

SPNHC NEWSLETTER

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SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

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

September 2012
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Natural History Conservation in Jerusalem

Gail Gali Beiner¹ and Rivka Rabinovich^{1,2,3}

*National Natural History Collections¹, Institute of Earth Sciences², Institute of Archaeology³, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem 91904, Israel.
Corresponding author: Gali Beiner, email: galib@savion.huji.ac.il*

Israel currently holds hundreds of paleontological and archaeological sites, comprehensive national natural history collections, reflecting natural changes and the history of humankind over the last one million years, and one natural history conservation lab. Here, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, we put our efforts into improving the condition of recent zoological collections and also deal with incoming finds from past and current excavations. Like other conservation facilities today, we must find our own way under highly variable environmental conditions and budget restrictions, while we keep on searching for new methods and materials suitable to our purposes.

Our projects are diverse and recently include cleaning and stabilization of a modern elephant skeleton from a zoo, received after exhumation, dealing with salt efflorescence in a geological fossil collection ("Byne's disease"), treating a badly decayed elephant tooth just in from a prehistoric excavation site, and improving storage for rodent skulls. We have been asked to offer solutions for unexpected fossil finds, such as a skull, mandible and skeletal parts exposed after a hot spell following a rainy season in a city playground. Our projects include on-site consultation for excavations. We also devise re-housing schemes for particular collections, for example the bird mounts, nests and eggs collected by a pioneer of zoology in our region, Prof. Israel Aharoni, at the beginning of the 20th century. In the following paragraphs we will introduce our lab and highlight a few of our projects. First and foremost, we keep the collections in adequate condition for the research performed by numerous researchers visiting the collections every year and by our academic research program, specifically our own paleontological research (led by R. Rabinovich, Head of the Paleontology Lab). Conservation needs are fluid, requiring research just the same as any other scientific field. We feel that it is our obligation to make our conservation data available to other colleagues and to contribute to the understanding of weathering, decaying, dissolving and other taphonomical processes connected with the study of fossils: tooth, antler, horn and bone.

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..... and much more!

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The National Natural History Collections (NNHC) had initially been based on local scientific collections formed by private collectors in the 1920s. Considerable collections started to take shape in the 1940s, but the practice of private collections by university professors continued. Several collection programs, however, were supported by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the collections continued expanding. In 1981, a nationally-coordinated program for the safeguarding and development of natural history collections was founded, leading to the formation of the NNHC1 in 1983, with branches at Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Within this framework, the Hebrew University continues to provide the premises and aid for the basic maintenance of its collections. Until the NNHC stage, the collections were usually cared for by the collectors or by various technicians. Notable NNHC-related conservation workers included the preparator Mrs. Mary Rosenthal, who prepared many of our famous fish, amphibian and reptilian fossils, and the restorer Mr. Mario Chech of the French Research Center in Jerusalem (CRFJ), who worked with semi-fossilized bone from prehistoric excavation sites. Currently, the conservator on the premises is Gali Beiner (MA, ACR), also involved with aspects of digitization of the NNHC collections. Conservation of natural history, paleontology and archeozoology takes place in the Paleontology Lab of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Cooperation with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and with various zoo facilities led to the incorporation of new specimens into the recent zoological collections. One such specimen was the skeleton of a female elephant, *Elephas maximus*, from the Safari in Ramat Gan (near Tel Aviv). The animal had died in the Safari and was buried in sandy sediment earth there. After several years, the burial was opened but still had flesh remnants and was re-buried. In July 2010, the remains were unearthed again for transfer to the NNHC (Fig. 1). Even then, flesh and fatty remains still needed to be washed off. The bones were stored on open shelves in the NNHC Mammals Collection Room. In April 2012, strong odors, flaking bone, powdering due to infestation, cracks,

deformation and mould patches (Fig. 2a) led to a conservation project. All skeletal parts were photographed, mould patches sterilized with locally-applied ethanol, surfaces gently vacuumed with gauze cloth placed over the vacuum suction end, and cracked bones were first re-shaped following humidification (Fig. 2b) and finally consolidated (Fig. 2c). Cleaning, ventilation and vacuuming in themselves made a great improvement to the odor, too!



Figure 2(a): Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) before treatment



Figure 2(b): Part of the elephant skeleton being humidified before reshaping broken areas



Figure 2(c): Elephant rib after treatment



Figure 1: Unearthing the female elephant at the Safari (Ramat Gan, Israel)

Presidential Report

Chris Norris

Background

I've been visiting museums for most of my life and I did my PhD (in zoology) in a museum, but I didn't start out working for one. In fact, I was an administrator; I began my career working for a UK government agency, followed by a number of years in university administration. I always maintained my links with the museum world and about 15 years ago I got the opportunity to go back as collections specialist, which is what I've been ever since. Nonetheless, those early years were valuable. Sometimes, life in a museum collection can get a little rarified; it's important to remember that there's a bigger world out there.



Involvement with SPNHC

Since joining SPNHC back in 1998, I've been fortunate enough to work on a number of major initiatives, chairing committees on Long Range Planning, Conferences, Mentorship, Federal Collections, Publicity & Outreach, and the future of our journal, *Collection Forum*, and serving as a member of the Best Practices, Finance, and Membership committees. I can testify first-hand to the energy and enthusiasm of the Society members that participate in these activities and I would urge all members of the Society to get involved in its running by joining a committee.

If you asked the average member of the public to come up with a word or phrase describing museums, it's unlikely that you'd hear "innovative," "forward-thinking," or "cutting-edge" among the responses. So what would they make of this year's SPNHC conference, hosted by Yale University from June 11 to 16? The program included presentations on cloud-based cyberinfrastructure, social networking, high-resolution imaging, high-throughput 3D data capture, on-line tools for collaborative georeferencing, hyperspectral scanning, and DNA barcoding. It was about as far from the stereotypical image of "dusty specimens in drawers" as it's possible to get.

Unsurprisingly, the theme of the meeting was emerging technology and innovation in natural history collections management. It broke new ground for SPNHC in a number of different areas – the emphasis on collaboration with, and learning from, other disciplines; the increasing need for long-term perspective – as typified by a one-day workshop on forecasting the future of collections, led by Beth Merritt, and – above all – its sheer size. Nearly 450 people registered to attend, a record for a SPNHC conference and a tribute to the efforts of local co-chairs Tim White and Susan Butts and their colleagues on the local organizing committee at the Yale Peabody Museum.

You don't have to have attended the meeting to appreciate that these are exciting times to be working with natural science collections. National and international efforts in collections digitization have the potential to massively increase the accessibility and utility of collections, while the development of technologies like blogs, Facebook, and Twitter provides us with opportunities to reach out to new audiences and to collaborate in novel ways. The growing emphasis on institutional sustainability and responsible energy use is driving new work in the field of preventive conservation, and years of dedicated outreach and advocacy

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

The **SPNHC Newsletter** (ISSN 1071-2887) is published twice a year, March and September, by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, c/o Division of Herpetology, 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, 2013

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

by our community has raised the profile of collections and collections-based research with policy-making and funding bodies worldwide.

It's also a time of significant challenges. Global financial retrenchment in recent years has led to huge cuts in public services, including museums. We all have to do more with less and, at a time when people are losing their jobs and spending on healthcare and social services is being slashed, there's a risk that even the relatively limited funding spent on collections might be seen as non-essential. And, perversely, the emphasis on new collections technologies like digitization may divert scarce resources away from care and curation of physical collections. We've already seen this happen in the U.S., where the creation of a new National Science Foundation program in collections digitization has been accompanied by a halving of the funds for that agency's long-standing biological collections program.

So all-in-all, this is a good time for SPNHC to be developing a strategic plan. Just like the wider collections community, we face a struggle to match our ambitions with the limited resources available to the Society; to make the most of the opportunities presented to us while responding to the many threats that our profession faces. The Society's strategic plan, which is nearing completion, sets out how we'll do this, in terms of four major goals.

First, SPNHC needs to show leadership in defining and developing our profession - the care of natural history collections. Over the next five years, we will expand and grow our existing programs of professional development and create new opportunities for training and mentorship. We'll look to create new leaders, not only for our profession, but also for our Society; to make better use of the knowledge, energy, and expertise of our membership.

Next, we will work to communicate the activities of the Society to our membership, to the wider collections community, to users of collections, and to the public. We will make more effective use of technology, our publications, our meetings, and our training program as opportunities for outreach. We will strengthen our existing links with other professional societies and develop new collaborations that showcase SPNHC and its membership.

SPNHC achieves a great deal with a very limited budget, but we can do better. So the third goal of the plan is to make the most efficient use of the Society's financial resources. We will be exploring new ways to increase our membership, to generate funds from investments, publications, and donations. At the same time, we will be looking to reduce our expenditure by cutting production and distribution costs for our publications, streamlining our administration, and improving our financial planning.

The Society has come a long way in the last 27 years. SPNHC started out as a predominantly North American

group, but we now have a membership that spans the globe. This brings new opportunities and new challenges, so the fourth goal of the plan is to make SPNHC a truly international organization, working globally to meet the needs of all our members, raise our international profile, and continue to attract and maintain members outside our traditional geographical core.

The SPNHC Strategic Plan is due for publication at the end of this year, but we have already started work on meeting these ambitious goals. We've established new sessional committees on International Relations (chaired by Suzanne Ryder) and Governance (chaired by SPNHC past-president Suzanne McLaren). Work is well in hand to transition Collection Forum and the SPNHC Newsletter to electronic format, vastly increasing their accessibility, and planning is under way for a new reference book on preventive conservation. Our program of annual meetings now extends as far as 2016. Next year's gathering, in Rapid City, is at an advanced stage of planning; in 2014, we will be crossing the Atlantic for the third time in the Society's history, to Cardiff and the National Museum of Wales; and, we have invitations in-hand for Florida in 2015 and Berlin in 2016. And that is just a small selection of the activities that you can read about in the latest set of committee reports published in this Newsletter.

None of this would be possible without the efforts of many members of SPNHC who put in long hours of work on behalf of the Society. At this year's meeting, we recognized four of these members with special awards: Cathy Hawks (Carolyn Rose Award), Tim White (President's Award), Lisa Elkin (Special Service Award), and Barbara Brown (Special Service Award). Their achievements were highlighted in the last edition of this Newsletter and our Annual Business Meeting gave us the opportunity to thank them in person.

Continuing the theme of service, this is a good time to thank those who stepped down at this year's meeting. Jean-Marc Gagnon completed his two-year term as President; Rich Rabaler completed his six years of service as President-Elect, President, and Past-President; Barbara Brown retired as Treasurer of the Society after six years in this position; and Debra Trock completed three years of service as a Member-at-Large. We also welcome Andy Bentley as President-Elect, Ruth O'Leary as Treasurer, Tiffany Adrain as Chair of the Membership Committee, and Richard Sabin and Greg Watkins-Colwell as newly-elected Members-at-Large.

I want to end by repeating something I said earlier: these are exciting and challenging times to be working with natural history collections. There has never been a better time to be a member of SPNHC, or a time when your membership was more important to the Society. If you have colleagues that haven't joined yet, take five minutes and encourage them to do so. If you're a SPNHC member already and you're looking for additional challenges, join one of our committees. We are always seeking talented and energetic people to help run the Society and service is a great route for professional

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development. If you're not sure what committee to join, feel free to contact me or any of the officers of the Society – our emails are on the SPNHC website.



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SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andrew Campbell (andrewc@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2013.

Membership

Membership dues for 2013 membership year, effective October 15, 2012, are as follows:

Individual (\$45),
 Student, certified (\$20),
 Subscription or Library (\$55),
 Institutional (\$75), and
 Corporate/Commercial (\$350).

Applications to join or renew membership may be processed online at:

<http://spnhc.org/13/become-a-member>.

Payment online is processed via PayPal using either a credit card or a PayPal user account. While online applications and payments are preferred, a membership application/renewal form in PDF format is available at <http://spnhc.org/members/signup>. If using this form, payments may be submitted by check to:

SPNHC Treasurer
 Planetarium Station
 P.O. Box 526
 New York, NY 10024-0526
 USA

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 \$1,125. The fee is 25 times the Individual Membership rate, currently US \$45. Life Memberships may be paid in one of three ways:

- (1) one-time payment of US \$1,125;
- (2) two-year installments of US \$610 (Yr. 1) and US \$515 (Yr. 2);
- (3) three-year installments of US \$560 (Yr. 1), US \$375 (Yr. 2), and US \$190 (Yr. 3).

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

Treasurer

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

Archival supplies have been obtained (via purchase or gift) to properly house the material now being held by the committee. This material is currently being prepared for deposit in SIA.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hollenberg, Chair

Best Practices Committee

The BP committee has been reaching out to other committees to encourage them to develop relevant best practices. Both the Documentation and Conservation committees are promoting best practices in a variety of contexts. For example, the Documentation committee continues to build on the work of previous intern Melissa Barton and the members are identifying new areas to explore for best practice development. Marcy Revelez (Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History) has again posted for a summer intern to work off the SNOMNH NSF grant to rehouse and incorporate the University of Memphis mammal collections, demonstrating a great partnership opportunity. We encourage other members to consider these kinds of opportunities to work together and help build interest in a new generation of collection professionals.

This summer at the World Congress in Herpetology/Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists held in Vancouver, BC, largely through the efforts of Greg Watkins-Colwell

of Yale University, SPNHC co-sponsored a session: "Technology and Innovation in Herpetology and Ichthyology Collections." Janet Braun and Marcy Revelez are planning a session at the American Society of Mammalogists in 2013, and Tim White and Bruce Lieberman (University of Kansas) are planning symposiums at the Geological Society of America in 2013 and at the International Paleontological Congress in 2014. Again, more ideas are welcomed.

In the Fall, the new NSF Advancing Digitization for Biological Collections (ADBC) program announced that the iDigBio proposal was to be funded as the HUB for managing the massive digitization effort. The BP Committee has been in discussion with the leaders of this important initiative and expressed interest in collaborating to develop and publish best practices in this area.

At the SPNHC 2012 annual meeting, the Committee hosted several best practice sessions and were partners with several organizations on the development of these topical sessions. The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), Council for Library and Information Resources (CLIR) and the NSF sponsored digitization initiative iDigBio co-sponsored the following sessions: Storage of Museum Collections (AIC), Preventative Conservation (AIC), Archives and Special Collections (CLIR), and Digitization & Mobilization (iDigBio). In addition we hosted a session on Cryo-collections, which was sponsored by the Smithsonian's natural history museum. We also identified several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that will complement our topical sessions and offer an opportunity to promote different avenues for development.

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

Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee is responsible for the continued development of the Society Bylaws as needed, monitoring Society activities to ensure agreement with the Bylaws, and for periodic updates to the Leadership Manual of the Society.

Bylaws: No new issues were brought to the attention of the committee this year.

Leadership Manual: The committee is responsible for keeping the Leadership Manual current. Unfortunately, the goal of completing the revision of the Leadership Manual this year was not met. A message was sent to committee chairs on 16 November, asking them for revisions and giving them a suggested template to follow; by the 31 December deadline, responses from five of the sixteen standing committees were received. It would be in the best interest of Society operations to keep this document current, with recurrent tasks expressed in a timeline, and the text cir-

culated to committee chairs for annual review. We need cooperation from the chairs for this to be realized.

One goal for 2012-2013 should be to synchronize the text of the Leadership Manual kept by the secretary and have that displayed on the website.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Rabeler and Jean-Marc Gagnon, Co-chairs

Conference Committee

Arrangements for the 2013 meeting, to be held at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, South Dakota, are progressing smoothly under the leadership of Sally Shelton (see preliminary conference details elsewhere in this newsletter). Sign up for their Facebook page (SPNHC 2013 and 10th CFR) for up-to-date details and more information. In addition, we have venues lined up for future conferences in 2014 (Cardiff, Wales) and 2015 (Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL) and offers for 2016 (international again!!) and 2017. This is a very healthy state of affairs for the Society.

Work continues on the draft Policies and Guidelines for Planning and Conducting Annual Meetings document.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley, Chair

Conservation Committee

In line with SPNHC strategic planning initiatives, the Conservation Committee is exploring ways to integrate our work with other committees. The focus for the next year will be in developing best practices or guidelines for distribution to the membership and public audiences. Each sub-committee is working towards this. We have added 5 new members and welcome more. If you have an interest in joining the committee, please contact the co-chairs, Gretchen Anderson or Rob Waller.

Resource Display Units (RDU) Subcommittee
Subcommittee Co-chairs: (US) Cindy Ramotnik ramotnik@unm.edu
(Canada) Kelly Sendall KSENDALL@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

The Resources Displays have traditionally been a valuable resource for the membership. They are used to both inform our colleagues and to publicize the Society, so they should be both accurate and have a contemporary appearance. To this end, the US Display Unit remained at Yale after the annual meeting. The products are currently being reviewed, updated and digitized. It will be redesigned, and a web product developed. The ultimate goal is to make this resource more available to a wider audience. The Committee thanks Tim White (digitizing and design) and Lori Benson (review-

ing and updating products) for initiating this task.

General information on both the U.S and Canadian Resources Displays is available at <http://www.spnhc.org/49>. The Canadian Display remains available for use. If you are interested in finding out more about the Resources Displays or to request a loan for collections-based meetings, conferences, and workshops, please contact Cindy or Kelly at the above emails. Also, if you have a suggestion regarding content please let Gretchen Anderson (Andersong@CarnegieMNH.org) or Lori Benson (lori-benson@usa.net) know.

Fluid Collections Subcommittee
Chair: Andrew Bentley (abentley@ku.edu)

The original goal of this committee was to compile research on the possibility of extracting DNA from formalin-fixed specimens. The role of this subcommittee was to track progress in this area and to encourage and foster connections that would further this work. While significant advances have been made in the field in the past few years, the co-chairs feel that resolution of the subject will take extensive collaboration with private enterprise and a lot of money. This will not happen in the near future. Based on communications from Richard Sabin and Andrew Bentley, the Committee recommends that we take a hiatus from this subject until some future date once these issues have been resolved.

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. Rebecca Morin is leading the effort to gather and document this information. She is working with library and archive students at California Academy in the development of a survey to gather data. While little work on the project has been done this past year, Rebecca plans to forge ahead with renewed vigour this year. Watch for the survey, and please help us by filling it out.

Risk Assessment: Standards for relating change in state of specimen to loss in value
Chair: Armando Mendez (a.mendez@nhm.ac.uk)

The objective of this sub-committee is to develop 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 committee chair is collecting examples of images and case studies of damage to different collections from colleagues at the Natural History Museum and the IPM-UK group. A renewed effort to gather more cases and develop a consistent format to present the information is under way.

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.....Committee Reports*

Food Service: Standards in serving foods in museums
Co-chairs: Bethany Palumbo (bgpalumbo@hotmail.co.uk)
and Rebecca Newberry (newberry@smm.org)

The purpose of this subcommittee is to create useful strategies to be used as guidelines for the presence of food in museums. Food service in museums is profitable and necessary to keep our visitors satisfied. We need to meet our commitments to best practices for collections care, even as we find ourselves increasingly pressured to open more food service, have more events, etc., to meet the bottom line. The co-chairs have developed a preliminary outline for a best practices document and are in the process of fleshing it out. A white paper with case studies showing both problematic and successful food experiences in museums will be written. Look for more developments in the near future!

Environmental Specifications and Museum Sustainability Subcommittee

Co-chairs: Carolyn Leckie (Cleckie@mus-nature.ca) and Luci Cipera (lcipera@mus-nature.ca)

This is a new subcommittee. Its goal is to be a forum for natural history preservation professionals to compare information on environmental specification and museum sustainability or greening initiatives. The specific goals include:

- Follow initiatives to revise long standing environmental specifications for general collections, e.g. various AIC meetings, CCI meetings, ASHRAE initiatives
- Clarify specific preservation requirements for natural history collections
- Document and disseminate practical approaches taken by various natural history institutions to reduce costs and energy associated with good environmental control, while minimizing the risk to natural history materials e.g. various approaches to "zoning", assess experiments with cycling environmental controls off during the night.

The chairs plan to write a SPNHC Newsletter article within the next year, summarizing the current initiatives being discussed by various preservation organizations to reconsider long standing environmental specification for general collections e.g. AIC, CAC, Europe and how they relate to natural history collections.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Anderson and Rob Waller, Co-chairs



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Election Committee

First and foremost, I urge you all to consider nominating a colleague to the position of Member-at-Large (MAL) from your institution or elsewhere. The deadline to nominate is September 30, 2012. Our Society is growing and changing with each year so it is important to have a vibrant invigorated and engaged Council to stay in tune with the changes. Chris Norris' long-range plan is exciting and ambitious. The Council, including two new Members-at-Large, will be instrumental in bringing our long range improvements for the Society to fruition over the next few years. Members-at-Large function as active members of the Council but without any immediate duties. Rather, MAL's are tasked by the President to chair sessional committees, champion newly set projects or conduct research on a subject for the rest of the Council. The position is two years with the possibility of re-election.

Secondly, it is with great pleasure that I hereby announce that Bethany Palumbo, Natural History Conservator at Oxford University, will be taking over as Chair of the Elections Committee in 2013 after the meetings in South Dakota. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as chair for the last 6 elections. Thanks to all those that have helped me in the past. I trust that you will all cast your ballot in the coming election and will support Bethany as much or more than you have supported me.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Sendall, Chair

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met and discussed how to reduce spending. One method was electronic publishing of Collection Forum and the newsletter. We talked about seeking other publishers such as Sheridan and firming up a contract with Allen Press should we decide to stay with them.

We will meet with The Support Center of Non-Profit Management who works with non-profits to explore other sources of funding as well as how to better run their operations.

We talked about our investments and decided that considering the state of the market that we would leave our money with Schwab for now.

We talked about how better to market our volumes to increase sales.

We will contact members who choose not to renew to inquire as to why, in particular those who fail to renew after only one year. We will also follow up with members who have not yet renewed for 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Brown, Chair

Legislation and Regulation Committee

The Legislation and Regulations Committee continues to manage PERMIT-L and to respond to requests for information on permits. Most recently, SPNHC was contacted by Ellen Paul of the Ornithological Council and asked to comment on a proposed petition to the CITES directorate, requesting a meeting to discuss problems with international CITES export validation. SPNHC has provided comments and will work with Ms. Paul on setting up this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Shelton, Chair

Long Range Planning Committee

Chair of the committee has been taken over by Andrew Bentley, President-Elect, who wishes to thank Chris for his chairmanship and his continued hard work on this committee.

The Framework document that identifies critical elements of the strategic plan was circulated to Committee Members in February 2012, discussed at a planning meeting in New Haven at the Annual Meeting and presented by Chris Norris to attendees at the Annual General Meeting. This Framework document forms the foundation for the Strategic Plan itself and is in the process of being completed by members of the committee at present. The timeline going forward is as follows:

September 2012: circulate final draft to Council and Committee Chairs
November 2012: Council vote to approve plan
December 2012: post plan on website
December 2012: email to membership and NHCOLL-L
February 2013: circulate hard copy in Spring Newsletter

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley and Clare Valentine, Co-chairs

Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) 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.

At the SPNHC Conference in New Haven this year, Amanda

Neill led another outstanding "Demo Camp" with live demonstrations and information on web-based data and collections management systems, reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

The workshops held at Yale this year were also outstanding, with many compliments especially for the "Stabilize This!" workshop. The PDC will be continuing a discussion, which began at the June conference on developing a list of standard workshops and/or demonstrations for delivery as either single-program events or packaged into a "Prep Camp" multiple-program offering. The PDC will be using member-survey information for preparation of popular workshop topics. The committee will also be in communication with Local Organizing Committees to help organize workshops for upcoming SPNHC conferences.

The committee is working on a leaflet series to address shipping and packing issues for inclusion with outgoing loans. The first in this series, on herbarium loans packing, is in draft stages and should be available by end of 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Stephenson, Chair

Publications Committee

We have a new Book Review Editor, Lynn Jones from the Yale Peabody Museum. If you have books that you would like to see reviewed and/or you are willing to do a review please contact her at lynn.a.jones@yale.edu.

In the near future, Collection Forum will go digital. Electronic journals have some great advantages—enhanced search capabilities, color images, greater accessibility, and features like RSS Feeds, keyword alerts, and author alerts. Don't worry – if you love your paper copy, you will still have that option (although you will probably have to pay a surcharge, which is typical with most journals of professional organizations). We are currently working to find the best system for online dissemination with a print option. Collection Forum is fully indexed in Zoological Record. You can also find us on the Copyright Clearance Center (<http://www.copyright.com/>) soon. For a nominal fee you can obtain permission to use and share content from Collection Forum and all SPNHC publications.

Health and Safety for Museum Professionals is now for sale on Amazon. It's an amazing and really handy book to have in your library. On Amazon you can "Look Inside!" (view selected pages). We're guessing that once you have a look, you'll want to buy a copy of the 645 page hard cover reference for your personal library!

SPNHC and AIC (American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works) will be collaborating on *STASH*:

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

Storage Techniques for Art, Science, and History Collections, a comprehensive web resource. It will be based upon the ideas originally presented in the SPNHC publication *Storage of National History Collections: Ideas and Practical Solutions* (©1992).

Leslie Skibinski, editor for Leaflets, reports that there are a couple of interesting Leaflets in development and the Leaflet series will be available online. We are working on extending the web site for commenting and discussion features. Leslie is taking submissions for new Leaflets, please email her at LSkibinski@delmnh.org.

Welcome to our new Newsletter Editor, Andrew Campbell, of the KU Biodiversity Institute!

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Butts, Editor

Recognition and Grants Committee

The R & G Committee is charged with promoting and reviewing the annual recognition awards that the Society can confer as well as the Faber Research Grant.

We received and reviewed two nominations for a Special Service Award, one for the President's Award, and two for the Carolyn Rose Award. The committee's decisions on the three awards were passed to Council where they received unanimous consent.

Carolyn Rose Award: Cathy Hawks

President's Award: Tim White

Special Service Award: Lisa Elkin

Special Service Award: Barb Brown

Special Service Award: 2012 SPNHC Conference Local Organizing Committee

A Faber Research Grant application received in 2010 is still pending. Complete revisions that were requested have not yet been received at the time of this writing (1 August 2012). We made one change to the membership of the committee, so as to increase continuity. While the immediate Past President will continue to lead the committee, the Past President "once-removed" will also serve on the committee starting in 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Rabeler and Jean-Marc Gagnon, Co-chairs

Treasurer's Report

In 2011, the Society's total net assets decreased to \$180,115 from a total of \$188,119 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2011 totaled \$203,127. Operating income was generated from two sources: membership dues and publication sales. Approximately \$21,240 in membership dues was received. Sales of our six publications brought in approximately \$18,560. A total of \$15,960 in donations was received.

Seventy subscribers and 428 individuals, institutional, corporate and student members renewed their membership in the calendar year 2011. Of the 515 active SPNHC members, 82 joined for the first time.

Major expenses for the Society in 2011 were \$6,675 for two issues of the SPNHC Newsletter, \$21,605 for Collection Forum 24 and 25, \$6,325 towards the website, \$22,490 towards the Health and Safety volume, \$1,700 for Logo and Pamphlets, and \$1,000 for the travel grant. Election expenses including printing and mailing of the ballots came to \$328, and \$3,829 for the SPNHC booth.

Additional expenses include approximately \$150 for annual dues in Heritage Preservation, \$300 for reprinting Museum Studies and \$1,050 for the Preventative volume, \$750 for Rachael Arenstein to travel to 2011 Pest Odyssey Confer-

Continued on page 16



Museum labels for wet collections

A material long used in the harsh world of chemical drum labeling has properties that are beneficial to the way collections are tagged and identified. Alpha Systems has brought this exciting material to the museum environment. Now collection tags can be printed on demand and submerged in ethanol, methanol, formaldehyde, and other chemicals for an indefinite period of time. The image is excellent quality plus the tag itself is extremely durable – temperature, chemical, tear, scratch and smear resistant. Alpha Systems provides the complete collection package of thermal transfer printer, preservation tag stock and ribbon.

**Alpha Systems, 13509 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112.**

Tel: (804) 744-9870

Email: bleahy@alphasystems.com

On the web at <http://www.alphasystems.com>.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mentorship

We had three Travel grant awardees this year (Ann Trapaga from Berkeley, Meghann Toner from Denver Botanical Gardens and Rachel Sargent, a graduate student from the John F. Kennedy University Museum Studies program in Oakland, CA). We also had Nickson Otieno attending, whose travel grant was deferred by a year to allow him time to attend to some budget issues. The Chair also arranged a two week internship for Nickson with Barcoding of Life in Washington DC before the meeting. BCoL was very gracious in providing the additional funds necessary to make Nickson's trip a reality.

Progress on the expansion of the mentorship program has been put on hiatus as we try to work out the kinks in the existing travel grant program. The Chair drafted a document outlining mentors responsibilities during the process and a checklist outlining the tasks and responsibilities of all involved. It is important to get this all squared away before we attempt to expand the program. Our initial discussions revolved around whether we would be better contracting a mentorship group to run this in-house. Susan Butts had looked into various options and once we have the travel grant program running smoothly taken care of our next agenda item will be another discussion about program management.

We have also made little progress on the international nodes front. The Chair has continued to have informal discussions with international members whenever the opportunity presents itself to get feedback as to what they think such a system would look like and the benefits they hope to see from such a system.

The Chair and Ann Molineux (Chair of the Web Committee) had a meeting with Wall-to-Wall, our web development partner, to discuss ideas revolving around the deployment of a node system (and other web issues) which will, of necessity, rely heavily on the web site and its infrastructure. It is important to investigate the feasibility of our existing infrastructure to allow for the segmentation/compartmentalization/translation of content which will be necessary for such an endeavor. We should receive a quote from Wall-to-Wall for the various components and will then discuss options with council in an attempt to move this forward.

A number of these initiatives are highlighted in the strategic planning document and as such there is a lot of overlap in what the committee is already doing and our charge in the document.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley, Chair

SPNHC REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

American Institute for Conservation (AIC)

Chris Norris

As you may know, the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) recently launched the Collections Care Network (CCN) to create a voice for collections care, preventive conservation, and all of its practitioners. As a leader in the field of natural science collections care, SPNHC is a strong supporter of this effort.

AIC has now created a short survey to help identify the opportunities and challenges facing collections care professionals today. To ensure that we get a strong voice for the needs of natural history collections, I encourage you to follow the link below and participate.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/collectionscaresurvey>

AIC will be sharing the results of the survey and we hope to publish a summary in a future edition of the SPNHC Newsletter.

Many thanks for your help.

American Society of Plant Taxonomists

Rich Rabeler

I serve as an ex-officio member of the ASPT Systematics Collections Committee; James Macklin is also a member of the committee. The chair of the committee leads a Curator's meeting during the annual Society meeting (Columbus, 7-11 July 2012).

The Committee continues to promote regional networking of US herbaria, interfacing with participants in the United States Virtual Herbarium, Global Plants Initiative, and the NSF-ADBC program. The Committee's effort to revise a Best Practices document for herbarium operations – first proposed in 1958 and last revised in 1978 – is continuing. While I had hoped to have that document ready to present to the Society this past year, several issues, including permitting, arose that required additional research. The Committee is now reviewing the latest draft and discussed it at this year's Curator's meeting.

The 2013 Annual meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with Botany2013 in New Orleans, 24 July - 1 August.

Continued from page 11:

.....Representative Reports

Geological Society of America

Ann Molineaux

As an associated society of GSA, SPNHC will be represented at the 2012 annual meeting which takes place in Charlotte, North Carolina, November 4-7. We are looking forward to a good meeting this year and are hoping that SPNHC members in the vicinity of this meeting may spare some time to run the booth for a few hours. Please let me know if you can help in this capacity. Booth supporters are provided with registration. We are hoping to display our SPNHC awardees 2012 in the GSA recognition area.

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

Rich Rabeler

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility is now in its tenth year of existence and SPNHC remains an organizational Associate Participant. Rich serves as the GBIF "Head of Delegation" for SPNHC.

GBIF is facing some challenges as a result of the world economic situation and the new Executive Secretary, Donald Hobern, is looking for ways to streamline operations while maintaining GBIF as a premier data provider. Priorities in the near term include an emphasis on improving data quality and developing methods for clearer attribution of data usage.

Bimonthly conference calls were instituted to increase contact among the North American node managers and associate participants; Rich and James Macklin participated in several this past year.

The North American Nodes meeting was held on 23-24 July in Washington, DC; Rich and James attended a portion of the meeting via Webex. Priorities for the next year include more outreach to potential data providers, upgrading the interfaces being used by data providers from Digir to IPT, and working on data quality and attribution.

Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC)

Rich Rabeler

The Society focuses on promoting the importance of herbaria in teaching, research, and service to the community at large. Although the group has its roots in the southeastern United States, members and the leadership are interested in expanding its "reach" across the nation and beyond. Members are active in the continued development of regional

and/or state-level consortia and are participating in both the regional SERNEC (Southeastern Regional Network of Expertise and Collections) efforts and the US Virtual Herbarium project. We are also very interested in preserving threatened or orphaned herbaria. The SHC website, www.herbariumcurators.org, focuses on providing useful information for curation.

The Annual meeting of SHC has thus far been held in conjunction with the Association of Southeastern Biologists meeting. The 2012 meeting was held 3-7 April on the campus of University of Georgia, Athens. In an attempt to become more of a national organization, the decision was made at the 2012 business meeting to change that pattern, shifting the annual meeting to the Botany2013 meeting, to be held in New Orleans, July 24 - August 1, 2013.

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Gregory J. Watkins-Colwell

The World Congress of Herpetology met in Vancouver, BC, 8-15 August 2012 this year. The conference included the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR), The Herpetologists' League (HL), American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH), American Elasmobranch Society, and other organizations. In total, approximately 1,700 people attended the week-long conference with more than 1,400 oral presentations and posters given on a wide variety of topics relating to herpetology and/or ichthyology. Among the symposia at the conference was "Technology and Innovation in Herpetology and Ichthyology Collections" co-chaired by Gregory J. Watkins-Colwell and Mark H. Sabaj Perez. This symposium included 21 presentations from a diverse group of professionals. Presentations centered around the theme of technology in collections and new uses for collections, including DNA extraction from preserved museum specimens. Throughout the full day symposium, the audience changed slightly depending upon the topic at hand, demonstrating the value of collections to a wider audience within the fields of herpetology and ichthyology. The symposium was sponsored by SPNHC, SSAR, HL and ASIH.

The ASIH Collections Committee meeting was attended by ichthyology and herpetology collection staff from several institutions. The meeting lasted approximately 1.5 hours and the discussion included shipping dangerous goods, standardization of tissue loans/gifts, and ways to improve collections outreach and visibility at conferences. The decision was made to not pursue another formal symposium on collections for the time-being, but rather to advocate for a "Collections" check box for the category of presentations given at the conference. Thus a talk that pertains to collections could be grouped with similarly categorized talks rather than lumped with "Miscellaneous".

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.

Name: Jessica Utrup

Institution: Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History

Position Title: Museum Assistant

SNAPSHOT:

How many years have you been working in this capacity? 6 years

When did you join SPNHC? 2012

IN-DEPTH:

What drew you to the natural history field? I am from Cincinnati, Ohio, and so I've always been surrounded by fossils. As a kid I used to collect rugose corals from the stream bed near my grandmother's house. Of course, my older brothers told me they were saber-tooth tiger teeth. It took me awhile to realize that wasn't true. In college I was fortunate to have some very enthusiastic paleontology professors, and they helped nurture the love for natural history that I have always had.

Describe the nature of the collections you work with. I work with an extensive collection of invertebrate fossils from around the world, ranging in time from the Ediacaran to the recent.

What are your responsibilities for them? I catalog specimens that are new to our collection as well as those that were added to the collection before widespread cataloging. I also identify and photograph many of the specimens before putting them into our systematic collection.

Describe some of your activities. In addition to curating specimens, I assist graduate students and visiting researchers in the collection. I also do public outreach through the museum including tours and identifications.

What do you find most interesting about your work? I really thought I was well-versed in invertebrate fossils because of my hometown and my education, but I am constantly impressed by specimens I've never seen before. Whether it's silicified productid brachiopods from the Glass Mountains of Texas, scaphitid ammonoids from South Dakota, or bizarre blastoids from Timor, I frequently encounter new and exciting things in the collection even after working with it for six years.

What accomplishments are you most proud of? I have done a lot of digitization work in the collections from photographing specimens to georeferencing localities. I know of some colleagues who use our online database to double-check brachiopod identifications, and it's nice to know that we have helped get this information out into the public realm.

What do you find most fulfilling about your work? While it is always interesting to assist researchers, I particularly enjoy giving tours to students and the public. Watching



the lightbulbs click on in the eyes of people who have never thought about the history of life on earth is an amazing sight. I have to admit that I also love it when little kids say that trilobites and brachiopods are as cool as dinosaurs.

How has SPNHC helped you? Prior to working on the organizing committee for SPNHC 2012, I had little experience with SPNHC. Now, I have connections to a strong network of natural history museum professionals who have helped me in many areas. I have met friends who have helped me hone my georeferencing skills, envision the role we play as natural history stewards, address concerns in long-term specimen storage, and even learn how to 'properly' crack open and eat a lobster. Thanks everybody!

Continued from page 2:

..... Natural History Conservation in Jerusalem

On the other end of the scale from our modern elephant carcass, we had our collection of invertebrate fossils. Fluctuations in storage conditions and, apparently, storage in wooden cabinets led to salt efflorescence (Fig. 3). A review of possible treatments led to the conclusion that the visible salts could be removed, but the entire collection needed



Figure 3: Salt efflorescence in the invertebrate fossil collection

tighter environmental control. Environmental monitoring dataloggers were installed, and plans for air conditioning and improved storage presented to university managerial authorities. A visit to the Conservation Lab of the NHM, London, added a valuable glimpse into the NHM storage project for invertebrate fossils, involving the use of barrier film custom-made enclosures to control the immediate environment of each specimen. Projects of this kind emphasize how much can be gained by learning from colleagues in our field. Being the only natural history conservation facility in the country can be a bit insular. We wish to thank Chris Collins, Head of Conservation at the NHM (London), for giving our conservator the opportunity to visit the NHM lab.

If the two above cases dealt with objects already present in our collections, an elephant tooth from the site of Ma'ayan Baruch, Israel (Middle Pleistocene) is an example of a completely fresh, although ancient, arrival. The tooth arrived in a block of earth, packed in a box by the excavators (Fig. 4a). The archeologists required that as much as possible of the earth matrix be removed, especially from the upper surface of the tooth (the chewing surface), so dental wear patterns could be studied. The dental matter was very fragile, held together only by the earth matrix itself, so the object had to be slowly consolidated, excavated, and consolidated again and again until the tooth was possible to study as part of an archeozoological research. Simple, cheap means of standing the object upright for study were devised, using a foam block fortified with plaster bandages (Fig. 4b). In a way, this is also a good example of a project where the conservator advises stopping work before the object collapses due to removal of too much supporting matrix.



Figure 4(a): Elephant tooth from Ma'ayan Baruch, Israel, before treatment



Figure 4(b): Elephant tooth from Ma'ayan Baruch, Israel, after treatment

Simple solutions often need to be found for complicated situations. When we received report on a fossil find in one of the rocks inside a public playground (Fig. 5a), it was necessary not only to consolidate it, but also to devise a temporary means of concealing it from potential vandals. Since the rocks in this area are mostly soft chalk, a conservation-grade solution which was also simple to perform was to grind small chalk stones similar to the rock matrix of the fossil, mix the powder with Paraloid B-72 dissolved in acetone and use the mixture to coat the consolidated fossil (Fig. 5b) in a manner visually similar to the general look of the surrounding rocks and stones in the park. Continued inspections confirmed that this method of concealing the fossil managed to persevere despite the outdoor conditions and the proximity to a school, and gave us time to deal with the necessary bureaucracy involved with removing the fossil.

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 Andrew Campbell (andrewc@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2013.

The main conclusion underlining all of our projects is the importance of being in touch with other natural history conservation professionals. With the high level of variety presented by our work and the need to be flexible, creative and imaginative, we are always seeking to learn more of the materials and methods in use elsewhere.

REFERENCES

1. NNHC website: <http://nnhc.huji.ac.il>



Figure 5(a): Fossil find in public playground – exposed to the elements, before treatment



Figure 5(b): Fossil find in public playground – temporarily concealed from vandals

Do you have an article to submit?

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andrew Campbell (andrewc@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2013.

Book Review

The Owl that Fell from the Sky - Stories of a Museum Curator

by Brian Gill.

Published by Awa Press, 2012

ISBN: 978-1-877551-13-0

Sometimes reading books about one's own career can seem a bit too much like work, but not in this case. Brian Gill, curator of land vertebrates at the Auckland Museum, deftly illustrates the daily challenges and rewards of working in a natural history collection through a series of charming examples drawn from the museum's history.

Following an introduction to natural history museums in general, the author homes in on the Auckland Museum and each short chapter tells the story of a particular specimen, its preparator or collector. Dr. Gill goes back to the beginning of his museum's history and tells us about some of the more colourful staff members who contributed both to the collections and the public side of the house. I enjoyed the chapter about mounting Rajah the elephant for exhibit, and later conservation efforts needed to save this specimen so dear to visitors but ravaged by the passage of time. There are some lovely anecdotes about inquiries from the public like, "What bird did I just hear?" which are familiar to us all. A significant measure of fascinating science about each species is included as the stories unfold.

In these penurious times, it can be difficult to justify the value of natural history collections to society. This book is an excellent primer on the history and importance of collections in understanding our world, and explains how we do our jobs in developing and supporting those collections and, through them, science as a whole. Although Dr. Gill's focus understandably is on vertebrates, public sympathy for these charismatic megafauna serves in communicating the message about what we do in the back rooms of museums and why we do it.

Judith Price

Secretary, SPNHC

Canadian Museum of Nature



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

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.....Committee Reports*

ence. The Treasurer's Office incurred the following expenses: \$3,190 for insurance, \$90 for P.O. Box rental, approximately \$800 in merchant fees, \$4,150 for the 2010 financial review, tax preparation and filing.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments lost approximately \$1,950 in value and our money market and CD earned approximately \$1,428 in dividends and interest.

The first part of 2012 has seen good income activity. Thus far, approximately \$15,335 has been received from membership renewals, including 1 Life, 65 library/subscriptions, 329 individual, student, associate/institutional and corporate members. Thus far 82 new members have joined in 2012. One hundred forty-six members who paid in 2011 have yet to renew in 2012. Please pay your dues on time.

In the first quarter of 2012 sales of all our publications total \$4,385. We have received \$25 in unrestricted donations. Thank you.

Expenses thus incurred in FY2012 include \$150 for Heritage Preservation dues, \$94 for P.O. Box rental, \$4,000 for Newsletter 26(1), and approximately \$400 in merchant fees. At the time of the writing of this report the financial review was being performed. SPNHC has paid \$1500 as a retainer to The Burdette Smith Group. The Society anticipates expenses related to publications, web redesign and the trade show booth.

Please contact the SPNHC Treasurer for further details.

For their help throughout the year, we would like to extend thanks to Andy Bentley (University of Kansas), Judith Price (Canadian Museum of Nature), Rich Rabeler (University of Michigan), Kelly Sendall (Royal British Columbia Museum), Chris Norris and Susan Butts (Yale University) and again Lisa Palmer for the many phone calls and emails this past year. The American Museum of Natural History, Department of Ichthyology provided general office support for the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Brown, Treasurer

Web Committee

The Web committee had a very productive meeting in Yale and members are tasked with several investigations for this upcoming year. The new web site is still functioning well, and we look forward to adding additional materials from other committees as and when they are ready, perhaps including a wiki format for draft documents and discussion, as well as other potential social media additions. We have reinstated the Job Opportunities page within Resources. New discussions are scheduled with our web designers, Wall-to-Wall, in

which we will be looking at potential options for phase two of the website implementation which include expanding the value and functionality of the membership database, developing an improved searchability of the site and testing the possible options for international nodes spawned from the main page. The latter would encourage regional activity and provide users with information more relevant to their local areas.

As always please let us know if you see errors or wish to add material to our SPNHC webpage, and send any newsworthy items or job opportunities to Ann Molineux, annm@austin.utexas.edu.

Respectfully submitted
Ann Molineux, Chair

DEST Opportunity

The Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST, <http://www.taxonomytraining.eu>), originally funded by the EC in the framework of the EDIT project, has launched two types of training courses at various European research facilities and universities. The programme is open to participants from Europe and outside of Europe.

The "Modern Taxonomy theoretical course programme 2012-2013" offers intensive theoretical courses in subjects as varied as nomenclature; describing, writing and illustrating biodiversity; and phylogenetic systematics. More info: <http://www.taxonomytraining.eu/content/modern-taxonomy-course-programme-2012-2013>

The "Expert-in-training programme 2012-2013" enables graduate students and early career researchers to develop and strengthen their taxonomic research skills through on-the-job-training. The programme includes a great diversity of topics and covers various groups such as diatoms, copepods and tropical plants. More info: <http://www.taxonomytraining.eu/content/expert-training-programme-2012-2013>

For both programmes, DEST is offering a number of grants to help defray expenses associated with course attendance, travel and accommodation. In allocating grants, priority will be given to selected participants coming from economically less-favoured regions.

New training providers are most welcome to participate in training delivery within the Distributed European School of Taxonomy. For more information, please mail us at dest-training@naturalsciences.be or have a look at: <http://www.taxonomytraining.eu/content/interested-training-delivery>

Thank you for spreading the word.
Dr Hendrik Gheerdyn
Dr Isabella Van de Velde

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

The Recognition and Grants Committee is requesting nominations for the President's Award, the Carolyn L. Rose Award, and Honorary Memberships.

- 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 L. 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 recommendation.
- Honorary Membership can be conferred by Council in recognition of outstanding contributions to natural history collections or to the Society. Honorary Members have all the rights and privileges of regular members.

Questions and nominations should be directed to the Chair of the Recognition & Grants Committee, Jean-Marc Gagnon (jmgagnon@mus-nature.ca) and must be submitted by November 1, 2012.

*To read about this year's award winners,
please see page 24.*

CALL FOR THE 2013 FABER RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS

The Recognition and Grants Committee is requesting proposals for the Faber Research Grant, a cash grant of up to \$1000, to support an innovative project addressing issues on the management, care, conservation, or use of natural history collections.

Applicants for this 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 manu-

script will be sent first to the SPNHC Publications Committee for first right of refusal. Each applicant may submit only one proposal per funding period. The cover sheet should include a project title, name(s) of project personnel (including title, address, 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 and Grants Committee, Rich Rabeler (rabeler@umich.edu) and must be submitted by February 1, 2013.



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 or better. Electronic files may be e-mailed (andrewc@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 newsletter copies 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 - <http://www.spnhc.org>.

Efficient removal of insect specimen pin labels with modified forceps

Rod Eastwood¹

¹*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138*

With the push to digitize natural history collections worldwide, museums are facing new challenges regarding funding, personnel, and the technology required for large-scale digitization projects. This is particularly so in entomology collections where the digitization task is daunting because of the huge numbers of insects. For example, estimates of insect holdings in some US institutions, from their websites, include the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (>35 million), American Museum of Natural History (17 million), and the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) at Harvard University (7.5 million). Digitizing these three insect collections alone, assuming 1 minute of handling time per specimen would require more than 587 person-years.

New methods and tools are being developed to facilitate digitization processes, such as innovative software, automated text scanning, and digital imaging of drawers or individual specimens. Often overlooked, however, are ancillary jigs and tools that can also reduce handling time in certain situations, thus minimizing damage to fragile specimens, which is an important consideration.

In many cases, digitization of insect collections requires the removal of pin labels for the retrieval of specimen data via imaging or other means, and for reasons of cost, is often performed by unskilled (non-entomologist) personnel. Removing pin labels from insect specimens can be difficult at best but, if pin labels are not gripped evenly on both sides of the pin, the label can jam on the pin making it very difficult to remove (= time consuming) or, worse, may result in a torn label or a damaged specimen. These problems may be exacerbated when attempting to remove old labels from bent, corroded, or broken pins.

In developing protocols for digitizing the butterfly collection at the MCZ, we considered several methods of removing pin labels that would be easy to use and minimize specimen damage. Our preferred method was to use a pair of modified spade pointed philatelic forceps as shown in Figure 1. Spade pointed forceps were designed for handling postage stamps and come in two basic shapes, either straight or bent. We chose the bent variety and modified them by cutting a 'V' shaped slot down the center of the spade using a small hacksaw and then filing the edges smooth. The slot was extended further on the lower spade point of the forceps for better location and alignment on the pin (Fig. 2). This was necessary because the angled end of the forceps causes the lower spade to project beyond the upper spade when in the open position (Fig. 2). Importantly, the angled end of the forceps ensures that an operator's fingers are positioned away from the insect specimen thus minimizing contact damage, and it is easier to position the forceps above and below the pin labels (Fig. 2).

A single 'V' slotted 'spade' could do a similar job if it were positioned above the labels and dragged down the pin causing the labels to slide off. However, the relative order of labels could get mixed during the removal process and so information inherent in their chronology (i.e. the oldest data are on the top label) might be lost. Gripping evenly above and below the stack of labels with forceps minimizes the potential to mix label order after removal, helps maintain the integrity of often fragile labels, and is a safer and more efficient way of holding the labels prior to processing.

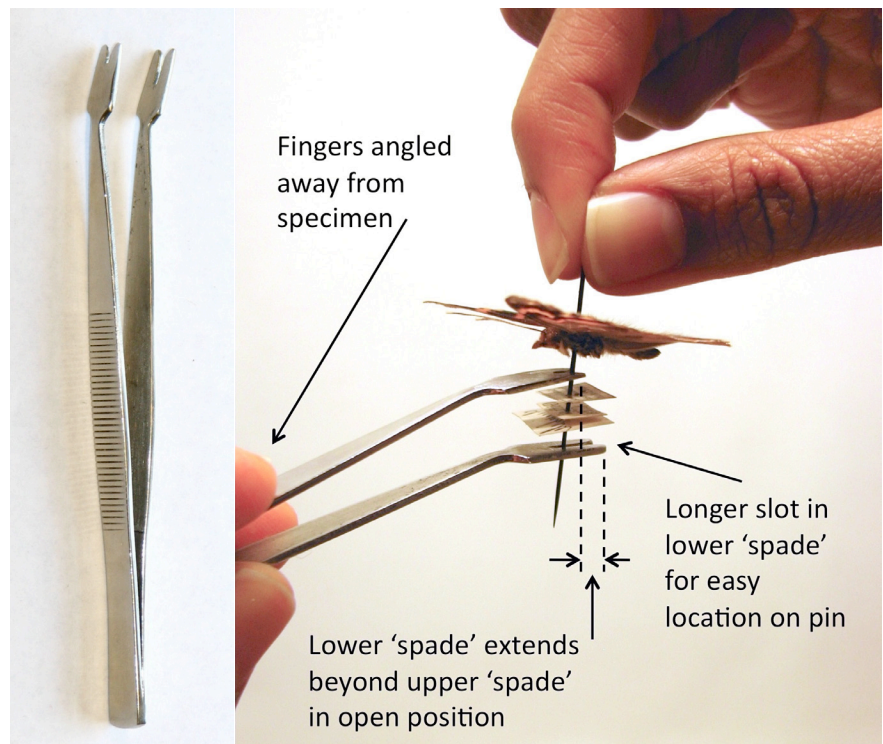


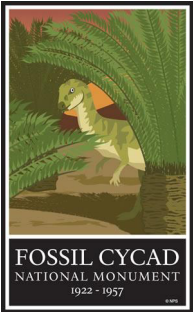
Figure 1.

Figure 2.

SPNHC 2013/10th CFR Rapid City, South Dakota, June 17-22, 2013



The double meeting of SPNHC and the Conference on Fossil Resources is scheduled for June 17-22 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Both meetings are hosted by the Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, in conjunction with the local committee.



The Conference on Fossil Resources is a biannual initiative of Federal and non-Federal agencies and institutions working to preserve fossil resources in the public trust. The leading agencies are the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U. S. Forest Service.

The week will begin with a pre-conference field trip to the White River Badlands of South Dakota and Nebraska on June 15-16. Registration for this will include transportation, lodging, meals and a guide to the historic, biological, geological and paleontological features of this astonishing region.

Principal sites include Badlands National Park, Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, and Toadstool Geologic Park, with other stops along the way.



The Conference on Fossil Resources will feature poster and platform presentations on June 17-18. The plenary address will be given by Vincent L. Santucci of the National Park Service, and will focus on the history of South Dakota's former Fossil Cycad National Monument and the lessons it provides for management of fossil sites and resources.



On June 19, the CFR and SPNHC will co-sponsor a joint workshop on repositories for natural history collections in the public trust. This will include discussions of the role of partnerships in managing collections, defining the legal responsibilities and policies of repositories, the issues with collections from Native American lands, repository fee structures, and related concerns.



SPNHC will conclude the week with meetings, papers and posters on June 20-22, including the annual banquet, business meeting and committee meetings. A variety of smaller workshops and field trips are planned for June 22.



Rapid City is the home of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, founded in 1885. It is close to a wide range of historic and natural attractions, colleges and museums. Rapid City Airport connects directly to Denver, Salt Lake City and Minneapolis.

For more information, contact Sally.Shelton@sdsmt.edu.



SOUTH DAKOTA



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SPNHC 2012 Report

New Haven CT, 11-16 June 2012

Zina Fihl (Conservator and Assistant Curator at Mineral, Meteorite and Petrographic Collections; zfihl@snm.ku.dk), Dave. K.B. Cheung (Assistant Curator Entomology, Diptera; david.cheung@snm.ku.dk), Marcus Anders Krag (Assistant Curator Vertebrates, Ichthyology, mkrag@snm.ku.dk)

A group of fifteen representatives from the National History Museum of Denmark went to Connecticut, US, to participate in the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). Participants included the head of collections, assistant curators and conservators from various departments including Geology, Botany and Zoology. "Emerging Technology and Innovation in Natural History Collections Management" was the theme of this year's conference and was hosted by the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in beautiful New Haven, Connecticut. Travelling together as one large group, one of our goals was to strengthen the teamwork between staff from different departments that used to be divided into three museums and a botanical garden. All of us were new to the SPNHC meeting except for one, who had participated in 2009 and was returning with many fond memories. Expectations were high when we arrived to New Haven during a hot and humid Sunday evening. The next couple of days were filled with many great experiences including field trips, various presentations on collection management, delicious lobsters, vendor shows/exhibits and guided collection tours, all shared with engaged colleagues from all over the world.

As in the previous year, the Berkeley team offered a two day pre-conference workshop on georeferencing that started on Sunday. Although no one from the Copenhagen group was able to attend, we had heard many positive reviews from attendees. One of the attendees had this to say, "It was an intense workshop. I learned so much and I now know better than to use the GPS on my cell phone again."

The annual SPNHC conference officially kicked off on Tuesday morning with a diverse series of field trips ranging from a marine algae workshop and bird watching, geological, botanical, museum and collection tours. There was certainly something for everyone. These tours were an excellent chance to explore the beautiful area around New Haven but were also a fantastic way to meet new people with the same field of interest or to catch up with old friends before things became more focused. After a full day of exploring, the attendees gathered again for the evening welcoming reception at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. The Great Hall of Dinosaurs was a fantastic setting for such a memorable evening filled





with food, drinks and hanging out with like-minded people. Our group had a great day and we felt instantly welcomed by everyone from SPNHC.

Wednesday began with the newcomer's breakfast at the OMNI hotel to welcome new members of SPNHC. The president and other veterans from the society were present to share their experiences and show their dedication to the group. The official opening to the conference was held at the impressive Shubert Theater, and started with talks from SPNHC and Yale Peabody Museum representatives and an inspiring keynote speech by science journalist Carl Zimmer.

After lunch, the oral sessions, poster presentations and vendor exhibitions began. There was such a wide range of interesting activities that it was sometimes difficult to decide what to prioritize! The program was fully booked until Friday with an impressive diversity of presentations covering every topic you could imagine in collections management. Topics were organized in the following main symposiums: general sessions, technology and outreach, preventive conservation, digitization and mobilization, archives and special collections, collaborations, cryo collections, and 3D imaging. Scheduling your day proved to be difficult as you frequently wanted to be at two talks that were happening at the same time. It was impressive to be at a conference dedicated to natural history collections - what a fantastic experience. Creating a network of colleagues from around the world is just as important as catching up on the newest trends in collec-

tions management, and SPNHC meetings are the perfect place to accomplish this.

On Wednesday evening an organizing group in New Haven put together a pub crawl. We visited four local bars and ended up at The Wicked Wolf, a place with a dance floor - who doesn't like to dance? This was indeed a conference with a solid academic part but many opportunities for socializing with like-minded people.

The special interest groups were a great opportunity for group discussions among your professional peers. Many great ideas and collaborations were formed here. During a discussion about international shipping regulations, concerns were raised about countries with strict shipping rules. One SPNHC member suggested making a list of countries and their specific importation rules available online. If this list was made available online and was updated regularly, it would be a valuable resource to SPNHC members.

On Friday afternoon, 'Democamps' were held at different storage facilities at Yale Peabody Museum. These gave an opportunity for more in-depth tutorials of different projects and products. Participants also had a chance to ask designers and expert-users about pros and cons in a rare level of detail. They were a great success and you actually could see what you just had heard and learned about.



The Danish contingent, at the SPNHC 2012 banquet.



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The conference banquet was held at the beautiful ‘Amarante’s Sea Cliff’ on the coast. For most people, the evening started off with a cool drink in hand while looking out onto the coast from the deck. After a deliciously satisfying dinner of lobster or steak, the evening social program kicked into full swing with a heavily used dance floor and photo booth that captured many good times.

The all-day workshops “Stabilize This!” and “Forecasting the Future of Natural History Museums and Collections” were held on Saturday and offered to a limited number of participants. “Stabilize This!” was divided in three sections: a discussion on best practice, a hands-on component about adhesives and storage, and a hands-on section concerning conservation and restoration of paper. Hands-on demonstrations on different materials made it easy to transfer this knowledge to something one could practice at your home institution. Furthermore, each participant received a goodie-bag with samples of the materials we had worked with. This was great as it gave us something to bring back to our colleagues and will make it easier to agree on selecting and acquiring new materials.

“Forecasting the Future of Natural History Museums and Collections” was a workshop focused on identifying future trends that can have an impact on natural history collections and how to use this knowledge to make more informed decisions in the present. Elizabeth Merritt, the leader of the workshop, encouraged us to think outside the box. In groups we spent time coming up with creative scenarios and discussing solutions.

From listening to the diverse range of presentations, enjoying the lobster dinner, socializing with international colleagues and becoming acquainted with the latest and greatest equipment at the tradeshow, the 2012 Annual SPNHC meeting was a huge success. The extremely well-organized event gave members the opportunity to network, learn and enjoy their time with like-minded people. A special thank you goes out to the organizing and local arrangement committees for putting together such a wonderful event. One thing’s for sure, the Danes will be back to occupy the dance floor during future SPNHC meetings!



RECENT FITZGERALD TRAVEL GRANT AWARDS



Rachel Sargent (2012 Fitzgerald Travel Grant awardee) and Kelly Sendall (mentor)

Fitzgerald Travel Grant biography: Rachel Sargent

Rachel Sargent is a recent graduate of John F. Kennedy University's Museum Studies program, focusing on natural history collection management. She did her undergraduate work in Biology at the University of Vermont and worked as a lab manager for several molecular biology labs before pursuing a Master's degree. She volunteered for the Harvard Museum of Natural History as a gallery guide and at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology for Collection Operations. Her graduate internships included working for UC Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Herpetology and multiple departments at the California Academy of Sciences, from Education to Ornithology and Mammalogy. She is finishing up a final internship with Education and Outreach at the National Museum of Natural History working with the new Education Center's collection for summer of 2012.

Rachel has a particular interest in digitizing collections and online access. She was involved with the California Academy of Sciences' Connecting Content project to digitize Galapagos finch specimens along with their related field journals, which will ultimately be available online. Her Master's project was "Networking Nature: Building Cybercabinets of Digital Curiosities," which examined ways to make digital natural history collections accessible to the public.

Fitzgerald Travel Grant biography: Meghann Toner

My interest in natural history collections began during my internship with the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History. As I learn more about collections, they became my

passion. My museum experience includes a plethora of collections types such as vertebrate, invertebrates, living collections, and fungi. Each of these collection types gives me a unique view of the biodiversity and range of best practices that exist in the museum world. I received my MSc in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester. My graduate thesis is entitled 'Curators: The Stewards of Museum Collection Knowledge.' Presently, I am working at the Denver Botanic Gardens herbaria.

One of my primary areas of interest is the understanding of how to transfer the wealth of information stored within the physical aspects natural history collections. In particular best practices as applied to digitization of collections, easily accessed by curators, collection managers, researchers, and the general public. Examining museum collections and museum management techniques both in the United States and the United Kingdom enhances my further exploration into this area.



Mariko Kageyama (mentor) and Meghann Toner (2012 Fitzgerald Travel Grant awardee)

CAROLYN ROSE AWARD

Cathy Hawks

The Carolyn Rose Award is our Society's highest honor and is given to a practitioner whose work and efforts have greatly promoted the values and objectives of the Society. This Award was presented to Catharine A. Hawks (Cathy) in recognition of her significant contribution to the objectives of SPNHC and to the field of natural history collection conservation during the span of her career as a conservator, educator, author and consultant.

Here are but a few of the support statements accompanying her nomination:

- "Cathy's efforts on behalf of SPNHC and all museum professionals exemplify the Society's goals as well as those of her mentor, Carolyn Rose. As one of those rare individuals who work in many academic and professional fields with aplomb, grace and acuity, Cathy is unfailingly

generous with her time, expertise and advice.”

- “Like her mentor, Carolyn Rose, her career spans across disciplines and has already influenced generations of museum professionals. “

- “To me, the real test of dedication is the unacknowledged time and effort that a person spends on something that they believe in. And Cathy is an extraordinary example of genuine dedication.”

Because Cathy has been with SPNHC since its inception and is so generous and open, many of our members will have experienced Cathy’s passion for responsible, effective and safe natural history collection care. Our field is now rightfully recognized as a profession thanks to a large extent to her significant efforts and stature. Many of Cathy’s projects and her contributions to those of others continue to positively influence the way we now conserve natural history objects and collections.

Not surprisingly, her acceptance remarks are a perfect example, not only of Cathy’s passion but also of her humility. Cathy had these words to share with us:

- “Of course, Carolyn’s support helped tremendously in actually having natural science conservation recognized as a legitimate sub-specialty in objects conservation.”

- “I have deeply enjoyed the opportunity to work with hundreds of wonderful students and to work with many of you here today. And I’ll always be grateful to Carolyn for having taken a chance that allowed me to have an uncommonly rewarding career. So, my many, many thanks to her, and to all of you.”

Her entire acceptance speech will be published in the next issue of Collection Forum. Don’t miss it. And if you haven’t met Cathy yet, then make a point to do so at your next opportunity; you will be very happy you did. [Jean-Marc Gagnon]



Cathy Hawks receiving the 2012 Carolyn Rose Award from Jean-Marc Gagnon.



Tim White receiving the 2012 President’s Award from Jean-Marc Gagnon.

PRESIDENT’S AWARD

Tim White

Tim White – where would SPNHC be without his efforts? I’m sure that none of us present here today would want to imagine that scenario...

Tim has worked steadily, sometimes in the foreground, other times behind the scenes, to make SPNHC more relevant as an International Society.

What has he done for SPNHC? It’s easier to name the offices and committees that Tim has not occupied during nearly all of the time that SPNHC has existed. In looking over his CV, one finds listings for President, Member-at-large, Newsletter Editor, service on eight committees (five as chair), four local committees, and the listing of five special service awards. By his own admission, he finds it hard not to be involved. He is not content to say “I’ve done my time – let someone else have a turn”. We, just like any other volunteer organization, need more folks like Tim.

When I thought about becoming SPNHC President, I knew I would have a tough act to follow – Tim. One thing I noted during my time as President-Elect – Tim had so many ideas, always focusing on what SPNHC could do, and he always seemed to know someone to talk to about those ideas. Tim is the epitome of something my major professor told me was important: “knowing who was doing what.” I always appreciated his insights – having Tim as Past President was like having an insurance policy in my pocket!

For all you have done, and will still do, for the Society, Thanks “Dad”. [Rich Rabeler]



Ann Trapaga (2012 Fitzgerald Travel Grant awardee) and Lori Schlenker (mentor)

Fitzgerald Travel Grant biography: Ann Trapaga

I have spent the past three and a half years working at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ) at UC Berkeley as the project manager for a collection improvement grant to convert our genetic resources collection from ultra-cold to liquid nitrogen storage. I received my BS in Conservation and Resource Studies with an emphasis in Wildlife Ecology in 2008. As an undergraduate I became involved with the MVZ through courses taught by Museum professors.

Upon graduation I was hired as the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program Manager. I devised and implemented a pest management plan to address an active odd beetle, *Thyloglyphus contractus*, infestation and began monitoring for reoccurrence. It was while working in this position that I first became acquainted with SPNHC. A colleague told me about the SPNHC website and I used it frequently while writing the MVZ Integrated Pest Management manual. The MVZ also has copies of Collection Forum and I relied heavily on those resources as well. In 2009, I was hired in my current job.

Over the years I have had opportunities to become involved with many aspects of the Museum. While employed as the IPM Program Manager I also worked as a curatorial assistant and learned how to organize and catalog specimens and their data. In addition, I temporarily assumed the duties of the Preparatory Lab Manager, which included substituting as the instructor for our formal undergraduate prep lab class. I have also worked on various field projects where I have gone on general collecting trips throughout California. I am currently assisting our Staff Curator of Herpetology with her research on the phylogeography and geographic variation in the ecology, morphology, and venom of Mojave Rattlesnakes, *Crotalus scutulatus*, and have participated in two collecting trips for *C. scutulatus* in the southern part of their range. I have also gained experience in DNA extraction and sequencing techniques.

We are due to finish the genetic resource conversion this December and I will be applying to graduate programs in Evolutionary Biology this fall. My involvement with a variety of different aspects of the contribution, care, and preservation of natural history collections impels me to utilize my knowledge of these collections in my future research and as a professional.

Fitzgerald Travel Grant biography: Nickson Otieno

I currently work as a Research Scientist and Database Manager at National Museums of Kenya's Ornithology Section of Zoology Department. I have a BSc in Wildlife Management and MSc in Conservation Biology. Our Section's mandate is to research, collect, preserve and document Kenya's Ornithological heritage. Previously I worked as a Conservation Education Assistant for the Elsa Trust and then as Research Fellow on the Important Bird Areas Monitoring program at Nature Kenya.

My research focuses on ecology and conservation of birds



Andrew Bentley (mentor) and Nickson Otieno (2012 Fitzgerald Travel Grant awardee)

and their habitat across Kenya with particular emphasis on anthropogenic impacts, endangerment and trend analysis. My other interest is biodiversity informatics and for this, I am also responsible for the digitization efforts for our zoological collection records at my entire Department, for which we have adopted Specify software. I am also involved in initiatives to help in developing digitization capacity in key institutions in the East African region which hold large volumes of undigitized natural history records. This broad scope of my work presents me with the opportunity to synergistically employ digitization as a way of linking information from field ecology with taxonomy and specimen collections to help drive our Ornithological research agenda. I have published 7 peer-reviewed scientific papers with two more still under review. I am keen to push for an upscaling of our digitization efforts and to help push the process of barcoding of Kenya's birds.

FITZGERALD TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is pleased to announce the Fitzgerald Travel Grant Program, designed to assist members with the costs of attending the Society's annual meeting. Four grants were awarded for the 2012 meeting in New Haven, including one postponed from 2011.

Grants will be available for attendance at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society in Rapid City, South Dakota, June 17-22, 2013. 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 is 18 March 2013. Some conditions apply.

See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details on the conference. More details will also be available on the conference website as soon as it is up and running. Check back at <http://www.spnhc.org> and the Conference Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SPNHC2013CFR10/>) for updates.

Position Announcement

FULL-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE
COLLECTION ASSISTANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
SAM NOBLE MUSEUM
University of Oklahoma
2401 Chautauqua Ave. Norman, OK 73072-7029
t. 405.325.0801
f. 405.3257699

The Department of Archaeology is looking to fill a full-time position that will provide assistance to the Curator and Col-

lection Manager with a 3-year grant-funded project to inventory, catalog, digitize (electronic data capture), and verify information for archaeological artifacts in the collection.

Typical job functions include:

- Inventory of artifacts and associated archives
- Creating catalog records in a database that includes artifacts information from artifact labels and associated materials
- Generating and installing artifact labels
- Rehousing artifacts and archives
- Following established protocols and standards for project tasks
- Maintaining records of workflow for assessments of project benchmarks

See Job Requisition Number 15060 on the OU Human Resources website (<https://jobs.ou.edu>) for additional information, and required education, skills, and proficiencies.

Salary: \$10.50 per hour

Benefits: Yes

Hours per week: 40

For further information, contact Dr. Janet K. Braun (jkbraun@ou.edu, [405] 325-0801), Head Curator of Mammals and Oklahoma Collection of Genetic Resources

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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), Mariko Kageyama (MK), Margaret Landis (ML), Ann Pinzl (AP), Rebecca Peters (RP), Cindy Ramotnik (CR), John Simmons (JS), 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).

Acuña, R. 2011. José Jerónimo Triana: Heredero de una tradición botánica. Cuadernos de Pioneros de Museología:1-31. http://www.museos.unal.edu.co/sccs/plantilla_3.php?id_subseccion=995&id_seccion=5 (27 July 2012). (JS)

- English title: "José Jerónimo Triana: Heir to a botanical tradition." Biographical sketch of the botanist José Jerónimo Triana (1828-1890), who worked in Colombia and Europe. A publication of the Sistema de Patrimonio Cultural y Museos, Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, Columbia.

Aiello, A., E. D. Nuñez and H. P. Stockwell. 2010. Nothing is perfect: biodegradable packing material as food and transportation for a museum pest: *Lasioderma serricorne* (F.) (Coleoptera: Anobiidae). *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 64(3):256-257. (AP)

Alberti, S. J. M. M., ed. 2011. *The Afterlives of Animals: A Museum Menagerie*. University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, VA. 247 pp. (AP)

Alexander, S. 2011. Making sense of the Schomburgk expeditions. *The Plant Press* ns 14(2):1, 9-11. (RP)

- Georeferencing the collections of the Schomburgk brothers' collections from Brazil, Guayana, and Venezuela during the 1800s, of use to any herbaria holding these collections. Alexander includes explanations of the challenges of such an effort and reports a good deal of success in interpreting sometimes conflicting information on these labels.

Anonymous. 2009. The handling and exhibition of potentially hazardous artifacts in museum collections. *American Association of State and Local History Technical Leaflet* 248. (LB)

Anonymous. 2010. Copyright issues, rights management and licensing programs for digital collections by historical institutions. *American Association of State and Local History Technical Leaflet* 251. (LB)

Anonymous. 2011a. Artifact. *Common Ground Winter* 2011. http://commonground.cr.nps.gov/05_Artifact.cfm?issue=Winter%202011 (27 July 2012). (JS)

- Article on Dinosaur Park in South Dakota.

Anonymous. 2011b. Maps catalog. *The Plant Press* ns 14(2):5. (RP)

- The Smithsonian Institution is organizing their expedition maps collection and making the info available to the public (see: botany.si.edu/references/mapsCatalog). As of the cited article, the catalog included 14k maps with ~7k high resolution images. Information available for search and view covers five collections (Botany, Amphibians & Reptiles, Mammals, African Art, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.)

Anonymous. 2012a. Dueling over a Mongolian dinosaur. *Science* 336:965. (RP)

- Auction house is awaiting legal resolution of competing claims to a nearly complete *Tarbosaurus* skeleton before completing sale.

Anonymous. 2012b. Key Resources: photograph conservation. *The GCI Newsletter* 27(1):25. (AP)

Anonymous. 2012c. Something old and something new. *Science* 336:966. (RP)

- University of Cambridge's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology has reopened with an updated presentation integrating their collections.

Araújo, R., C. Natário and M. Pound. 2011. How to mount an inexpensive sieving lab. *Journal of Paleontological Techniques* 9:1-8. <http://www.jpaleontologicaltechniques.org/pasta3/JPT%20N9/Bulletin.html> (19 July 2012). (JW)

- Presents a new sieving technique designed to recover microfossils from mudstones, clays and poorly consolidated sediments. This new technique is designed to be inexpensive, use the minimal amounts of chemicals and recover well preserved microfossils.

Aw, J. 2012. Living specimens in England's natural history museums: frequency, use and legislation. *NatSCA News* 22:22-34. (AP)

Baccaloni, J. 2012. A preliminary comparison of trisodium phosphate with Agepon and Decon 90 as wetting agents to hydrate dried Arachnida and Myriapoda specimens. *NatSCA News* 22:71-79. (AP)

Baker, B. 2011. New Push to Bring US Biological Collections to the World's Online Community. *BioScience* 61(9):657-662. (AP)

Baldeck, A. 2012. Bones, Books & Bell Jars: Photographs from the Mütter Museum. *The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA*. 132 pp. (AP)

Barkworth, M. E. and Z. E. Murrell. 2012. The US Virtual Herbarium: working with individual herbaria to build a national resource. *ZooKeys* 209:55-73. (AP)

- DOI: 3897/zookeys.209.3205

Beaman, R., J. A. Macklin, M. Donoghue and J. Hanken. 2007. Overcoming the digitization bottleneck in natural history collections: A summary report on a workshop held 7-9 September 2006 at Harvard University. http://www.etaxonomy.org/wiki/images/b/b3/Harvard_data_capture_wkshp_rpt_2006.pdf (27 July 2012). (AP)

Beaman, R. S. and N. Cellinese. 2012. Mass digitization of scientific collections: New opportunities to transform the use of biological specimens and underwrite biodiversity science. *ZooKeys* 209:7-17. (AP)

- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3313

Beckman, J. 2011. Collecting standards: teaching botanical skills in Sweden, 1850-1950. *Science in Context* 24(2):239-258. (AP)

- Place of botany, plant collecting in particular, in Swedish educational programming; history of books, manual and floras.

Berendsohn, W. G. and A. Güntsch. 2012. OpenUp! Creating a cross-domain pipeline for natural history data. *ZooKeys* 209(47-54):47. (AP)

- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3179

Bertone, M. A., R. L. Blinn, T. M. Stanfield, K. J. Dew, K. C. Seltmann and A. R. Deans. 2012. Results and insights from the NCSU Insect Museum GigaPan project. *ZooKeys* 209:115-132. (AP)

- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3083

Bingo, S. 2011. Of provenance and privacy: using contextual integrity to define third-party privacy. *American Archivist* 74(2):506-521. (LB)

Blagoderov, V., I. J. Kitching, L. Livermore, T. J. Simonsen and V. S. Smith. 2012. No specimen left behind: industrial scale digitization of natural history collections. *ZooKeys* 209:133-146. (AP)

- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3178

Boyer, D., R. Cheetham and M. L. Johnson. 2011. Using GIS to manage Philadelphia's archival photographs. *American Archivist* 74(2):652-663. (LB)

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS). 2012. *CHEMpendium*. <http://www.ccohs.ca/products/chempendium/databases>.

- html (19 July 2012). (JW)
- Provides essential chemical hazard information for your workplace and the environment. By subscription in CD/Web format; described at website.
- Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN). 2012. Promoting User Engagement. CHIN's TechWatch Spring 2012. <http://www.rcip-chin.gc.ca/sgc-cms/nouvelles-news/anglais-english/?p=3524> (19 July 2012). (JW)
- Entries include: Pinterest and Instagram; Connecting with Technology; Participatory Exhibitions; More Information for Museums (getting started with social media).
- Caple, C., ed. 2011. Preventive Conservation in Museums. Routledge, New York, NY. 624 pp. (ML)
- Carding, J. 2011. Climate change and biodiversity - Lessons from the Australian Museum's experience. Pp. 80-95 in Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Chute, T. 2011. "What do you mean the museum went bankrupt?: lending artifacts to outside institutions." *American Archivist* 74(1):321-322. (LB)
- Clark, A. P. 2012. Seeking success in seeds. *The Plant Press* ns 15(1):1, 10. (RP)
- Discusses US National Herbarium's participation in the Seeds of Success program and collaboration with Bureau of Land Management and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Millennium Seed Bank.
- Demb, S. R. and C. Brunskill. 2012. Records Management for Museums and Galleries: An Introduction. Chandos Publishing, Oxford. 278 pp. (ML)
- Provides overview of records management and gives practical and tested solutions to real world issues and points the readers to additional useful resources.
- Dietrich, C., J. Hart, D. Raila, U. Ravaoli, N. Sobh, O. Sobh and C. Taylor. 2012. InvertNet: a new paradigm for digital access to invertebrate collections. *ZooKeys* 209:165-181. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3571
- Dong, Y. 2011. Build a forward-looking museum of natural history – Preliminary study on function positioning of new Tianjin Museum of Natural History. Pp. 96-113 in Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Donovan, S. K. and M. Riley. 2011. What's in a (wrong) name? Thoughts on the true utility of electronic museum catalogues. *The Geological Curator* 9(6):357-362. (JW)
- Describes the Sedgwick Museum's database and how even incorrect data helped to draw attention to an important fossil association.
- Dorfman, E. 2011a. Being green: San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences leads the way in museum sustainability. *ICOM News* 64(1):6-7. (MK)
- Dorfman, E. 2011b. Museums in a changing world – New challenges, new inspiration. Pp. 64-79 in Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Egorova, M. and S. Pantyulina. 2011. Museum-Society-Nature – From diversity to integration. Pp. 114-121 in Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Eisenman, S. W., A. O. Tucker and L. Struwe. 2012. Voucher specimens are essential for documenting source material used in medicinal plant investigation. *Journal of Medicinally Active Plants* 1(1):30-43. (AP)
- Why vouchering is necessary; examples of how improper vouchers can result in serious problems.
- Endersby, J. 2011. Book Review: *The Skull Collectors: Race, Science, and America's Unburied Dead* by Ann Fabian. Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press, 2010. *Isis* 102(4):776-777. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/664868>. (RP)
- Fabian discusses the human skull collection of Samuel Morton stored at the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in the context of "scientific racism."
- Enright, K. 2012. Horn heists. *National Geographic* 221(2):21. (AP)
- Rhino horns being sawn off from museum mounts in exhibits.
- Falkingham, P. L. 2012. Acquisition of high resolution 3D models using free, open-source, photogrammetric software. *Palaeontologia Electronica* 15(1):1-15. <http://palaeo-electronica.org/content/issue1-2012technical-articles/92-3d-photogrammetry> (19 July 2012). (JW)
- Flemons, P. and P. Berents. 2012. Image based digitisation of entomology collections: leveraging volunteers to increase digitization capacity. *ZooKeys* 209:203-217. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3146
- Freedman, J. 2012. Safe storage and handling of potentially hazardous minerals in natural history collections. *NatSCA News* 22:51-65. (AP)
- Goonatilake, M. P. N. 2011. Biodiversity and climate change in Sri Lanka. Pp. 200-211 in Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Graening, G. O., D. B. Fenolio and M. E. Stay. 2011. Cave Life of Oklahoma and Arkansas: Exploration and Conservation of Subterranean Biodiversity. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK. 226 pp. (JS)
- Profusely illustrated and data-rich compilation of biodiversity data for regional cave life.
- Haston, E., R. Cubey, M. Pulla, H. Atkins and D. J. Harris. 2012. Developing integrated workflows for the digitisation of herbarium specimens using a modular and scalable approach. *ZooKeys* 209:93-102. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3121
- Haston, E., J. 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)
- Numbered list of 479 angiosperm families, arranged phylogenetically to serve need for a linear list to organize herbaria and give order to books.
- Herskovitz, R., T. Gilnes and D. Grabitske. 2012. Building Museums: A Handbook for Small and Mid-Size Organizations. Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN. 176 pp. (AP)
- Hill, A., R. Guralnick, A. Smith, A. Sallans, R. Gillespie, M. Denslow, J. Gross, Z. Murrell, T. Conyers, P. Oboyski, J. Ball, A. Thomer, R. Prys-Jones, J. de la Torre, P. Kociolek and L. Fortson. 2012. The notes from nature tool for unlocking biodiversity records from museum records through citizen science. *ZooKeys* 209:219-233. (AP)
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- Hill, J. B., M. Devitt and M. Drigo. 2011. Improving archeological predictive modeling for the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area. *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship* 8(1 & 2):46-60. (JS)
- Jin, X. 2011. Museum, a civic place for self-learning by trustworthy information. Pp. 122-137 in Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Kaepler, A. L. 2011. *Holphusicon, the Leverian Museum, An Eighteenth century English Institution of Science, Curiosity and Art*. ZKF Publishers, Alstenstadt, Germany. 309 pp. (AP)
- Kageyama, M. 2011. Coping with climate change and biodiversity loss – Activities at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History. Pp. 212-225 in Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Kang, X. and S. Zhao. 2011. Displaying ecological landscapes by the "scenes reappearance" technology – An example provided by Zhejiang Museum

Continued from page 29:

..... *Pubs of Interest*

- of Natural History. Pp. 46-63 in *Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach* (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Kautmanová, I. and J. Kautman. 2011. Rebuilding of the permanent exhibition devoted to the biodiversity of Slovak flora and fauna at the Slovak National Museum – Natural history museum in Bratislava, Slovakia. Pp. 194-199 in *Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach* (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Kerbey, H. C. 2011. Nature's interactive-Curating and displaying flexible sandstone. *The Geological Curator* 9(6):349-352. (JW)
- Kerr, J. 2012. The trophy head project, National Museums Northern Ireland. *NatSCA News* 22:66-70. (AP)
- Kjærsgaard, P. C. 2012. The Fossil Trade: Paying a Price for Human Origins. *Isis* 103(2):340-355. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/666365>. (RP)
- Interesting look at relationships amongst fossils, philanthropy, science, fame, and fortune.
- Klyukina, A. 2011. Biodiversity decline and climate changes in Darwin Museum exhibitions. Pp. 30-45 in *Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach* (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Lambert, J., ed. 2012. *Digital Storytelling Cookbook*. Center for Digital Storytelling, Berkeley, CA. 35 pp. <http://www.storycenter.org/storage/publications/cookbook.pdf> (19 July 2012). (JW)
- More aimed at human history storytelling but may be applicable to developing compelling presentations for the public about various museum topics.
- Lang, S. 2011. Biodiversity and conservation of butterflies in China. Pp. 184-193 in *Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach* (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Larkin, N. 2012a. Adulterating polypropylene containers: not a clear and shut case. *NatSCA News* 22:80-82. (AP)
- Larkin, N. 2012b. Mobile macrophotography. *NatSCA News* 22:14-17. (AP)
- Using a cell phone for macrophotography.
- Lemmon, A. E. 2012. "Learn from the Past: Build for the Future": The Historic New Orleans Collection's Response to Hurricane Katrina. *Museum Archivist* 22(11):6-9. (AP)
- In the first part, the director discusses how their emergency response plan worked, but there were unanticipated difficulties caused by this major regional disaster.
- Lindqvist, K. 2012. Museum finances: challenges beyond economic crises. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 27(1):1-15. (JW)
- Discusses the impact of economic climate on different sources of income in museum financing.
- Liston, J. 2011. The Earth Sciences Review: Twenty years on. *The Geological Curator* 9(6):363-369. (JW)
- The status of geological collections in UK museums.
- Liu, J. Y., C. Liu, A. Zhong, R. Holt, M. Lagace, A. B. Harrold, M. G. Dixon, J. G. Brevnov, L. Shewale and K. Hennessy. 2012. AutoMate Express™ forensic DNA extraction system for the extraction of genomic DNA from biological samples. *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 57(4):1022-1030. (CR)
- López Rosas, W. A., ed. 2010. *Museos, Universidad y Mundialización. La Gestión de las Colecciones y los Museos Universitarios en América Latina y el Caribe*. 189 pp. <http://www.bdigital.unal.edu.co/6002/> (27 July 2012). (JS)
English title: "Museums, University and Globalization: The Management of Collections in University Museums in Latin America and the Caribbean." Anthology of 12 papers and other documents from a symposium of the same name. Publication of a symposia called *Memorias de la I Cátedra Latinoamericana de Museología y Gestión del Patrimonio Cultural* by the Sistema de Patrimonio Cultural y Museos, Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, Columbia.
- Malaro, M. C. and I. P. DeAngelis. 2012. *A Legal Primer on Managing Museum Collections*. 3rd ed. Smithsonian Books, Washington, D. C. 540 pp. (JS)
- The long-awaited revision of one of the standard texts in the field, this thoroughly revised and updated volume is a must-have for anyone managing a museum collection.
- Mantle, B. L., J. La Salle and N. Fisher. 2012. Whole-drawer imaging for digital management and curation of a large entomological collection. *ZooKeys* 209:147-163. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3169
- Marstine, J. C., ed. 2011. *Routledge companion to museum ethics: redefining ethics for the twenty-first century museum*. Routledge, New York, NY. 486 pp. (ML)
- Matassa, F., ed. 2011. *Museum Collections Management: A Handbook*. Facet Publishing, London, England. 258 pp. (MK)
- Meng, Q., ed. 2011a. *Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach*. Annual Meeting of the ICOM International Committee for Museums and Collections of Natural History (ICOM-NATHIST), Shanghai, China, 8-10 November 2010. Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. 277 pp. (MK)
- Meng, Q. 2011b. The Chinese natural history museums developing and assorting with the society. Pp. 2-29 in *Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach* (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Meyers, A. R. W., ed. 2011. *Knowing Nature: Art and Science in Philadelphia 1740-1840*. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT. 417 pp. (JS)
- Richly illustrated, large format volume with 14 essays on themes related to the relationship between art and nature, from scientific illustration to use of nature themes in crafts.
- National Museum of Korea, ed. 2012. *Protecting in the World's Cultural Heritage in Times of Change: Emergency Preparedness and Response*. First International Conference of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), 8-10 December 2011. National Museum of Korea, Seoul, Korea. 419 pp. (MK)
- Natusch, D. J. D. and R. Shine. 2012. Measuring body lengths of preserved snakes. *Herpetological Review* 43(1):34-35. (CR)
- Nelson, G., D. Paul, G. Riccardi and A. R. Mast. 2012. Five task clusters that enable efficient and effective digitization of biological collections. *ZooKeys*:19-45. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3135
- Nyambe, T. S. 2011. The Livingstone Museum and its contribution to biodiversity conservation. Pp. 176-183 in *Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach* (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Oever, J. P. and M. Gofferjé. 2012. 'From Pilot to production': large scale digitisation project at Naturalis Biodiversity Center. *ZooKeys* 209:87-92. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3609
- Ornstein, L. A. x. 2011. Protecting staff from pesticides in museum collections. *Collections* 7(3):315-324. (AP)
- Overview of situation for all museums; survey revealing practices of museums holding arsenic/mercury contaminated material; list of safety guidelines.
- Panchen, Z. A., R. B. Primack, T. Aniśko and R. E. Lyons. 2012. Herbarium specimens, photographs, and field observations show Philadelphia area plants are responding to climate change. *American Journal of Botany* 99:751. (RP)
- Another documented use of herbarium specimens.

- Petrie, W. F. 2012. Un repositorio nacional para la ciencia y el arte; Traducción, notas y palabras preliminares de Irina Podgorny. Cuadernos de Museología:1-53. http://www.museos.unal.edu.co/sccs/plantilla_3.php?id_subseccion=997&id_seccion=5 (27 July 2012). (JS)
- English title: "A National Repository for Science and Art; Translation, Notes, and Preliminary Comments by Irina Podgorny." A translation of Petrie's seminal 1899 paper calling for a large-volume off-site storage facility for London museums, with commentary and historical analysis. A recorded discussion of the publication is available on "Museos en Vivo" from Radio UN under the name, "Un repositorio nacional para la ciencia y el arte" at: <http://www.unradio.unal.edu.co/nc/categoria/cat/museos-en-vivo/pag/2.html>
- Pickstone, J. 2012. Book Review: An Infinity of Things: How Sir Henry Wellcome Collected the World by Frances Larson. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. Isis 103(2):416-417. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/667504>. (RP)
- Although Wellcome's collections are more focused on books and items related to medicine, the scope of collecting and the aftermath of curation seem relevant to SPNHC members.
- Podgorny, I. and M. M. Lopes. 2008. El Desierto en una Vitrina. Museos e Historia Natural en la Argentina, 1810-1890. LIMUSA, Mexico. 379 pp. (JS)
- English title: "The Desert in a Vitrine: Museums and Natural History in Argentina, 1810-1890." A collection of essays on the role of museums and natural history in the development of the Argentine republic. Part of the series *Pesquisas Iberoamericanas Sobre Ciencia y Técnica*.
- Remsen, D., S. Knapp, T. Georgiev, P. Stoev and L. Penev. 2012. From text to structured data: Converting a word-processed floristic checklist into Darwin Core Archive format. *PhytoKeys* 9: 1-13. <http://www.pensoft.net/journals/phytokeys/article/2770/from-text-to-structured-data-converting-a-word-processed-floristic-checklist-into-darwin-core-archive-format> (20 July 2012). (ML)
- Schmidt, S., M. Balk and S. Lafogler. 2012. DScan – a high-performance digital scanning system for entomological collections. *ZooKeys* 209:183-191. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3115
- Schuh, R. T. 2012. Integrating specimen databases and revisionary systematics. *ZooKeys* 209:255-267. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3288
- Scott, T. 2012. Museum Pass. *National Geographic* 221(3):21-23. (AP)
- Photo Journal with commentary, featuring major large-scale dioramas and reflections of visitors.
- Sheffield, C. 2011. Botany field books relocated. *The Plant Press* ns 14(4):8-9. (RP)
- Botanical field books at the Smithsonian have been rehoused as part of the Field Book Project (which is briefly described).
- Smith, V. S. and V. Blagoderov. 2012. Bringing collections out of the dark. *ZooKeys* 209:1-6. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3699
- Sutton, M. D., R. J. Garwood, D. J. Siveter and D. J. Siveter. 2012. SPIERS and VAXML: A software toolkit for tomographic visualisation and a format for virtual specimen interchange. *Palaeontologia Electronica* 15(2). <http://palaeo-electronica.org/content/issue-2-2012-technical-articles/226-virtual-palaeontology-toolkit> (19 July 2012). (JW)
- Tangerini, A. 2012. Recovery of botanical drawings missing from the botanical art collection. *The Plant Press* ns 15(1):8-9. (RP)
- Successful recovery of botanical illustrations with valid ownership claim based on notes in field book.
- Tegelberg, R., J. Haapala, T. Mononen, M. Pajari and H. Saarenmaa. 2012. The development of a digitising service centre for natural history collections. *ZooKeys* 209:75-86. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3119
- Thomer, A., G. Vaidya, R. Guralnick, D. Bloom and L. Russell. 2012. From documents to datasets: a MediaWiki-based method of annotating and extracting species observations in century-old field notebooks. *ZooKeys* 209:235-253. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3247
- Tschopp, E. and G. Dzieski. 2012. 3-Dimensional Reproduction Techniques to preserve and spread paleontological material – a case study with a diplodocid Sauropod neck. *Journal of Paleontological Techniques* 10:1-8. <http://www.jpaleontologicaltechniques.org/pasta3/JPT%20N10/Bulletin.html> (19 July 2012). (JW)
- Discusses various methods of digital three-dimensional scanning and production of reproductions using CNC (computer numerical control) milling.
- Tulig, M., N. Tarnowsky, M. Bevan, A. Kirchgessner and B. M. Thiers. 2012. Increasing the efficiency of digitization workflows for herbarium specimens. *ZooKeys* 209:103-113. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3125
- Tunncliffe, S. D. 2011. Biodiversity and climate change – Learning at natural history dioramas. Pp. 138-161 in *Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach* (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)
- Vetter, J. 2011. Book Reviews: The Second Jurassic Dinosaur Rush: Museums and Paleontology in America at the Turn of the Twentieth Century by Paul D. Brinkman and Barnum Brown: The Man Who Discovered by Lowell Dingus and Mark A. Norell. Isis 102(4):771-772. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/664863>. (RP)
- Vetter's review includes a summary of each book and a good discussion of American paleontology in natural history museums at the turn of the previous century, focusing on three competing US museums: "...ranging from the persistently dominant American Museum, to the assertive upstart Carnegie Museum, and finally to the chronically underfunded Field Museum..." as well as an overview of Barnum Brown, "the greatest dinosaur collector of all time."
- Viscardi, P. 2012. The horns of dilemma: the impact of illicit trade in rhino horn. *NatSCA News* 22:8-13. (AP)
- Vollmar, A., J. A. Macklin and L. S. Ford. 2010. Natural History specimen digitization: challenges and concerns. *Biodiversity Informatics* 7:93-112. (AP)
- Survey (201 international respondents) to determine current situation regarding digitization initiatives in institutions housing natural history, not solely botany, collections; touching on many management issues.
- Webber, W. B., L. J. Ernest and S. Vangapandu. 2011. Mercury exposures in university herbarium collections. *Journal of Chemical Health and Safety* 18(2):11-14*. (AP)
- DOI: 10.1016/j.chas.2010.04.003; *Irregularity between printed pages numbers (11-14) & electronic citation/version page numbers (9 -12)
- Wheeler, Q., T. Bourgojn, J. Coddington, T. Gostony, A. Hamilton, R. Larimer, A. Polasze, M. Schauff and M. A. Solis. 2012. Nomenclatural benchmarking: the roles of digital typification and telemicroscopy. *ZooKeys* 209:193-202. (AP)
- DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.209.3486
- Yeo, R. 2012. Book Review: Pliny's Encyclopedia: The Reception of the Natural History by Aude Doody. Cambridge/New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Isis 103(1):169. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/666408>. (RP)
- Doody provides an overview of the methods/versions by which Pliny's Encyclopedia was made available to scholars in different ages.
- Zhao, B. 2011. Climate change and the duty of natural history museums – Education for sustainable development, the key to tackle climate changes. Pp. 162-175 in *Biodiversity and Climate Change – a multicultural approach* (Meng, Q. ed.). Beijing Science and Technology Press, Beijing, China. (MK)



SPNHC 2013 coming soon!
Rapid City, South Dakota,
June 17-22, 2013

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:

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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 website.

Position Announcements

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



The AAMG represents all of our nation's academic museums, galleries and collections. AAMG members - now approaching 1000! - come from the fields of anthropology, art, history, natural history, and science, from large research universities and small undergraduate colleges. We are committed to modeling and identifying best practices, professional development, educational activities and advocacy.

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- The opportunity to support and contribute to the advocacy of our field

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SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

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.

2012

September 2012

September 8-13, 2012. 2012 Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Annual National Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, USA. For more information, call 301-562-0777, email mdueppen@aza.org or visit <http://www.aza.org/>.

September 17, 2012. Writing Grants for Preservation and Conservation Projects, 2012 Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC) Workshop, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Details available at <http://www.preserveart.org/workshops.html>.

September 18-19, 2012. After a Disaster: Saving and Salvaging Collection Materials and Artifacts, 2012 Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC) Workshop, National Railroad Museum, Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA. Details available at <http://www.preserveart.org/workshops.html>.

September 27, 2012. Fundamentals of Digitization: Selection for Digitization, a live online webinar from Northeast Document Conservation Center. Registration deadline is September 26, 2012. For more information go to <http://www.nedcc.org/education/training.calendar.php>.

October 2012

October 1-5, 2012. Mountain Plains Museums Association (MPMA) 2012 Annual Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA. Conference details available at <http://www.mpma.net/accurent.php>.

October 9-12, 2012. ICOM International Committee for Audiovisual and New Technologies of Image and Sound (AVICOM) 2012 Conference, The Development of New Technologies and the Emergence of New Museology Professions, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. For more information, visit <http://network.icom.museum/avicom/L/10/>.

October 11, 2012. Fundamentals of Digitization: Metadata, a live online webinar from Northeast Document Conserva-

tion Center. Registration deadline is October 10, 2012. For more information go to <http://www.nedcc.org/education/training.calendar.php>.

October 13-16, 2012. Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio, USA. For conference details, visit <http://conference.astc.org/>.

October 17-20, 2012. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) 72nd Annual Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.vertpaleo.org/meetings/>.

October 17, 2012. Use of Digital Collections - Tools and Functional Requirements, a live online webinar from Northeast Document Conservation Center. Registration deadline is October 10, 2012. For more information go to <http://www.nedcc.org/education/training.calendar.php>.

October 18, 2012. Sustaining Digital Collections - Digital Curation and Preservation, a live online webinar from Northeast Document Conservation Center. Registration deadline is October 11, 2012. For more information go to <http://www.nedcc.org/education/training.calendar.php>.

October 21-24, 2012. Western Museums Association (WMA), 2012 Annual Meeting, Palm Springs, California, USA. Conference details available at <http://www.westmuse.org/conferences/>.

November 2012

November 4-7, 2012. 2012 Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting and Exposition, Geosciences: Investing in the Future, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. Go to <http://www.geosociety.org/> for more information.

November 6, 2012. Fundamentals of Digitization: Copyright, a live online webinar from Northeast Document Conservation Center. Registration deadline is November 5, 2012. For more information go to <http://www.nedcc.org/education/training.calendar.php>.

November 7-9, 2012. Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC), New Directions in the Old Dominion: The Re-evolution of Museums, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.semcdirect.net/>.

November 7-9, 2012. New England Museum Association (NEMA), Pushing the Envelope: Innovation and the Future of Museums, Burlington, Vermont, USA. Follow the link at <http://www.nemanet.org/conference.htm> for more information.

November 7-10, 2012. 40th Annual Museum Computer Network (MCN) conference, MCN 2012, The Museum Unbound: Shifting Perspectives, Evolving Spaces, Disruptive Technol-

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.....Calendar of Events*

ogies, Seattle, Washington, USA. Conference details available at <http://www.mcn.edu/mcn-2012-annual-conference>.

November 11-14, 2012. Entomology 2012, the 60th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. Visit the conference website at <http://www.entsoc.org/entomology2012>.

November 15, 2012. Fundamentals of Digitization: Workflow for Digital Projects, a live online webinar from Northeast Document Conservation Center. Registration deadline is November 14, 2012. For more information go to <http://www.nedcc.org/education/training.calendar.php>.

December 2012

December 1, 2012. Conservation Assessment Program Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

December 1, 2012. Museum Assessment Program Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

December 3-4, 2012. Products Used for Display, Storage and Transportation, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. 2-day workshop hosted by the Ontario Museum Association. For more information contact Mary Collier, 416-348-8672 (phone), pd@museumsontario.com (email).

December 4, 2012. Fundamentals of Digitization: Digital Disaster Planning, a live online webinar from Northeast Document Conservation Center. Registration deadline is December 3, 2012. For more information go to <http://www.nedcc.org/education/training.calendar.php>.

2013

January 2013

January 15, 2013. Museums for America grant deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

February 2013

February 1, 2013. National Leadership Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

February 1, 2013. Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries and Museums Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.ims.gov>.

May 2013

May 19-22, 2013. American Association of Museums (AAM) 107th Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo™, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Go to <http://www.aam-us.org/am13/> for more in-

formation.

May 29-June 1, 2013. The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) 41st Annual Meeting, Contemporary in Conservation, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Conference details available at <http://www.conservation-us.org/>.

June 2013

June 14-18, 2013. 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. For details, go to <http://www.mammalsociety.org/meetings>.

July 2013

July 10-15, 2013. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.asih.org/>.

July 26-31, 2013. BOTANY 2013, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Check <http://www.botanyconference.org/> for upcoming details.

August 2013

August 10-17, 2013. The International Council of Museums (ICOM) 23rd General Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For more information, go to <http://icom.museum/events/general-conference/icom-rio-2013/>.

August 11-16, 2013. 11th International Mammalogical Congress, Belfast, Ireland. Conference website at <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/IMC11/>.

Fall 2013

October 27-30, 2013. Geological Society of America (GSA) 125th Anniversary Meeting, Denver, Colorado, USA. Check <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/> for details.

October 30-November 2, 2013. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) 73rd Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA USA. For more information, go to <http://www.vertpaleo.org/meetings/>.

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 Andrew Campbell (andrewc@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2013.

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Bylaws:

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 Rapid City 2013: Sally Shelton (Sally.Shelton@sdsmt.edu)
 Cardiff 2014: Julian Carter (julian.carter@museumwales.ac.uk)

Conservation:

Gretchen Anderson (AndersonG@CarnegieMNH.org)
 Robert Waller (rwaller@mus-nature.ca)

Fluid Collections Research:

Andrew Bentley (abentley@ku.edu)

Risk Assessment Standards

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

Resources (RDU):

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

Documentation:

Marcia Revelez (mrevelez@ou.edu)
 Elizabeth Leith (liz.leith10@gmail.com)

Citations:

Margaret Landis (paleocatstar@ou.edu)

NHCOLL-L List Manager:

Gregory Watkins-Colwell (gregory.watkins-colwell@yale.edu)

Election:

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Finance:

Robert Waller (rwaller@mus-nature.ca)
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Andrew Bentley (ABentley@ku.edu)
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Tiffany Adrain (tiffany-adrain@uiowa.edu)

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Jeff Stephenson (Jeff.Stephenson@dmns.org)
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Publications:

Susan Butts (susan.butts@yale.edu)

Newsletter Editors:

Andrew Campbell (andrewc@ku.edu)
 Lori Schlenker (lschlenk@ku.edu)

Technical Leaflet Editor:

Leslie Skibinski (lskibinski@delmnh.org)

Recognition and Grants:

Jean-Marc Gagnon (jmgagnon@mus-nature.ca)

Web:

Ann Molineux (annm@austin.utexas.edu) (editor)

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Ethics:

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Mentorship:

Andrew Bentley (abentley@ku.edu)

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES/LIAISONS

AIC: Gretchen Anderson (AndersonG@CarnegieMNH.org)

ASIH: Gregory Watkins-Colwell (gregory.watkins-colwell@yale.edu)

ASM: Suzanne B. McLaren (mclarens@carnegieMNH.edu)

ASPT: Richard Rabeler (rabeler@umich.edu)

GBIF: James Macklin (james.macklin@agr.gc.ca)

GSA: Ann Molineux (annm@austin.utexas.edu)

Heritage Preservation: Cathy Hawks (cahawks@aol.com)

IMLS - Museums count - Suzanne McLaren (mclarens@carnegieMNH.edu)

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NSCA: Robert Gropp (rgropp@aibs.org)

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TDWG: James Macklin (james.macklin@agr.gc.ca)



SPNHC Newsletter

Editor: Andrew Campbell
 Division of Herpetology
 Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas
 Dyche Hall
 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard
 Lawrence, KS 66045-7593

Visit SPNHC at <http://www.spnhc.org/>



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