in 2003 and have remained in store ever since. The recent donation will enable each one of these primate skulls, representing every genus from across the globe, to be individually packed into new lock-lid transparent boxes. Reboxing began last year and some 500 skulls have now been re-housed. Visiting researchers using the collection have already commented on the newly implemented system and the ease of access in both locating material and removing individual specimens for their studies.

The revamp of the primate storage began last year with the largest specimens; more than fifty gorilla skulls. Reboxing is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010, finishing with the smallest primates in the collection, the mouse lemurs. Owing to the wide range in species, new storage has had to take skull size into account. Initially the process proved straight-

forward; one box comfortably fits one male gorilla skull or two male orangutan skulls. However, storage became more complex for accommodating the smaller primates. Ultimately, preservation of the material is the key concern, but like all museum institutions, an effort has been made to be efficient in the use of available space. As such, corex 'layers' have been made, supported by plastazote plinths. Each layer accommodates six to eight skulls (depending on species size) which are inserted into plastazote cut outs. This format prevents any weight being placed on the skulls and also holds each specimen in place when the box is moved.



The primate collection forms part of the Odontological Collection at the RCS, containing over 11,000 human and animal skulls and teeth actively used in various research projects. The online catalogue details all of the material held within the museum's collections (<http://surgicat.rcseng.ac.uk/>).

Plan Finalized for Digitization of Biological Collections

The biological collections community has finalized a strategic plan to digitize and mobilize images and data associated with biological research collections. The proposed ten-year national effort is the product of two workshops held at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in 2010, as well as surveys of 291 federal and approximately 600 federally-supported collections. SPNHC was well represented with at least three council members and several members at the two workshops, who participated in the planning and organization of this proposed program.

The plan outlines three key objectives: digitize data from all U.S. biological collections and make them available online in

a standardized format; develop and make available new web interfaces, visualization and analysis tools, data mining, and georeferencing processes; and, prevent future backlogs of digitized collections through the use of tools, training, and infrastructure. These goals will be accomplished through the work of collections networks organized by region of the country or scientific theme, such as clade or a particular research question. A national digitization hub will serve as "the administrative home for the digitization effort, fostering partnerships and innovations, facilitating best practice standards and workflows, serving as a repository for data and techniques, and establishing cohesion and interconnectivity among digitization projects," according to the plan.

The final plan incorporates the comments of numerous stakeholders, including institutions holding collections, scientific societies, and others. On 21 April 2010, the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections endorsed the "Final Draft Strategic Plan for Establishing a National Digital Biological Collections Resource." Below is the SPNHC letter of support from President-elect Chris Norris:

April 21, 2010

Having responded to this proposed initiative personally, I'm now writing this response on behalf of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). SPNHC has an international membership of over 600 professionals working in the field of collections care, including curators, collection managers, conservators, and registrars.

Our Society enthusiastically supports any initiative that increases access to collections and that promotes novel uses of specimens and specimen data. Capturing the mass of currently inaccessible data in natural history collections will present massive challenges. It is essential that the process be set up and managed efficiently. Technology must be applied effectively where it can be used, in order to free up curatorial staff time to tackle areas where technology is ineffective.

Many of the responses to date have focused on user demand. Stakeholder perspectives are essential for the success of this initiative. However, it is equally important to consider the potential challenges from the perspective of the data providers. An important first step is to understand what information is available in collections – not just the core metadata that form the basis of current cataloging efforts, but also the mass of associated data, such as field notes, maps, photographs, specimen annotations and other resources that are generally excluded from on-line catalogs. Many potential users may be unaware of the existence of these resources.

Equally critical are the documentation of collections workflow and the establishment of best practices. Workflow differs radically between different types of collections; a strategy for automating data capture based on specimen imaging, for ex-

Continued from page 23:
Digitizing Biological Collections

ample, may work well for herbarium specimens but will be ineffective for fluid-preserved materials or fossils. Before effective tools can be developed to speed the process of capturing data, it is necessary to understand what processes are currently in use. While this may seem obvious, published synopses of this information do not yet exist.

Fortunately, our membership is well-placed to begin this effort. Through our existing activities in the area of best practices, we are already engaged in documenting collections operations. We would be happy to take on this role under the umbrella of the proposed digitization initiative.

Dr. Christopher A. Norris
 Senior Collection Manager
 Division of Vertebrate Paleontology
 Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
 170 Whitney Ave.
 PO Box 208118
 New Haven, CT 06520-8118

To read all the comments go to <http://digbiocol.wordpress.com/2010/02/07/watch-this-space/>. To read the final strategic plan, visit <http://digbiocol.wordpress.com/2010/06/06/final-report-a-strategic-plan-for-establishing-a-network-integrated-collections-alliance/>

Gerald R. Fitzgerald Travel Grant Announcement

Gerald R. Fitzgerald, collections care professional and past President (1992-1994) of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), was honored at the Society's annual meeting in June 2010 in Ottawa, Ontario, by the naming of the Fitzgerald Travel Grant.

The Society recognizes Jerry's many contributions to the field of collections care, from his long career at the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN) where he served as the first Director of Collections, to his pivotal role in the origins of SPNHC. Jerry had a knack for teaching and a deft touch in promoting the professionalism of his colleagues.

Kieran Shepherd of the CMN, in his letter of nomination stated, "This is to honour Jerry Fitzgerald, one of those key individuals that recognized a need for an organization to promote the preservation of natural history collections and acted upon it. Through his devotion to the cause, SPNHC was born. He was, and still is, a steadfast believer in the organization.

"We as members should recognize his contribution to the founding of the society. The naming of the newly created travel grant

to honour him is a fitting tribute to his service to the society and the natural history community in general."



Mr. Fitzgerald worked as a student for the Geological Survey of Canada and the National Museum of Natural Sciences. In 1970, he joined the palaeontology staff of the NMNS, later renamed the Canadian Museum of Nature, and became the first Director of the newly created Collections Division in 1991. During his career he produced 23 publications and presented numerous talks and professional training workshops. Dedicated to the highest standard of care for the national collection of natural history objects, he assisted his staff in elevating their own skills to equal the task. He established a Conservation unit under the leadership of Rob Waller, who was honoured at the 2010 meeting of SPNHC with the Carolyn Rose Award for significant contribution to the objectives of the Society. As well as encouraging others, Jerry worked to improve his own skills and was accredited by the Canadian Association of Professional Conservators in 1989 and served as President from 1996 to 2000.

The seed that became SPNHC was planted when Jerry and his colleague Dan Faber organized the first international workshop on care of natural history collections in Ottawa. Says Stephen L. Cumbaa of the CMN, "That was in 1981, and the workshop proved to be an inspired idea. The proceedings of that workshop came out in 1983 as *Syllogeus* No. 44, a publication of this museum. Jerry was beating the drums for conservation even then; his paper in the volume, 'The wet-epoxy-surface technique of casting with pour-in-place polyurethane foam' was one in a series of 'how to' papers. Jerry always had ideas of how to do it better."

Catharine Hawks of Falls Church, Virginia, points out: "Jerry was instrumental in the founding of SPNHC, in no small part by helping to smooth the way to an amicable joint Canadian-American enterprise at times when factions within the organization were notably fractious. He persistently instilled a sense of 'gentlemanly conduct' that helped to make SPNHC able to attract members from many nations. Without his quiet leadership, I don't think the organization would have survived to reach a 25th Anniversary, at least certainly not as a multi-national

entity. We owe him more than most of our members will ever know.



“Always hardworking on behalf of collections care for the natural sciences, Jerry helped raise awareness in Paleontology about sound conservation practice and the importance of using the same ethics in preparation that are expected from conservators in other fields.”

Janet Waddington of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Ontario, recalls, “Jerry has always been passionate about the welfare of collections and about SPNHC, having served in the presidential offices from 1992 to 1996. Two other awards (the Carolyn Rose Award, for significant contribution, and the Faber Award, for research on collections care) are named after founding members who remained active in the society. As Jerry was instrumental in starting a tradition of meetings on aspects of collections care, it is fitting to give his name to the Fitzgerald Travel Grant to help defray the costs for young professionals to attend the annual meetings of SPNHC.”

Continued from page 2:
.....Pink is the new Black

Unlike many survey programs, Bush Blitz was designed to include funding for follow-up collection accession and taxonomic research. In this way, we were able to achieve increased support for Australia’s taxonomists and natural history collections. The Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria and Council of Heads of Australian Faunal Collections have been involved in the initiative from the start. Bush Blitz data will be delivered through their collaborative online ventures and the collections have a role in advising on field work timing and personnel.

The first Bush Blitz report on the biodiversity in Australia’s reserve system, *Focusing on the Landscape*, was released

earlier this year. The next chapter of Bush Blitz will see school children across Australia learn about the program and vote for their favourite new species during National Science Week. Trips to local natural history collections and Bush Blitz survey participation will be on offer to inspire, in the next generation of researchers, a sense of the endless possibilities – endless possibilities that can be realised bit by blitz, using strategic approaches and a sound communications plan.

For more on Bush Blitz visit: www.bushblitz.org.au



Registrar Committee Western Region SPNHC Stipend 2011

The RC-WR is pleased to announce that we are offering a stipend to assist registrars and collection managers with the costs of attending the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections 26th Annual Meeting to take place at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, May 23-28, 2011. The amount of the stipend is \$600 USD.

The deadline for application is **March 31, 2011**

Qualification:

Applicant must be a current member of either SPNHC and/or the RC-WR

Applicant must submit the following:

1. Letter/statement of application describing how the attendance at the meeting will benefit their professional development
2. A copy of your current resume
3. Supervisor’s recommendation letter

Successful applicants will be notified by April 8, 2011. The successful applicant will be required to write about a session that they attended at the conference. Their 2 page article(s) will be published in the Fall 2011 RC-WR newsletter.

Email all materials to: Jacqueline Cabrera at jcabrera@getty.edu by April 8, 2011

**To become a member of the RC-WR please visit
www.rcwr.org**

SPNHC 2010 Report

Bethany Palumbo and Lydia Garetano (our two Fitzgerald Travel Grant Awardees) were asked to write this year's report on the conference from the newcomer's standpoint. Below you will find Lydia's experience of the conference from the professional standpoint, and Bethany's from the social.

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections was held this year in the beautiful city of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. It was held jointly with the Canadian Botanical Association (CBA) and was hosted by the Canadian Museum of Nature on the beautiful University of Ottawa campus.



Relaxing during sessions on the steps of the Tabaret Hall

This being my first SPNHC conference and the first professional conference of my career, I was not sure what to expect, and I was pleasantly surprised. There was so much information, and so many things going on at once, it was a little overwhelming at times, but all in all, it was an amazing experience. There were many difficult decisions to be made when choosing which group, presentation or workshop to attend because they all sounded so interesting! The official start to the conference was on Wednesday June 2nd, and the first difficult decision was which special interest group meeting to attend. I chose "Web 2.0: The potential to improve collections access and data quality". I found it was a great experience with people sharing ideas and opinions in an open discussion. We learned about using the internet to collaborate with other institutions and also to promote institutions and/or their collections. Another difficult decision was which presentations to attend. There was a lot of information to absorb about innovative collection management techniques, procedures and processes as well as an abundance of information on digitization - and I wanted to learn it all! The poster session was interesting and educational, with a variety of people sharing their amazing experiences and accomplishments. I learned a lot about different types of collections and new techniques that I could apply to my own collection (vertebrate zoology). Being new to the collections management community, I found it comforting to hear experiences from other collections and institutions that were similar to my own, with everyone eager to lend a helping hand or share a new idea. In fact, I learned that is what SPNHC is all about.



Visiting the genetics lab during tours of the Canadian Museum of Nature, Natural Heritage Building

I had not initially planned on attending the Annual Business Meeting, thinking that it did not apply to such a new member as myself, but I was wisely advised to go and am glad that I did. I learned a lot about how SPNHC operates, and I also got to witness the official induction of Jean-Marc Gagnon as the new President of the Society as well as the presentation of the 2010 Carolyn B. Rose Award to R. Robert Waller for his great efforts to promote the values and objectives of the Society.



Vendor hall in the Tabaret Hall Chapel

The last day of the conference was for workshops. There were a variety to choose from, and like the special interest groups and presentations, it was very difficult to decide. The workshop "Designing Facilities for Fluid Preserved Collections" was held at the Canadian Museum of Nature's amazing collection facilities. It was educational and motivating. It was also good to see how different collections handled the need for better fluid storage areas and provided great references

and ideas to bring home. I must say that although there was a lot of discussion about alcohol, sadly none was actually served that day.

The conference was a very worthwhile experience and a great opportunity for emerging professionals. Everyone was welcoming and willing to share information and experience. It was an amazing opportunity to be around a group of people so passionate about their professions, while still being able to let loose and have some fun at the same time. - Lydia Garetano

The SPNHC Conference in Ottawa was the first museums and collections conference of my professional career and what a wonderful place to start. Asked by Andrew Bentley to create a write-up of this special week of events, I thought I would drop the science for a few moments and focus on the social side of the conference. Arriving to a welcoming smile, my very own red lanyard and a canvas bag of shiny conference merchandise, I knew this was to be a good adventure. Although the Monday was quiet, it gave me a good chance to meet the local committee from the Canadian Museum of Nature as well as the SPNHC committees and the main players.



© Bethany Palumbo

Walking the streets of Ottawa with Tom Strang (left) as guide

Tuesday was a day of meeting and mingling with the world of museum folk. The expedition to the Canadian Museum of Nature collections provided not only my first ever yellow bus journey (in England, we have no such luxuries) but a beautiful expedition from the city to the warm and green Canadian countryside. As a conservator, I was very impressed with the preventive conservation methods in place at the CMN collections, but without further distraction, back to the focus of the article. Tuesday night served up the Ice Breaker soiree providing all SPNHC newbies such as myself, a chance to converse with all participants, learn about their various areas of work and all the different types of people involved within such a dynamic society. Conversation quickly led to an improvised city tour lead by Tom Strang which lead us to a tasty curry house. Ottawa does certainly have some good eating as Lydia and I learnt throughout the week. Wednesday served up yet more snacks at the SPNHC mixer held at the Canadian Museum of Nature. This recently redeveloped museum houses some awe-

some galleries and quite possibly the biggest Ammonite I have ever seen! The organizing committee made so much effort to encourage communication between participants. I had only one glass of wine (my Thursday morning presentation was drawing ever closer) but I needed no additional courage to speak to strangers. There were none.

This article on the social side of the conference I suppose should end with the Thursday night Banquet. Starting in a semi-serious tone with speeches and awards followed the first signs of silliness.



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The interpid choir singing the SPNHC anthem

Beginning with the glorious SPNHC anthem (Sorry Simon, it seems I stole your solo this year) and with generous quantities of wine, I believe this night got very silly indeed. I loved every minute of it. Resting my dancing feet for a few moments allowed me to see exactly what SPNHC is. Old friends and new friends, all connected with one passion. There were so many laughs, I could not believe that only a few days before I was flying solo, now I was in the gang. - Bethany Palumbo.



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Numerous conference attendees "cutting a rug"!

See the last page of this newsletter for more photos from the conference.

2011 Conservation Assessment Program Applications Available This Fall

2010 Marks the 20th Anniversary of CAP!

Heritage Preservation is currently celebrating the Conservation Assessment Program's (CAP) 20th year of helping museums obtain general collections assessments. To mark the occasion, we have created a special feature on our website (www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP) called "Twenty Years of Conservation Improvements through CAP." It showcases one museum from each year in the program's twenty-year history, and demonstrates how each museum used their CAP recommendations to improve collections care. From the Quincy Art Center in Illinois, to Iolani Palace in Hawaii, to the Beartooth Nature Center in Red Lodge, Montana, we have brought together stories of preservation improvements that involve everything from careful restoration of historic buildings, to extensive fund-raising for collections storage furniture, to innovative methods of volunteer recruitment for collections projects, to the construction of new habitats for living animal collections. Gain inspiration and valuable ideas for collections care improvements from the examples of these dedicated museum professionals.

CAP funds a professional collections assessment for small to mid-sized museums of all types, at a minimal cost. In addition, CAP funds historic buildings assessments for institutions with buildings that are 50 years or older. The assessment process helps museum professionals better understand and improve their institutions' policies and procedures, learn conservation and historic preservation best practices, and forge relationships with conservators and historic structures assessors. The resulting CAP report can help your institution to develop strategies for improved collections care, long-range planning, staff and board education, and fund-raising. In 2010, 107 museums in 40 states were selected to participate in CAP, including the Douglas County Museum of History and Natural History in Roseburg, Oregon. To view the entire list of current CAP participants, visit www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP/10recipients.html.

The 2011 CAP applications will be mailed on Friday, September 3, 2010, to museums on the CAP mailing list and will also be available on Heritage Preservation's web site at www.heritagepreservation.org. The postmark deadline for applications is midnight on December 1, 2010. Participants are identified on a rolling basis, and site visits for participants can begin as early as January 1, 2011. Final reports must be submitted to Heritage Preservation by November 1, 2011. CAP is administered by Heritage Preservation and supported through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. To be added to the CAP application mailing list, or for more information, please contact CAP staff at cap@heritagepreservation.org or (202) 233-0800.

Publications of Interest

This section is from the Citations Sub-committee of the Conservation Committee and is chaired by Margaret Landis. Citations were submitted by, Diana Dicus (DD), Margaret Landis (ML), Elizabeth Leith (EL), Barbara Moore (BM), Rebecca Peters (RP), Ann Pinzl (AP), Cindy Ramotnik (CR), Marcia Revelez (MR), and Janet Waddington (JW). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Margaret Landis: Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK 73072, USA; (405) 325-8266 (voice); (405) 325-7699 (fax); paleocatstar@ou.edu (e-mail).

Akmon, D. 2010. Only with your permission: how rights holders respond (or don't respond) to requests to display archival materials online. *Archival Science* 10(1):45-64. (ML)

- Digitization is often being used as a means of meeting user expectations that materials be available online, remotely. Copyright is frequently noted as a significant obstacle to these efforts, but little empirical data exist on the copyright permissions process in archives. This paper describes one example of the copyright permissions process.

Alberti, S. and A. Winn. 2010. A tiger in a library. *NatSCA News* 19:85-88. (DD)

Allegra, F. M. 2010. Specimen defamation. *Mineralogical Record* 41(3):303-305. (JW)

- Discusses the legal implications of negative comments about specimens.

Allen, M. M. 2008. Creating the virtual map drawer: Bridging the gap between spatial data infrastructures and map libraries. *OCLC Systems & Services* 24(3):153-159. (ML)

- Collaboration between a map librarian and a geography faculty member which resulted in the creation of set of standard procedures developed for the collection of metadata from paper maps.

Anonymous. 2009. H.R. 146: *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009: Title VI, Subtitle D: Paleontological Resources Preservation*. (ML)

- Paleontological Resources Preservation Law (OPLMA-PRP) passed by U. S. Congress and signed by President Obama on March 30, 2009 that requires the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to manage and protect paleontological resources on federal land using scientific principles and expertise.

Anonymous. 2010a. Care for a virtual wishbone? *Science* 327(5967):765. (RP)

- Brief mention of Harvard's 3-D scans of bird skeletons using Aves 3D, along with URL of the website.

Anonymous. 2010b. Conservation assessment program (CAP) updates. *AIC News* 35(4):7. (DD)

Anonymous. 2010c. Tools and resources encourage emergency planning and partnerships. *AIC News* 35(4):7. (DD)

Atkins, L. J., L. Velez, D. Goudy and K. N. Dunbar. 2009. The unintended effects of interactive objects and labels in the science museum. *Science Education* 93(1):161-184. (ML)

- Results of study on how exhibit labels and activities are presented serve to frame both the activities that visitors engage in and the types of conversations that ensue and that this has deep influences on visitors' experiences at the exhibit and in understanding the science.

- Balter, M. 2010. In archaeobotanist's hands, tiny fossils yield big answers. *Science* 329(5987):28-29. (RP)
- Article is a profile of Dolores Piperno, who has amassed a 400-plant-species starch-grain collection as a resource for her anthropological studies.
- Beard, R. 2010. A new prospecting tool: The BLM GeoCommunicator. *Rock and Gem* 40(1):34-41. (ML)
- Article discussing how the BLM GeoCommunicator is useful in identifying mining claims from your computer.
- Beaudoin, A. B. 2009. Small wonder: Using SEM images to exhibit the "small stuff". *Curator* 53(3):261-272. (MR)
- Beentje, H. J. 2010. *The Kew Plant Glossary: an illustrated dictionary of plant identification terms*. Kew Publishing, Surrey, England. 170 pp. (ML)
- Up-to-date illustrated plant glossary including all descriptive terms used in floras, plant field guides, and monographs with accompanying illustrations.
- Boardman, J. 2009. Archaeologists, collectors, and museums. In *Whose Culture?: The promise of museums and the debate over antiquities* (Cuno, J. B. ed.). Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. Pp. 107-124. (ML)
- Book chapter discusses the difference between researchers, collectors, and museums.
- Bodard, G. and S. Mahony, eds. 2010. *Digital research in the study of classical antiquity*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., Surrey, England. 230 pp. (ML)
- Book explores the challenges and opportunities presented to traditional scholarship by digital practice and resources of scholars who use innovative methods and technologies. It shows that traditionally rigorous scholarship is as central to digital research as it is to mainstream studies. It is geared more toward art and ethnology, but applicable to natural history collections.
- Boucier, P., R. Rogers and The Nomenclature Committee. 2010. *Nomenclature 3.0 for museum cataloging: third edition of Robert G. Chenhall's System for classifying man-made objects*. 3rd ed. AltaMira Press, New York, New York. 716 pp. (LL, MR)
- The most current standard terminology to date used to describe man-made objects. [Revised citation]
- Bradford, G. R. 2007. *Self-reliance during natural disasters and civil unrest: How to handle fires, search and rescue, and other emergency response situations on your own*. Paladin Press, Boulder, Colorado. 184 pp. (ML)
- A guide from a retired firefighter for when government agencies quickly become overburdened with requests to handle simple emergencies to simple emergency response tasks for handling a disaster (including fighting small fires, controlling utilities, dealing with wildland fires, providing first aid, and an illustrated lesson on knots).
- Brinkman, P. 2009. Modernizing American fossil preparation at the turn of the 20th century. In *Methods in fossil preparation: Proceedings of the first annual Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium* (Brown, M. A., J. F. Kane and W. G. Parker eds.). Pp. 21-34. (ML)
- This is a result of paper presented at the "First Annual Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium" that was held at Petrified Forest National Park, April 10-12, 2008. It was published as chapter in a paperback but is available online at <http://fossilprep.org/FPCS1.html>.
- Brinkman, P. D. 2010. *The second Jurassic dinosaur rush: Museums and paleontology in America at the turn of the twentieth century*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 345 pp. (MR)
- Brody, C. K. 2009. Studying the skeletons in the closet: Unprovenanced archaeological collections in museums. *Collections* 5(3):199-208. (AP)
- Buck, R. and J. A. Gilmore eds. 2010. *Museum registration methods* 5th ed. American Association of Museums. 516 pp. (LL)
- A comprehensive, updated, description of registration techniques, including: accessioning, measuring, marking, moving, displaying, and storing objects of any kind. It is geared more toward art and ethnology, but applicable to natural history collections.
- Bülöw, A. E. 2010. Collection management using preservation risk assessment. *Journal of the Institute of Conservation* 33(1):65-78. (ML)
- Carnall, M. 2010. Google me a penguin: Natural history collections on the web. *NatSCA News* 19:60-64. (AP)
- Carò, F., J. G. Douglas and S. Im. 2010. Towards a quantitative petrographic database of Khmer stone materials—Koh KER style sculpture. *Archaeometry* 52(2):191-208. (ML)
- A description of research on determining the natural source materials objects are made from. Helps illustrate the relevance of collections and cooperation between disciplines.
- Carson, D. and G. Chiari. 2010. New technologies in the service of cultural heritage. *The GCI Newsletter* 25(1):16-17. (DD)
- Cavigelli, J. P. 2009. Micropreparation...one sand grain at a time. In *Methods in fossil preparation: Proceedings of the first annual Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium* (Brown, M. A., J. F. Kane and W. G. Parker, eds.). Pp. 41-52. (ML)
- This compilation of presentations/paper discusses techniques and tools used for micropreparation including descriptions of technique modifications to scale larger-scale fossil and techniques to allow preparation of microfossils with the aid of a microscope. This is a result of paper presented at the "First Annual Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium" that was held at Petrified Forest National Park, April 10-12, 2008. It was published as chapter in a paperback but is available online at <http://fossilprep.org/FPCS1.html>.
- Ciancio, L. 2010. Book Review: Fossils and reputations: A scientific correspondence: Pisa, Paris, London, 1853-1857 by Pietro Corsi. *Isis* 101(1):230-231. (RP)
- Reviewed book discusses geological manuscripts, including correspondence between Iginio Cocchi and Giuseppe Meneghini.
- Cisneros, E. 2010. Automated multi-focus imaging. *Axis* 6(2): 1-13. (ML)
-<http://www.minrec.org/pdfs/MULTI-FOCUS%20ARTICLE.pdf> (28 June 2010). A description of a computer-controlled automated multi-focus imaging system to increase depth of field in photomicrographs and alleviate the tedious, time-consuming manual photographic process that once was required to achieve optimum results.
- Couzin-Frankel, J. 2010. Scientific collections: The legacy plan. *Science* 329(5988):135-137. (RP)
- Discusses human/health samples, but much is pertinent to our collections. Sub-heading states, "After a long career, you're ready to close the lab and give away a lifetime's worth of specimens. Who will take them?"
- Davidson, A. R. and S. Alderson. 2009. An introduction to solution and reaction adhesives for fossil preparation. In *Methods in fossil preparation: Proceedings of the first annual Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium* (Brown, M. A., J. F. Kane and W. G. Parker eds.). Pp. 53-62. (ML)
- This is a result of paper presented at the "First Annual Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium" that was held at Petrified Forest National Park, April 10-12, 2008. It was published as

Continued from page 29:
.....Pubs of Interest

- chapter in a paperback but is available online at <http://fossilprep.org/FPCS1.html>.
- Day, J. G., T. Pröschold, T. Friedl, M. Lorenz and P. C. Silva. 2010. Conservation of microalgal type material: Approaches needed for 21st century science. *Taxon* 59(1):3-6. (AP)
- Procedures and considerations to create and maintain type cultures when the more traditional methods cannot be used; proposal for Master and Distribution Banks to provide needed cultures.
- Diamond, J., J. J. Luke and D. H. Uttal. 2009. *Practical evaluation guide: Tools for museums and other informal educational settings*. 2nd ed. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek, California. 160 pp. (MR)
- Downs, R. R. and R. S. Chen. 2010. Self-Assessment of a long-term archive for interdisciplinary scientific data as a trustworthy digital repository. *Journal of Digital Information* 11(1). (ML)
- Discussion of long-term preservation and stewardship of electronic scientific data and research-related information to ensure that today's collections of scientific data will be available in the future.
- Elson, R. 2010. One step back, two steps forward - doing the SSN shimmy. *NatSCA News* 19:77-81. (AP)
- Emery, D., M. B. Toth and W. Noel. 2009. The convergence of information technology and data management for digital imaging in museums. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 24(4):337-356. (ML)
- Eremin, K. and M. Walton. 2010. Collaborations in archaeological science. *The GCI Newsletter* 25(1):10-12. (DD)
- Erwina, T. and J. Sweetkind-Singera. 2010. The National Geospatial Digital Archive: A collaborative project to archive geospatial data. *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries* 6(1):6-25. (ML)
- Description of a project whose goal is to collect, preserve, and provide long-term access to at-risk geospatial data.
- Farrell, M. 2010. The odontological collection at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. *NatSCA News* 19:77-81. (AP)
- Filippoupoliti, A., ed. 2010a. *Science exhibitions: communication & evaluation*. MuseumsEtc Ltd., Edinburgh, Scotland. 560 pp. (ML)
- This book examines how best to disseminate science to the public through a variety of new and traditional media by an authoritative, stimulating overview of new, innovative and successful initiatives. Whose companion is the title "Science Exhibitions: Curation and Design."
- Filippoupoliti, A., ed. 2010b. *Science exhibitions: curation and design*. MuseumsEtc Ltd., Edinburgh, Scotland. 512 pp. (ML)
- This book examines how best to disseminate science to the public through a variety of new and traditional media by an authoritative, stimulating overview of new, innovative and successful initiatives. Whose companion is the title "Science Exhibitions: Communication and Evaluation."
- Fisher, J. 2010. Guest Editorial: The mineral preparation dilemma—natural versus aesthetic. *Rocks and Minerals* 85(2):110-111. (ML)
- This article discusses the ethics and techniques of preparing mineral specimens to make them "pretty"/sale-worthy/exhibit-worthy specimens.
- France, F. 2010. Research/technology transfer: Exchanges with cultural heritage preservation. *AIC News* 35(4):1, 8-10. (DD)
- Freedman, J., H. Fothergill and P. Smithers. 2010. Wild about Plymouth; the family friendly natural history group in Plymouth. *NatSCA News* 19:30-37. (AP)
- Gilberg, M., C. Eng and F. Preusser. 2010. Illuminating art using a daylight system at the broad contemporary art museum. *Western Association for Art Conservation* 32(2):10-15. (DD)
- Graham, M. and D. Jomphe. 2010. A museum and a university co-staff a research scientist. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 25(1):107-116. (ML)
- This paper reviews existing models for maintaining scientific expertise at museums, and details a new co-staffing model to acquire and maintain scientific expertise through museums and local universities as a means for natural history museums to have access to systematics experts who are essential in acquiring specimens for the collection, creating new knowledge about them through research, and in providing information that is valuable to the full range of other museum programs.
- Grobman, A. B. 2009. Learning lizards. *Natural History* 118(1):16-17. (AP)
- Short account of science education with lizards, and an amusing, but with possible serious results, tale of going through customs with live lizards.
- Gropp, R. and M. A. Mares. 2009. 2008 Natural Science Collections Alliance economic impacts survey. *CLS Journal of Museum Studies* 3(1): 1-17. (MR)
- <http://www.ou.edu/cls/jms/pdfs/vol3%20jms%287%29.pdf> (27 July 2010). The results of the NSCA survey of natural science collections in October 2008 that was designed to capture the impact of the economic recession on natural science collections in the United States. The results highlight the need for collections to prepare for institutional budget cuts, build partnerships in their community, and work with other collections to share best practices.
- Haston, E., H. E. Richardson, P. F. Stevens, M. W. Chase and D. J. Harris. 2009. The Linear Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (LAPG) III: A linear sequence of the families in APG III. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 161:128-131. (AP)
- Hatton, J. and E. Dutton. 2010. Shout it from the green roof top: Raising the profile of natural sciences at the Horniman Museum and Gardens. *NatSCA News* 19:22-29. (AP)
- Holmes, C. 2010. Volunteering flagship at Leicestershire County museums. *NatSCA News* 19:38-46. (AP)
- Handling volunteers, including collections work.
- Holo, S. and M. T. Alvarez. 2009. *Beyond the turnstile: making the case for museums and sustainable values*. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek, California. 216 pp. (MR)
- Hutt, S., ed. 2010. *Yearbook of cultural property law 2010*. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, California. 284 pp. (LL)
- These yearbooks provide the key, up-to-date information and analyses of current legal practice, including summaries of notable court cases, settlements and other dispositions, legislation, government regulations, policies and agency decisions. Helpful when questions of ownership for new donations/acquisitions arise.
- ICOM Conservation Committee. 2008. Terminology to characterize the conservation of tangible cultural property. Resolution adopted by the ICOM-CC membership at the 15th Triennial Conference, New Delhi, 22-26 September 2008. (AP)
- <http://www.icom-cc.org/54/document/icom-cc-resolution-terminology-english/?id=744> (14 July 2010). Also available as: Terminología para definir la conservación del patrimonio cultural tangible. Résolution adoptée par les membres de l'ICOM-CC l'occasion de la XV^e Conférence triennale, New Delhi, 22-26 septembre 2008. <http://www.icom-cc.org/54/document/icom-cc-rsolution-terminologie-franais/?id=743> (14 July 2010) & Terminologie de la conservation-restauration du patrimoine culturel matériel Résolution adoptée par les membres de l'ICOM-CC l'occasion de la XV^e Conférence triennale, New Delhi, 22-

- 26 septembre 2008. <http://www.icom-cc.org/54/document/icom-cc-resolucion-terminologia-espanol/?id=748>.
- Irwin, T. 2010. Well, it worked for me...a personal view of the new Natural History gallery at Norwich Castle Museum. *NatSCA News* 19:65-71. (AP)
- Jackson, S. J., M. A. Whyte and M. Romano. 2009. Laboratory-controlled simulations of dinosaur footprints in sand: A key to understanding vertebrate track formation and preservation full access. *Palaios* 24(4):222-238. (ML)
- Jacobsen, J. W. 2010. A research vision for museums. *Curator* 53(3):281-289. (MR)
- Janes, R. R. 2010. The mindful museum. *Curator* 53(3):325-338. (MR)
- Jenkins, T. 2010. *Contesting human remains in museum collections: The crisis of cultural authority*. Routledge, Oxford, England. 160 pp. (MR)
- Out Sept. 13, 2010.
- Johnson, A., K. A. Huber, N. Cutler, M. Bingmann and T. Grove. 2009. *The museum educator's manual*. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek, California. (MR)
- Joly, C. A., R. R. Rodrigues, J. P. Metzger, C. F. B. Haddad, L. M. Verdade, M. C. Oliveira and V. S. Bolzani. 2010. Biodiversity conservation research, training, and policy in São Paulo. *Science* 328(5984):1358-1359. (RP)
- Jones, B. 2009a. What's in a mineral name? *Rock and Gem* 39(4):12-19. (ML)
- Article describes some of the mythology behind the how minerals got their names.
- Jones, B. 2009b. Yale's mineral legacy. *Rock and Gem* 39(12):12-19. (ML)
- How Yale's noted mineralogists helped shape the science and hobby of minerals is discussed.
- Kane, J. F., M. A. Brown and W. G. Parker, eds. 2009. *Methods in fossil preparation: Proceedings of the first annual Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium*. 154 pp. (ML)
- This is a result of papers presented at the "First Annual Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium" that was held at Petrified Forest National Park, April 10-12, 2008. It was published as a paperback but is available online at <http://fossilprep.org/FPCS1.html>.
- Kisiel, J. and J. Ancelet. 2009. Uncovering visitor conceptions of fossils and the fossil record. *Visitor Studies* 12(2):133-151. (ML)
- A visitor's prior knowledge of and experience with fossils is expected to greatly influence how visitors make sense of their iconic displays. The results of a study to find out what visitors knew about fossils and the fossil record and their understanding of exhibits are discussed.
- Kreps, C. F. 2008. Appropriate museology in theory and practice. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 23(1):23-41. (ML)
- Appropriate museology is an approach to museum development and training that adapts museum practices and strategies for cultural heritage preservation to local cultural contexts and socioeconomic conditions. The aim is to stimulate critical thinking on the transfer and cross-cultural application of standard, professional museum models and methods.
- Leona, M. 2010. Research at the interface of science and art. *The GCI Newsletter* 25(1):8-9. (DD)
- López, X., I. Margapoti, R. Maragliano and G. Bove. 2010. The presence of Web 2.0 tools on museum websites: A comparative study between England, France, Spain, Italy, and the USA. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 25(2):235-249. (JW)
- Maekawa, S. and F. Toledo. 2010. A collection climate control system for an ethnographic storage of a museum in north of Brazil. *ASHRAE Transactions* 116(1):196-197. (MR)
- Mandrioli, M. 2008. Insect collections and DNA analyses: How to manage collections? *Museum Management and Curatorship* 23(2):193-199. (ML)
- Markarian, M. 2010. *Who cleans dinosaur bones?: Working at a museum*. Heinemann-Raintree, Chicago, Illinois. 32 pp. (MR)
- This book presents the variety of fascinating jobs found at a museum, from curators to paleontologists. Publication date: September 2010.
- Mast, V. A. 1996. *Procedures for management of radioactive mineral specimens*. (ML)
- <http://www.agiweb.org/smmp/rept-rad-csm.htm>. Description of how the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum manages their radioactive specimens. Article on The Society of Mineral Museum Professionals website.
- May, R. M. 2010. Tropical arthropod species, more or less? *Science* 329(5987):41-42. (RP)
- Article refers to our "lack of broad, synoptic databases and problems with synonyms" among other challenges to estimating the number of eukaryote species.
- Merritt, J. 2010. *Preventive conservation for historic house museums*. AltaMira Press, New York, New York. 216 pp. (MR)
- Mitchell, J. S. and A. B. Heckert. 2010. The setup, use and efficacy of sodium polytungstate separation methodology with respect to microvertebrate remains. *Journal of Paleontological Techniques* 7: 1-12. (ML, JW)
- http://www.jpaleontologicaltechniques.org/pasta3/JPT%20N7/Pdf/JPT_n007_Jun.pdf (20 July 2010). Description of revised technique to separate microvertebrate fossils from sediments using of sodium polytungstate filtration to increases fossil concentration which has, in processing one particularly rich site, saved many person-hours that otherwise would have been spent picking through less concentrated sediment. The article also provides a detailed guide of their practices and recommendations to other workers interested in creating a lab set up for this, including the strong advisory to work over thin plastic sheets, as sodium polytungstate can react with metal and adheres strongly to glass when it crystallizes.
- Moen, W. E., J. Huang, M. McCotter, A. Neill and J. Best. 2010. Extraction and parsing of herbarium specimen data: Exploring the use of the Dublin core application profile framework. *Proceedings of the 2010 iSchools iConference*: 154-160. (AP)
- <http://www.ideals.illinois.edu/handle/2142/14920> (14 July 2010).
- Moore, S. 2010. Preservation of botanical specimens in fluid. *NatSCA News* 19:85-88. (AP)
- Morong, D. M. 2005. The development of precision in locality notations: Some classical and some modern methods. *Axis* 1(4): 1-9(06/28/2009). (ML)
- A cautionary tale to field collectors for recording the sites of their discoveries including making sure notations of modern technologies such as GPS is fully understood.
- Morris, M. 2010. Are expansion plans recession proof? *Museum* January-February 2010:40-47. (JW)
- Morris, P. and K. Stauber, eds. 2009. *Illuminating instruments*. Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, Washington, DC. 172 pp. (MR)

Continued from page 31:

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- National Park Service United States Department of the Interior. 2010. Explore geology: permits. (ML)
- <http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/permits/index.cfm> (19 July 2010). National Park Service Geology Website for information on NPS geologic resource management programs, geoheritage conservation, and geologic features and processes in parks.
- Newton, N. 2010. Live animals in museums and public engagement. *NatSCA News* 19:82-84. (AP)
- Norris, C. 2010. It's not the size of the collection.... *Museum* January-February 2010:25-27. (JW)
- Discusses public accessibility of collections information on the Web.
- Olsen, B. 2010. *In defense of things: Archaeology and the ontology of objects*. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek, California. 208 pp. (MR)
- Pearlstein, E. 2010. Restoring provenance to a Native American feather blanket. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 25(1):87-105. (ML)
- This case study is an example of how conservation methods can be used in support of museum goals, benefiting traditional owners and indigenous communities.
- Perry, K. D., ed. 1990. *The museum forms book*. 3rd ed. Texas Association of Museums, Austin, Texas. 461 pp. (LL)
- Why re-invent the wheel? The book is a compendium of all types of forms collected from various museums and includes sections on collections management, development, education, exhibitions, maintenance and security, and rights and reproductions. In most cases there are multiple versions of forms from a variety of institution types and sizes, so it is usually possible to find a form that you can modify for your needs.
- Pfarr, C. and P. Hosie, eds. 2009. *Crisis management in the tourism industry: Beating the odds?* Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., Surrey, England. 268 pp. (ML)
- Compendium of papers looking at tourism's vulnerability to natural hazards in regards to preparation and recovery, including post-disaster marketing plans, terrorism, sustainability, and other disaster planning and management areas familiar to hazards professionals, but in a tourism context.
- Reed, S. 2010. Pushing DAISY. *Science* 329(5986):1628-1629. (RP)
- Article discusses the development of computer program to ID insects.
- Rossi, M. 2010. Fabricating authenticity: Modeling a whale at the American Museum of Natural History, 1906–1974. *Isis* 101(2):338-361. (RP)
- Schiffbauer, J. D. and S. Xiao. 2009. Novel application of focused ion beam electron microscopy (FIB-EM) in preparation and analysis of microfossil ultrastructures: A new view of complexity in early eukaryotic organisms *Palaios* 24(9):616-626. (ML)
- Schopf, J. W., A. B. Kudryavtsev and V. N. Sergeev. 2010. Confocal laser scanning microscopy and raman imagery of the Late Neoproterozoic Chichkan microbiota of South Kazakhstan. *Journal of Paleontology* 84(3):402-416. (JW)
- Sciaccia, C. and C. Patterson. 2010. Collaborative research of early renaissance workshop practice. *The GCI Newsletter* 25(1):13-15. (DD)
- Scovil, J. A. 1996. *Photographing minerals, fossils, and lapidary materials*. Geoscience Press, Tucson, Arizona. 224 pp. (ML)
- This book is a useful introduction to the subject (as well as giving hints for the more professional). Techniques of photographing mineral, lapidary, and fossil specimens and an explanation of the basic concepts and equipment of photography, detailed techniques for photographing transparent and opaque materials, and advice on lighting techniques, filters, photomicrography, stereophotography, fluorescence, location photography, and slide presentations is presented.
- Smith, A. 2010. Increasing access to collections through partnerships. *NatSCA News* 19:49-53. (AP)
- Smith, D. L. and J. L. Hayward. 2010. Bacterial decomposition of avian eggshell: A taphonomic experiment. *Palaios* 25(5):318-326. (ML)
- Stubbs-Lee, D. A. 2009. A conservator's investigation of museums, visible storage, and the interpretation of conservation. *Collections* 5(4):265-323. (AP, MR)
- Suter, S. J. 2010. Science tourism: Some stops for summer trips. *Science* 329(5987):34-37. (RP)
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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; chandler@putnam.org or dinoceras@juno.com.

2010

September 2010

September 2-3, 2010. **Copyright: The Archivist and the Law**, course offered by the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA; (815) 244-1173; Fax (815) 244-1619; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 8-11, 2010. **Care of Textile Collections I**, course offered by the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA; (815) 244-1173; Fax (815) 244-1619; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 11-16, 2010. **Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Annual Conference**, hosted by the Houston Zoo, Houston, Texas, USA. Conference details at <http://www.aza.org/annualconference>.

September 13-15, 2010. **Care of Textile Collections II**, course offered by the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA; (815) 244-1173; Fax (815) 244-1619; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 13-17, 2010. **Mountain-Plains Museums Association (MPMA) 2010 Annual Conference**, Mt. Rushmore / Rapid City, South Dakota, USA. More information is available at <http://www.mpma.net/accurent.php>.

September 13-December 19, 2010. **Museum Principles and Practices I**, distance education course from the University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program. Learn more about this and other courses at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/cultural>.

September 13-December 19, 2010. **Managing Archival Collections**, distance education course from the University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program. Learn more about this course at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/cultural>.

September 15-18, 2010. **Exhibit Design for Small Museums with Limited Budgets**, course offered by the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA; (815) 244-1173; Fax (815) 244-1619; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 16-18, 2010. **Care of Textile Collections III**, course offered by the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA; (815) 244-1173; Fax (815) 244-1619; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 20-22, 2010. **Exhibit Lighting**, course offered by the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA; (815) 244-1173; Fax (815) 244-1619; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 20-23, 2010. **Care of Paper Artifacts**, course offered by the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA; (815) 244-1173; Fax (815) 244-1619; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 20-24, 2010. **Microscopy for Pigment and Fiber Identification in Art and Artifacts**, course offered by the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mount Carroll, Illinois, USA; (815) 244-1173; Fax (815) 244-1619; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 22, 2010. **Step-by-Step Collections Acquisition**, 2010 Museum Essentials Webinar Series. Go to <http://www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/learn/museumessentials2010.cfm> for more details. Other webinars are available on demand.

September 26-October 1, 2010. **Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) 2010 Annual Conference**, Marine Biological Laboratory Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.tdwg.org/conference2010>.

September 30-October 1. **Strategy in Action! Current Issues in Museum Management Seminar 2010**, in collaboration with the AAM Museum Management Committee (MMC) and the Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. More information at <http://www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/learn/cimm10.cfm>.

October 2010

October 1, 2010. **Conservation Project Support Grants** deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

October 2-5, 2010. **Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) 2010 Annual Conference**, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. Conference information at <http://www.astc.org/conference/future.htm>.

October 5-8, 2010. **Ontario Museum Association Conference, Convergence: Attracting Visitors, Transforming Lives**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. More information at <http://www.museumsontario.com/pd/index.shtml>.

October 6-9, 2010. **Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) Annual Conference**, Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Preliminary pdf available at http://www.midwestmuseums.org/pdfs/2010_prelim_program.pdf.

October 6-9, 2010. **Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) 2010 Conference**, Montréal, Québec, Canada. Go to <http://www.caza.ca> for more information.

October 10-13, 2010. **Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 70th Annual Meeting**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. See <http://www.vertpaleo.org/meetings/index.cfm> for more information.

October 12-13, 2010. **A Space Odyssey: Storage Strategies for Cultural Collections**, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. Presented by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in partnership with the Midwest Art Conservation Center and cosponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. Call (215) 545-0613 or email psoc@ccaha__org.

October 12-14, 2010. **Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) 2010 Annual Meeting, Re-Invent, Re-Invigorate, Re-Vitalize: Creating Success in the New Economic Landscape**, Hilton Capitol Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA. Meeting details available at <http://www.semcdirect.net>.

October 13-15, 2010. **Grand Opening of the Trail of Time at Grand Canyon: New Approaches to Geoscience Education in the National Park System (Symposium)**, Grand Canyon National Park, USA. Goto <http://tot.unm.edu> for more information.

Continued on page 34

Continued from page 33:
.....Calendar of Events

October 14-16, 2010. **The Association Museums New Brunswick's (AMNB) Annual Conference and AGM**, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. Go to the conference website for more details: <http://www.amnb.ca/agm.php>.

October 17-20, 2010. **Western Museums Association (WMA) Annual Meeting, 75 Years: Reflecting on the Past, Envisioning the Future**, Portland, Oregon, USA. Meeting website at <http://westmuse.wordpress.com/portland-2010>.

October 24-27, 2010. **Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (MAAM) Annual Meeting, Revolutionizing Museums**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Go to <http://www.midatlanticmuseums.org/annualmeeting.html> for more information.

October 27-30, 2010. **38th Annual Museum Computer Network (MCN) Annual Conference, I/O: The Museum Inside-Out/Outside-In**, Austin, Texas, USA. For more information: <http://www.mcn.edu/conferences-mcn-2010-austin>.

October 27-30, 2010. **British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA) Conference 2010: I, Museum: Community, Technology, Opportunity**, Nanaimo Museum & Vancouver Island Convention Centre, Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. Conference website at <http://www.museumsassn.bc.ca/content/home.asp>.

October 31-November 3, 2010. **Reaching New Peaks in Geoscience, 2010 Annual Meeting Geological Society of America (GSA)**, Denver, Colorado, USA. For more information, visit <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings>.

November 2010

November 1, 2010. **Museums for America Grants** deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

November 3-5, 2010. **2010 New England Museum Association (NEMA) Annual Conference, Museums Matter, Yes They Do — The Proof Is in the Pudding, too!**, Springfield, Massachusetts, USA. Check out the conference website for more information: <http://www.nemanet.org/conf10/index.htm>.

November 7-12, 2010. **International Council of Museums (ICOM) 22nd General Conference, Museums for Social Harmony**, Shanghai, China. Check out the conference website for details: <http://icom.museum/general-conference2010.html>.

November 30, 2010. **Museum Assessment Program Grants** deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

December 2010

December 1, 2010. **Conservation Assessment Program Grants** deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

December 8, 2010. Live 90-minute Webinar, **Project Management: Executing and Controlling the Project**. Go to <http://www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/learn/professionaleducationcalendar.cfm> for more details.

December 12-15, 2010. **Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting**, San Diego, California, USA. See <http://www.entsoc.org/am/index.htm> for more information.

December 15, 2010. **Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grants** deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

2011

January 2011

January 10-April 17, 2011. **Museum Principles and Practices II: Programming, Exhibitions and Management**, distance education course from the University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program. Learn more about this course at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/cultural>.

January 10-April 17, 2011. **Curatorship: Contemporary Perspectives**, distance education course from the University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies, Cultural Resource Management Program. Learn more about this course at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/cultural>.

February 2011

February 1, 2011. **National Leadership Grants** deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

March 2011

March 15, 2011. **21st Century Museum Professionals Grants** deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

April 2011

April 1, 2011. **Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program Grants** deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

May 2011

May 21, 2011. **Save America's Treasures Grants** deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

May 22-25, 2011. **AAM Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo™**, Houston, Texas, USA. For details, go to <http://www.aam-us.org/am11>.

Summer 2011

July 9-13, 2011. **Botany 2011**, Joint Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany (SEB), American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS), American Fern Society (AFS), American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT) and the Botanical Society of America (BSA), St. Louis, Missouri, USA. More information is available at the ASPT website: <http://www.aspt.net/meeting>.

July 12, 2011. **Advances in Biological Informatics (ABI) Grants** deadline. Go to <http://www.nsf.gov> for more information.

July 23-30, 2011. **XVIII International Botanical Congress (IBC2011)**, held under the auspices of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), through the International Association of Botanical and Mycological Societies (IABMS) of the IUBS, Melbourne, Australia. For more information check out the meeting website at <http://www.ibc2011.com>.

Fall 2011

October 15-18, 2011. **ASTC 2011**, Maryland Science Center, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Go to <http://www.astc.org/conference/future.htm> for more information.

October 17-21, 2011. **Symposium 2011 – Adhesives and Consolidants for Conservation: Research and Applications**, hosted by the Canadian Conservation Institute in partnership with Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Contributions Deadline: November 1, 2010.

2012

Summer 2012

July 7-11, 2012. **Botany 2012**, Columbus, Ohio, USA.

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The bus arriving outside the Canadian Museum of Nature (Victoria Memorial Building) for the mixer reception



© Bethany Palumbo

A table of "happy campers" at the banquet



© Anna Ginter

A "gang" of attendees on the stairs of the Victoria Memorial Building



© Linda Hollenberg

The ice-breaker reception in a tent on the lawn in front of Tabaret Hall



© Julie Arseneault

Attendees at the Guyon Alvar field trip along the Ottawa river



© Rose Sablon

In the wet collection preparatory lab, Canadian Museum of Nature