

THE
35th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE
**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

“The Role of Natural History Collections in Global Challenges”

Or, “Managing Collections in Crazy Times”

Online meeting

June 10, 2020

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Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

10 June 2020

Online via Zoom Meeting

1. Call to order.
2. Agenda.
3. Minutes of the 2019 Annual Business Meeting.
4. Report of the President.
5. Report of the Treasurer.
6. Reports of Standing Committees.
 - a. Archives
 - b. Best Practices
 - c. Bylaws
 - d. Conference
 - e. Conservation
 - f. Elections
 - g. Emerging Professionals
 - h. Legislation and Regulations
 - i. Long-Range Planning
 - j. Membership
 - k. Professional Development
 - l. Publications
 - m. Recognition and Grants
 - n. Web Site
7. Reports of Sessional Committees.
 - a. Collection Theft & Security Monitoring in Collections
 - b. Collections and the Biodiversity Crisis
 - c. Education
 - d. International Relations
 - e. US Federal Collections
8. Reports of Representatives (24)
Due to time constraints, please refer to the printed reports.
9. New Business.
 - a. Memoriam
10. Old Business.
11. Announcements.
12. Adjournment.

2019–2020 List of SPNHC Members Serving on Council and Committees

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Barbara Thiers
President-Elect	Debra Trock
Past President	Linda S. Ford
Treasurer	Melinda Peters
Managing Editor	Mariel Campbell
Secretary	Cindy Opitz

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Amanda Lawrence	2017–2020
Deborah Paul	2017–2020
Talia Karim	2018–2021
Fran Ritchie	2018–2021
Paul Mayer	2019–2022
Anna Monfils	2019–2022

STANDING COMMITTEES

Archives Committee

Carol Kelloff	Chair
Lisa F. Palmer	Meghann Toner

Best Practices Committee

Jessica D. Cundiff	Co-chair
Breda Zimkus	Co-chair
Andrew Bentley	Meredith Mahoney
Emily Braker	Amanda Millhouse
Matthew Brown	William Moser
Michelle Coyne	Dirk Neumann
Carrie Eaton	Randy Singer
Leanne Elder	Hayley Singleton
Nicole Fisher	Genevieve Tocci
Anya Friedrichs	Andrew Williston
Magdalena Grenda-Kurmanow	
Carol Kelloff	Dan Young
Carrie Levitt-Bussian	

Citations Subcommittee of Best Practices

Margaret Landis	Chair
Mariko Kageyama	Janet Waddington*
Ann Pinzl	

Bylaws Committee

Linda S. Ford	Chair (Past President)
Laura Abraczinskas	Cindy Opitz (Secretary)
Andrew Bentley	

Conference Committee

Debra Trock, Chair (President-Elect)	
Paul Mayer, Sponsor Liaison, N. America	
Clare Valentine, Sponsor Liaison, Europe	
Angela Morrow	Chicago, 2019
Robert Morris	Dunedin, 2018
Melissa Islam	Denver, 2017
Christiane Quaisser	Berlin, 2016

Emerging Professionals Committee

Kari Harris	Co-chair; Membership Com.
Mariana di Giacomo	Co-chair; IR Committee
Hayley Singleton	Publications Committee
Travis Marsico	Prof. Develop. Com.

Conservation Committee

Rebecca Newberry	Co-chair
Fran Ritchie	Co-chair
Gretchen Anderson	Resources USA
Stephanie Black	Resources Asia
Julian Carter	Resources Europe
Mariana Di Giacomo	Resources S. Amer.
Luci Cipera	Envir/Sustainability
Carolyn Leckie	Envir/Sustainability
Robert Waller	Value Change Estim.
Andrew Bentley	Fluid Collections
Bethany Palumbo	Food Service
Fran Ritchie	Food Service
Lori Benson	
Suzanne B. McLaren	Mark Renczkowski
Armando Mendez	Clare Valentine
Cindy Opitz	Tim White

Election Committee

Bethany Palumbo	Chair
Jean-Marc Gagnon	

Legislation and Regulations Committee

Stephanie D. Carson	Co-chair
Dirk Neumann	Co-chair
Matt Brown	Richard Rabeler
Carol Butler	Rusty Russell
Mariel Campbell	Thomas Schlossleitner
James Erdman	Hayley Singleton
Peter Giere	Skip Skidmore
Chris Huddleston	Jeremiah Trimble
Shelley James	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Esther Langan	David Werneke
Christopher Milensky	Andrew Williston
Bill Moser	Robert Wilson
Patricia Nutter	Breda Zimkus
Diane Pitassy	
Andrew Bentley, Transport of Dangerous Goods	

Fire Safety Subcommittee of Legs & Regs

Paul Morris	Co-chair
Robert Waller	Co-chair
John E. Simmons	Co-chair

* deceased

Long-Range Planning Committee

Debra Trock	Chair (President-Elect)
Suzanne Ryder	Co-chair
Laura Abraczinskas	Bethany Palumbo

Membership Committee

Tiffany Adrain	Chair
Mireia Beas-Moix	Kari Panhorst
Elena Benamy	Ann Pinzl
Richard Busch	Greg Watkins-Collwell
Talia Karim	
Rachel Malloy	Melinda Peters (Treasurer)

Professional Development Committee

Nicholas Drew	Co-chair
Jeff Stephenson	Co-chair
Elise LeCompte	Travel Grants Sub-chair
Travis Marsico	Mentorship Sub-chair
Meghann Toner	Mentorship Sub-chair
Elena Benamy	Gil Nelson
Christina Byrd	Rusty Russell
Kari Harris	

Publications Committee

Mariel Campbell	Chair, Managing Editor, CoFo
Hayley Singleton	Production Assist. Editor
Mariana di Giacomo	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum
Scott Rufolo	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum
Genevieve Tocci	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum
Liath Appleton	Editor, SPNHC Connection
Lori Schlenker	Asst. Ed, SPNHC Connection
Harlan Svoboda	Advertising, SPNHC Conn.
<i>Vacant</i>	Bk Reviews, SPNHC Conn.
Lisa Elkin	Special Publication Editor
Christopher Norris	Special Publication Editor
Breda Zimkus	Editor, Technical Leaflets
Carol Kelloff,	Archives-Chair

Recognition and Grants Committee

Llinda S. Ford	Chair (Past President)
Andrew Bentley	Suzanne B. McLaren
Jean-Marc Gagnon	

Web & Social Media Committee

Liath Appleton	Chair
Lynn Jones	Social Media
Jessica Utrup	NH-COLL-List Mgr., Wiki Rep.
Gabriela Hogue	Events Calendar
James Macklin	

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Coll. Theft & Security Monitoring

Paul Mayer	Co-chair
Rob Zschernitz	Co-chair

Colls and the Biodiversity Crisis

Libby Ellwood	Chair
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Education

Anna Monfils	Chair
Kari Harris	EPC, Co-chair
Nicholas Drew	PDC, Co-chair
Jeff Stephenson	PDC, Co-chair
Julie Bauer	Amanda Lawrence
Carrie Eaton	Molly Phillips
Erica Krimmel	Julie Robinson

International Relations

Sue Ryder	Chair
Mariana Di Giacomo	EPG Liaison
Deborah Paul	Armando Mendez

US Federal Collections

Matt Brown	Chair
Carol Butler	Chris Norris
Janaki Krishna	Sally Shelton

ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC): Erica Wheeler
American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC): Gretchen Anderson
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH): Randy Singer
American Society of Mammalogists (ASM): Suzanne McLaren
American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT): Richard Rabeler
Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS): John E. Simmons
Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG): James Macklin
Collections Stewardship Professional Network, AAM (CS-AAM): John E. Simmons
Entomological Collections Network (ECN): Dan Young
Geological Curators' Group (GCG): (Open)
Geological Society of America (GSA): Chris Tacker
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF): James Macklin
Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF): Lisa Palmer
Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio): Deborah Paul
International Council of Museums—Committee for Collections of Natural History (ICOM-NATHIST): Gretchen Anderson
International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER): Breda Zimkus
Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections—Councils of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (MAHC-CHAH): Shelley James
Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA): Yvette Harvey
Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA): John Bates
Paleontological Society (PaleoSoc): Jessica D. Cundiff
Scientific Collections International (SciColl): Barbara Thiers
Small Collections Network (SCNet): Anna Monfils
Society of Herbarium Curators (SCH): Richard Rabeler
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP): Matthew Brown

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
31 May 2019
Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 S Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois, USA

Members Present: 152

1. **Call to Order**—President Thiers called the meeting to order at 11.30am
2. **Agenda**
Motion: To approve the agenda (found on page 3 of the ABM packet).
Moved: Elana Benamy Seconded: Deb Harkness
Vote: All in favor: All; Opposed: None **Passed unanimously**
3. **Minutes**
Motion: To accept the minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting, held on 28 August 2019, at Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand (found on page 7 of the ABM packet).
Moved: Jeff Stephenson; Seconded: Elise LeCompte
Vote: All in favor: all; Opposed: None **Passed unanimously**
4. **President's Report**
President Barbara Thiers referred to her written report starting on page 10 of the ABM packet, and noted that it's been a great year and she is looking forward to her 2nd year, and that the meeting has been a great opportunity to catch up with those she knew and get to know those she didn't.
5. **Treasurer's Report**
 - Treasurer Ruth O'Leary presented her written report (found on page 12–13 of the ABM packet)
 - O'Leary thanked donors and admonished delinquents to pay their dues.
 - Matt Brown asked whether sales/pubs figure was net or gross; O'Leary clarified that it represents net and is expected to skyrocket with publication of the new book next month.**Motion:** To accept SPNHC new members for 2018 (p.16) and 2019 (p. 17).
Moved: Deb Trock; Seconded: Sue McLaren
Vote: All in favor: All; Opposed: None **Passed unanimously**

Motion: To accept the report of the Treasurer and 2019 budget (p. 15) as amended.
Moved: Gretchen Anderson; Seconded: Matt Brown
Vote: All in favor: All; Opposed: None **Passed unanimously**
President Thiers thanked O'Leary for her amazing work, noting that it's her last time to report as Treasurer, to a round of applause.
6. **Reports of Standing Committees** All referred to their written reports
 - a. Archives – Carol Kelloff
 - b. Best Practices – Breda Zimkus, Jessica Cundiff
 - c. Bylaws – Linda S. Ford
 - d. Conference – Debra Trock
 - e. Conservation –Rebecca Newberry, Fran Ritchie
 - f. Elections – (not present – Bethany Palumbo)—refer to written report on p. 21 of the ABM packet.
 - President Thiers opened the floor for nominees for President/Secretary/2 MaL for election in Fall
 - g. Emerging Professionals – Kari Harris
 - h. Legislation and Regulations - Dirk Neumann, Stephanie Carson
 - i. Long-Range Planning – Barbara Thiers, Sue Ryder
 - j. Membership – Tiffany Adrain

- k. Professional Development – Jeff Stephenson: would like to ask recipients of travel grant or mentors to please come up to stage at adjournment for photos
- l. Publications – Mariel Campbell
- m. Recognition and Grants – Linda S. Ford
- n. Web – Liath Appleton (also SPNHC newsletter editor)

7. Reports of Sessional Committees All referred to their written reports

- a. International Relations – Suzanne Ryder
- b. US Federal Collections – Matthew Brown
- c. Website Redesign – Barbara Thiers

8. Representative Reports (24)

For expediency - See written reports in ABM package.

9. New Business

- a. **Awards:** President Thiers invited Recognition and Awards Committee Chair Linda S. Ford to the stage to present awards.
Ford expressed gratitude to all who helped with the awards process, noting that the society has the privilege of recognizing individuals who make contributions to the Society and our professional field:

- 1. Special Service Award – to the SPNHC Local Organizing Committee representing the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois:
LOC Chair Paul Mayer accepted the award, noting that there are so many to thank that he can't name them all, including Janeen Jones, Christine Niezgoda, and the incomparable Theresa Reilly.
- 2. Special Service Award – to the National Science Collections Alliance (NSCAlliance):
President John Bates expressed gratitude for the award and urged the Society to look up the NSCAlliance if they're not familiar with it, noting that he is pleased that the NSCAlliance is a sister organization to the SPNHC and that SPNHC President Thiers is a board member. Bates sees opportunities to work together and move forward together.
- 3. Special Service Award – to The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS):
Executive Director Robert Gropp extended gratitude to the Society for the recognition, thanking all who have increasingly stepped forward to help with communication, training, and policy, noting that the Society's voice is important for those in Washington DC, and urging members to please keep it up.

Ford noted that the announcement for award nominations will come out shortly and that the Faber Research Award has been changed to the Faber Innovation Award. Ford urged members to look for the announcements and either apply for grants or nominate their SPNHC peers for the recognition awards.

- b. **Upcoming Meetings**

2020: Edinburgh, Scotland – Sankurie Pye, LOC Chair, and Elspeth Hasten, Head of the Royal Botanic Garden thanked Paul Mayer and Theresa Reilly of the Chicago LOC, noting that theirs will be a hard act to follow; the 2020 meeting next year will be jointly hosted by the National Museums Scotland and Royal Botanic Garden (Botanics), both funded by the national government and covering all areas; 2020 will be a big year for Botanics, which will be celebrating its 350th anniversary. The SPNHC—ICOM-NatHist (the Natural History section of the International Council on Museums) meeting is seen as a major part of celebration, and they're excited to be working together, building relationships, and learning from each other. The LOC includes three people from each institution: Sankurie Pye, Nick Fraser, Chante St Clair Inglis;

Rob Cubey, Suzanne Cubey, and Elspeth Hasten, and has taken on a conference organizer, which is off to a good start. The LOC also has support from the Edinburgh City Council and Convention Edinburgh, including financial support, and is looking into accommodations. The meeting website is live and will be formally launched June 1, with call a for workshops. Meeting venues will include McEwen Hall at the University of Edinburgh, which is close to the museum and royal mile, and an adjacent building for sessions; both are close to the center of Edinburgh. The meeting banquet (with dancing) will be held in the grand gallery at the National Museums Scotland; social venues will include the Icebreaker Reception at the Royal Botanic Garden, cèilidh, and quiz night; field trips might include a whiskey distillery, Rosslyn Chapel (associated with the Knights Templar), and Doyt (?) Garden. A video presentation featured scenery local sites and scenery. Pye and Hasten encouraged everyone to attend. President Thiers thanked them and indicated that we're looking forward to meeting there.

Motion: That the membership accepts the invitation from the National Museums Scotland and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to co-host the 2020 meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections.

Moved: Elana Benamy;

Second: James Macklin

Vote: All in favor: All;

Opposed: None

Passed unanimously

James Macklin took the stage to speak about another upcoming opportunity, a large event and merger of many entities; Biodiversity Next will take place in Leiden in October, with participants from CETAF, TDWG, GBIF, LifeWatch, and iDigBio. The meeting represents a massive initiative by somewhat different groups, and will be divided into science, policy, infrastructure, and standards. GBIF will hold its governing board and nodes meetings beforehand, and there will be other spinoff meetings as well. Registration is already open and abstracts nearly done. Macklin noted that he would like to see everyone in Leiden in October.

10. Old Business

In memoriam – Elana Benamy took the stage to recognize deceased SPNHC members, noting that her first SPNHC meeting was there in Chicago in 1990, that SPNHC has been an important part of her professional life, and that she has learned so much, but beyond that, she found friends in the Society and even though she saw them only once a year, she always anticipated meeting them again, learning from them, and drawing inspiration and energy from them. Benamy noted that this year she was thinking of the people she wouldn't see anymore and organized a public acknowledgment of their passing and contributions to the Society, by colleagues that worked closely with them and knew them best:

Linda Ann Hollenberg (1953–2018) – Rusty Russell. Russell noted that it was fitting that this tribute was happening during a business meeting, as these people dedicated much time to the business of SPNHC; Russell emphasized the importance of attending and committing in many ways. Russell expressed that he was honored to talk about Linda Hollenberg, who was first hired at the National Herbarium in 1980 and was in service to the Smithsonian Herbarium for nearly 2/3 of her life and all of her adult life, with a hand in all aspects of operations. Russell highlighted her ability to keep specimens alive when the new construction plunged the greenhouse into total shade for four months of winter, to maintain records for 50,000 specimens, to manage space through every major specimen shift over three decades, and to read blueprints (better than any architect, and to catch their mistakes). Russell noted that Hollenberg looked forward to the SPNHC meeting each year, where she made many close friends, and that she spent 15 years cochairing the Education and Training Committee and served as archivist for the last 11 years. Russell shared that for as long as he could remember, Hollenberg's weekend plans invariably involved birding, banding, or wandering a wilderness area in West Virginia. Russell mentioned that Hollenberg's husband, Addison Wynn, wanted to make sure that everyone knew how generous she was with her time and wallet. Russell noted that when Hollenberg retired in 2014, she took on biggest challenge of

her life, with amazing determination and humor; one of her regrets was that she would not be able to vote in 2020. Upon her retirement, Hollenberg was memorialized in the naming of a new species of Acanthaceae: *Mendoncia hollenbergiae*. Linda Hollenberg passed away in April 2018.

Stephen Lory Williams (1948–2018) – Sue McLaren. McLaren noted that Williams was a colleague at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and that she received word of his passing just before she left for the August 2018 SPNHC meeting in New Zealand. McLaren, Hugh Genoways, and Cathy Hawks put together his obituary for the SPNHC Connection newsletter (March 2019 issue), where there is a link to a bibliography of his publications and much detail about his life. McLaren provided some highlights: Williams began his academic career at Texas Tech, earning his first master's degree in zoology, researching pocket gophers—he spent a lot of time in field, chasing pocket gophers; McLaren point out that most people don't want pocket gophers around, so people invited Williams to deal with their pocket-gopher problems. Williams received his second master's degree in a new museum science program in 1975, then came to the Carnegie Museum. Williams was the first to hold the title of collection manager (Hugh Genoways taught in the museum science program, where the CM title was born). Williams continued to focus on mammals for the next 10 years, conducting field work in many places, some of which were accessible only by helicopter. Williams was key in establishing the information that coerced the Surinam government to establish national parks. Williams and colleagues did field work in Surinam, New Guinea, India, many places in the New World tropics, and all over the US. In May 1985, Williams and McLaren drove to Toronto to attend the second workshop on collection care by the Royal Ontario Museum, then got together to make it something more formal. Williams actively recruited others from the US and Canada to put together a meeting at the Buffalo Museum of Science in November 1985, where SPNHC was formed. Williams influenced and inspired many people in the field of natural history collections, led Cathy Hawks to become a natural history conservator, and changed the course of Carol Leckie's career, for example. McLaren noted that Williams was a strong moving force that often worked behind the scenes and didn't take direct credit for his accomplishments.

Ann Molineux (1942–2018) – Tiffany Adrain: Adrain noted that Ann Molineux was involved in SPNHC for the last 19 years, received the Faber Research Grant in 2005, served as a SPNHC member-at-large and secretary, and chaired the Web Committee and was instrumental in helping to develop our current website. Molineux also represented SPNHC to the Geological Society of America and championed the digitization and accessibility of paleontology collections, for research and public education—often the topic of her many published papers and presentations. Molineux also served as Director of Museum Operations and Curator of the Non-Vertebrate Paleontological Laboratory in the Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin. Adrain shared a personal anecdote as testimony to Molineux's absolute kindness, enthusiasm, and joyful sense of fun, and that other SPNHC members have noted her wonderful companionship and willingness to share her time and curation expertise as well. Adrain quoted one of Molineux's friends, saying, "As we go about our work, in our collections, training new students and digitizing specimens, we are carrying on the work she deeply loved." The Ann Molineux Excellence Fund at the Jackson School of Geosciences, UT Austin, was set up to further Molineux's goals, aspirations, and dreams for the continued development of the UT NPL collections.

Jean Frances DeMouthe (1949–2017) – Deb Trock: Trock noted that Jean DeMouthe attended the first SPNHC meeting and continued active membership until her death in 2017. In addition to her leading roles in SPNHC, DeMouthe was active in gem and mineral organizations, taught museum studies students at San Francisco State University, and took Trock on when she came to academy, saying, "Has anybody showed you around this place? Come with me..." Trock shared a video from the California Academy of Sciences, where Jean worked for 44 years, in which many colleagues commented on DeMouthe (snippets from many interviewees): "she put a beautiful geological spell on us," and was "like the

Beyonce of collections, or Elvis”; when hired in 1973, DeMouthe “told her supervisor if he hired her, he would not be able to get rid of her.” She “loved rocks, loved minerals,” “really loved even chemical composition,” and “really loved specimen care,” was “passionate about collections management,” was “never afraid to ruffle feathers,” was a “very strong, rather feisty collections advocate, a badass,” “always a bit of a breath of fresh air,” “didn’t mince words,” and had a “fierce, unapologetic nature.” She “always made sure there were reasons to celebrate,” and was the “first to come up with the happy birthday dirge.” DeMouthe “really loved sharing the collections with other people.” [For more about DeMouthe’s career, see “In Memoriam,” SPNHC Connection, November 2018.]

President Thiers thanked Benamy again for organizing the In Memoriam part of the meeting.

11. Announcements

President Thiers announced that the California Academy of Sciences has expressed interest in hosting the 2021 meeting, thanks to Deb Trock.

- Thiers also thanked our two outgoing Members-at-Large, whose terms are ending – Miranda Lowe (2016–2019), & Melinda Peters (2017–2019), and welcomed our two new Members-at-Large – Paul Mayer and Anna Monfils, and new Treasurer, Melinda Peters, whose appointments are now beginning.

12. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the Annual Business Meeting.

Moved: Jeff Stephenson; Seconded: Tim White

The meeting was adjourned at: 12:38 pm by President Barbara Thiers.

Report of the President

30 April 2020

To prepare for this report, I did what I usually do as first step: I re-read my previous report, which was written in late January. Although only a little over three months ago, it feels as though it were written in a different epoch—almost nothing that I mentioned as upcoming events in that report has unfolded as described.

What has changed due to COVID-19?

As you all know by now, the 2020 conference in Edinburgh has been postponed until 2022. This was a difficult decision, and it has serious financial implications for our host institutions. We are very lucky that they are committed to hosting the conference in two years. I realize these are difficult times financially for everyone, but if you already paid your registration and can see your way clear to leaving it with the organizers as a pre-payment for the 2022 conference, it would help our organizers tremendously in meeting their financial obligations. To fill the gap in our hearts and schedules, we are planning to host an online conference this year—see below for more details.

In my last report, I mentioned a couple of other upcoming conferences of potential interest to SPNHC members. The Digital Data 2020 conference that was to be held in 1–3 June at Indiana University in Bloomington will be held as a virtual conference—you can find more information about registration and the program here: <https://www.idigbio.org/content/digital-data-2020-harnessing-data-revolution-and-amplifying-collections-biodiversity>. The other conference I mentioned was the Biodiversity Summit 2020, which was going to be held in September 2020. This conference has been postponed until the fall of 2021, although the annual meeting of the NSF-funded TCN projects will take place in the fall of 2020, as a virtual meeting.

In my last report, I indicated that the publication of two reports on collections was imminent. However, unsurprisingly, publication has been delayed for both the review of the role of federal collections by the Interagency Working Group for Scientific Collections (IWGSC) and the report on biological collections by National Academy of Sciences and Engineering. The NASEM report

is now scheduled for release in June 2020.

I also indicated in my report that with the publication of these reports, we would finally be in a position to ramp up for a strategic planning exercise—something I've been talking about for two years now. However, for a whole host of reasons, now does not seem to be the right time to embark on this effort. I am glad that some of the activities we are working on currently will further goals laid out in the current plan—read on for more information about that!

What is SPNHC doing during this period of closure of most of our institutions?

Virtual SPNHC Conference. As I hope you are aware by now, we are planning to hold a virtual SPNHC conference this year, at the same time as the Edinburgh conference was scheduled. (7-13 June). We are delighted that ICOM-NATHIST is partnering with us on this virtual conference. Presenters will be given the option of presenting live or recording their presentation through Zoom and we plan on having a plenary session, symposia, posters, committee meetings, as well as our obligatory Council and ABM meetings. The virtual conference committee members (Andy Bentley, Elspeth Haston, Shelley James, Talia Karim, Amanda Lawrence, Paul Mayer, Rebecca Newberry, Cindy Opitz, Deb Paul, and ICOM-NATHIST representatives Christel Schollaardt and Dorit Wolenitz), and Deb Trock and I have been meeting weekly to plan the conference. Converting an in-person conference to a virtual one is new for all of us, and the learning curve is fairly steep. Still, plans are beginning to take shape, and I hope you will join me in thanking the committee members for their willingness to take on this important job. Although there is much we will lose in a virtual conference, there are some potential gains. We have the opportunity to reach a much broader audience, and especially to involve collections professionals in countries around the world from which participation in our in-person meeting has traditionally been limited. One of the goals of our current strategic plan was to broaden international participation in our society, and a virtual conference that is open to all, either in real time or through recordings is a tangible step toward this goal.

Collections in the virtual classroom: In order to contribute to one of the key SPNHC objectives of increasing use of natural history collections in education programs, last year I created the sessional Education committee, to be led by Member-At-Large member Anna Monfils. Through her work in this role and as lead PI on the BLUE (Biodiversity Literacy in Undergraduate Education) project, Anna has led an effort this Spring to help undergraduate biology professors use collections and collections-derived data to engage their students in the virtual classroom. She created “Extending Specimens: Curators in the Classroom” (<https://www.biodiversityliteracy.com/new-online-tools>) which consists of three learning modules: Nature's Flying Machines, an exploration of form and function in birds; Butterflies and Phenology; and a module on human evolution and co-evolution of parasites called, “A Tale of Three Lice.” Many thanks to Anna for her creativity and energy, and her skill in bringing colleagues together to provide a meaningful and appropriate learning experience. It would be great to see more such modules developed by SPNHC members.

Collections Community Survey: In collaboration with the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA) and the Biodiversity Collections Network, SPNHC released a survey to begin to determine the effect of COVID-19 related closures on biodiversity collections in the U.S. (<https://bcon.aibs.org/2020/04/06/covid-19-pandemic-impact-survey/>). The period for this survey was 1–30 April 2020. The results of this survey, and possibly those of a follow-up survey in the fall, will hopefully help to quantify the effects of prolonged closure on our community, and suggest a focus for the work we need to do in the future to maintain a vibrant collections community.

ViralMuse: Positioning collections for response to the current and future global emergencies. SPNHC is participating in current discussions with NSCA, iDigBio, and others about how biological collections can be mobilized to address the question of the origin of the COVID-19 virus, and more generally how data from collections can inform a response to future global emergencies. Designed as a parallel group to the European COVID-19 Task Force, ViralMuse is meeting regularly with that group, and is working on a position paper and other ways to continue the conversation about how to improve the way we make, store, and share information from biological specimens so that they can be mobilized to respond to emergencies more quickly in the

future.

What Next?

Only days after I became President of SPNHC at the end of August 2018, the Museu Nacional of Rio de Janeiro burned to the ground, destroying a significant part of the natural history collections heritage of Brazil. This was an incalculable loss, but the widespread coverage of the incident did help to focus attention on the value and needs of collections and provided a tragic but powerful lesson about the need for proper collections infrastructure. Despite that sad beginning, I have found much to be encouraged about with regard to collections during my term as SPNHC President. The trend toward a renewed appreciation for their scientific and educational value has continued, thanks in part at least to a decade of support for collections digitization by NSF, funding of the BLUE initiative, the birth of DISSCo for European collections, and several different efforts to chart a course for the future of collections and collections data. Although collectively collections professionals tend toward the “glass half empty” camp, I think I have perceived an increased sense of optimism in our ranks.

However, marking the end of my term as President we find another setback for natural history collections in the prolonged closure and loss of revenue to our supporting institutions. Although hopefully some collections will emerge relatively unscathed, for others it will be very difficult to return pre-COVID levels of funding for collections in the short term, maybe even in the long term. SPNHC must play a central role in mitigating the effect of the pandemic on natural history collections.

Most immediately, we need ongoing discussions about strategies for reopening in a way that finds the proper balance between facilitating critical collections-based research and protecting the health of collections maintenance staff. We also need to think about how best to support our membership during the period of hardship that many are facing because of furloughs and layoffs by their institutions. We must be on the lookout constantly for activities in which our membership can share and expand their knowledge so that we maintain an engaged and well-informed community of collections professionals. Most importantly, we need to continue our productive partnership with other organizations with overlapping concerns—there will certainly be strength in numbers.

It's been a great pleasure to serve as your President. I thank the SPNHC Executive Committee and Council, committee chairs and society representatives for their hard work over the past two years, and the advice and support they have given me on many occasions. All the best to our incoming President Deb Trock and President-Elect Paul Mayer on guiding the society into what I think will be a bright future, if we are willing to rise to the challenge.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara M. Thiers, SPNHC President

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

In 2019, the Society's total net assets increased to \$424,377 from a total of \$333,753 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2019 totaled \$438,493. Operating income was generated from three sources: membership dues, publication sales, and advertising in the Newsletter. A total of \$35,819 in membership dues was received. Sales of our six publications plus royalty payments brought in \$2,219. Advertising in the Newsletter generated \$1,920 in income. A total of \$20,145 in donations was received.

Forty-two subscribers and 610 individuals, institutional, corporate and student members were active for the year 2019. Of the 652 SPNHC members in 2019, 184 joined for the first time.

Major expenses for the Society in 2019 were \$13,083 for publication expenses related to the new storage book, \$11,038 for the publication of *Collection Forum* Vol. 31 (2017), \$5,000 for the annual meeting loan to the Edinburgh LOC, \$3,750 for the Christine Allen and Fitzgerald Travel

grants, \$3,350 for the design of the new website, \$1,700 for membership booth space rental and transportation to meetings, and \$1,080 for printing extra copies of *Storage: Ideas and Museum Studies*.

Additional expenses include \$750 for the sponsorship of annual congressional district visits, \$490 for online hosting of the Spring 2019 Newsletter and \$275 for annual fees to Cross Ref/PILA.

The Treasurer's Office incurred the following expenses: \$6,240 for the 2018 financial review, tax preparation and filing, \$695 in merchant fees, \$538 for insurance, \$262 in annual fees for the PO box rental, and \$228 for the annual fee for QuickBooks.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments saw a market value gain of \$19,068 while the money market account earned \$5,178 in dividends and interest. The CD account earned \$92 in interest.

The first part of 2020 has seen good income activity. By April 30, \$20,985 has been received from membership dues, including deferred dues paid in 2019. As of April 30, 2020, we have 480 active members, including Life members.

Membership renewals included 26 student, 334 individual, 14 library/subscriptions, and 22 institutional. As of April 30, 60 new members have joined for 2020, of which 17 are student memberships, 2 are institutional, and the remainder are individual. By May 26, 301 members who paid in 2019 had yet to renew for 2020.

Please pay your dues on time.

In the first quarter of 2020 sales of all our publications, (including the new storage book published in 2019) totaled \$22,680. We have received \$4,895 in unrestricted donations and \$300 in restricted donations. A sincere thank you to all.

Expenses incurred in 2020 as of April 30 include \$18,286 for publication expenses related to the new storage book, \$8,516 for *Collection Forum* Vol. 32 (2018), \$1,001 for membership booth space rental and transportation to meetings in 2019, \$275 for annual fees to Cross Ref/PILA, and \$255 for the 2019 election \$866 in merchant fees. The Society anticipates expenses related to publications, insurance premiums, the Faber Award, the trade show booth, and 2020 online election.

Please contact the SPNHC President for further details.

For their help throughout the year, and especially in recent weeks I would like to extend thanks to Barbara Thiers (New York Botanical Garden), Linda Ford (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University), Debra Trock (California Academy of Sciences), Cindy Opitz (Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa), Mariel Campbell (Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico), Tiffany Adrain (University of Iowa), Lisa Palmer (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History) and Suzanne McLaren (Carnegie Museum of Natural History).

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth O'Leary, Past Treasurer

For the 2019 financial review, please see Appendix 1.

FY2019 Donations

Since April 1, 2019

Tiffany Adrain
Jonathan Armbruster
James Beach
Cord Eversole
Lowell Flanders

Hollinger Metal Edge
Sheila Koons
Barbara Thiers
Vicky Wang
Russell D. White

Thank You

FY2020 Donations

As of April 30, 2020

Mariel Campbell
Susan Merridy Cox
Erling Holm
Jessie Liu-Ernsting
Will Rado

Arnold Suzumoto
University Products
Russell D. White
E. Scott Wood

Thank You

FY 2019 SPNHC Operating Budget

01 January–31 December 2019

INCOME	Projected	Realized	Variance
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$32,000	\$35,819	\$3,819
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$500	\$0	(\$500)
(3) Publication Sales	\$31,275	\$2,219	(\$29,056)
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$500	\$530	\$30
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$150	\$0	(\$150)
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$20,000	\$19,374	(\$626)
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$2,500	\$771	(\$1,729)
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$2,000	\$1,920	(\$80)
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$17,645	(\$10,346)	(\$27,991)
TOTAL INCOME	\$106,570	\$50,288	(\$56,282)
EXPENSES	Projected	Realized	Variance
(10) Annual meeting loan	\$5,000	\$5,040	\$40
(11) Election Committee	\$500	\$0	(\$500)
(12) Executive Contingency Fund	\$999	\$0	(\$999)
(13) Membership Committee	\$2,500	\$1,700	(\$800)
(14) Publication Committee	\$73,071	\$26,040	(\$47,031)
(15) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$5,000	\$3,760	(\$1,240)
(16) Treasurer's Office	\$11,000	\$8,309	(\$2,691)
(17) Web Committee	\$4,500	\$3,530	(\$970)
(18) President's Contingency Fund	\$2,500	\$750	(\$1,750)
(19) Best Practices	\$1,500	\$1,159	(\$341)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$106,570	\$50,288	(\$56,282)

FY 2020 SPNHC Operating Budget

01 January–31 December 2020

(as of April 30, 2020)

INCOME	Projected	Realized	Variance
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$25,000	\$20,985	(\$4,015)
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$500	\$0	(\$500)
(3) Publication Sales	\$61,000	\$22,680	(\$38,320)
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$500	\$0	(\$500)
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$150	\$0	(\$150)
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$5,000	\$4,895	(\$105)
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$1,500	\$300	(\$1,200)
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$4,150	\$0	(\$4,150)
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	(\$10,935)	\$0	\$10,935
TOTAL INCOME	\$86,865	\$48,860	(\$38,005)
EXPENSES	Projected	Realized	Variance
(10) Election Committee	\$650	\$255	(\$395)
(11) Executive Contingency Fund	\$999	\$0	(\$999)
(12) Membership Committee	\$2,500	\$1,001	(\$1,499)
(13) Publication Committee	\$68,266	\$27,337	(\$40,929)
(14) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$1,400	\$144	(\$1,256)
(15) Treasurer's Office	\$11,400	\$1,207	(\$10,193)
(16) Web Committee	\$400	\$240	(\$160)
(17) President's Contingency Fund	\$1,250	\$0	(\$1,250)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$86,865	\$30,185	(\$56,680)

New Memberships Received in 2019, Since April 1, 2019

Regular Members

Jeffrey Back
Kelsey Falquero
Caroline Grounds
Allison Izaksonas

Meghan Newman
Murat Recevik
Philippe Ste-Marie
Mariane Targino

Carmi Thompson
Meghan Truckey
Martha Velez

Student Members

Alexis Brooks
Alexis Garretson
Erin Jane Lapasaran
Megan Mosier

Jessica Paoletti
Boikhutso Rapalai
Gabriela Sepulveda
Maiz

Emily Thorpe
Ngoc Nhu Tran

New Memberships Received in 2020, As of April 30, 2020

Institutional Members

Cleveland Museum of Natural History, USA
EcoTarium, USA

Regular Members

Gary Aronsen
Theresa Barclay
Paula Barteau
Ashley Bordelon
Wessel Broekhuis
Allison Bronson
Amy Byrne
Silvia Irene Carrasquero
Joel Cohen
Amalia Diaz
Ashley Dineen
Shauna Edgar
Igor Fadeev
Patti Pinkle

Bruce Forrest
Ellory Foutch
Jeremy Frank
Jennifer Gallichan
Biyas Ghosh
Isla Gladstone
Roy Halling
Simon Harris
John Harwick
Jasmine Heckman
Cynthia Hong Wa
Kayla Kramer
Lennart Lennuk
Felix Maier

Daniel Markbreiter
Larkin McCormack
Sahra McFetridge
Catalina Merino
David Ocampo
Eric Post
Constance Rinaldo
Roberta Salmaso
Larry Schmidt
Jordan Teisher
Jennifer Trimble
Laura Wilson
Harriet Wood

Student Members

Ella Berry
Hannah Cantrell
Shu Dan
Clara Hairie
Rebecca Heidenfelder
Kevin Krajcir

Sarah McInerney
Samantha Ocon
Jordan Oldham
Natalie Raia
Anastasia Rashkova
Laura Sodano

Jenifer Spainhower
Marissa Talamantes
Andrea Uehling
Jordan Zajac
Baptiste Zuber

Member-at-Large Reports

TALIA KARIM

I have been serving on the SPNHC Biodiversity Crisis Committee headed by Libby Ellwood, since its formation in August 2019. I am also part of the SPNHC 2020 online-meeting organization team.

AMANDA LAWRENCE

This season I met with the Education Sessional Committee, where we discussed ways that SPNHC contributes to formal and informal education. The Sessional Committee is working with the Emerging Professionals Committee and the Professional Development Committee to identify areas of improvement regarding education and training. I've also worked with the Mentorship subcommittee, which is within the Professional Development Committee, to help produce a frequently asked questions page for the 2020 conference. I am working with the subcommittee to develop an evaluation form for the upcoming mentorship program.

PAUL MAYER

Has been part of the SPNHC 2020 online-meeting organization team.

ANNA MONFILS

See Education Sessional Committee report, p. 31; SCNet Representative Report, p. 45.

DEBORAH PAUL

SPNHC, Collections, and Us in the Era of COVID-19

As the world shifts under us and we begin to adjust (in some fashion) to a situation whose resolution remains worryingly fuzzy, I'm reminded of the memories my father would share from his childhood during the Great Depression and WWII. Certainty, the unspoken comfortable expectation of a guaranteed routine, and a reliable supply of staples were not features of either of these eras. I simultaneously wish my Poppa was still on the planet and am (sad to say) glad he left in 2008. In (re)constructing our day-to-day lives, most of us seem to be living in "perpetual beta," both for our work lives and our home lives. We note other changes around us too, in economies, nature, and ecosystems.

For SPNHC—ICOM-NATHIST 2020, it meant moving the Edinburgh meeting to an online version in a very short time. Everyone on the planning team worked diligently to bring this event to life. Beyond the meeting itself, we are creating new options for future meetings—and learning how we can make meetings more inclusive by offering online options. To organize this new event, we are finding the Slack application quite useful to help the planning committee work together across many time zones. Hopefully, we can move to offering Slack as a benefit to SPNHC members—supporting the vision to expand SPNHC members' international access and participation.

In another sense, this COVID-19 pandemic, zoonoses, and pathogens in general provide key opportunities to highlight the value of collections and foster much-needed cross-discipline collaboration and changes in standards of practice. For these reasons, SPNHC, iDigBio, NSCA, folks from the Mammalogy, Virology, and Disease Ecology worlds formed a ViralMuse task force. (Stay tuned for more details). In addition, members of SPNHC, GBIF, and iDigBio, Pensoft, Plazi, and others from the US Mammalogy, Virology, and Disease Ecology worlds joined the short-term COVID-19 Task Force convened by CETAF and DiSSCo.

While all of the above highlight reactive responses to COVID-19, collections digitization needs to evolve in light of this pandemic too to be proactive. Groups like Picturae have begun to work out how they can incorporate "social distancing" into workflows. Very likely you are (re)writing your

(re)opening plans, and pandemic disaster preparedness plans and digitization will be included in them. Others seek new ways to speed up digitization and georeferencing. Notes from Nature documents a great increase in online public participation in transcription.

Please note the Digitization Wiki at SPNHC continues to evolve and was recently updated. It currently needs a section on Digital Asset Management (DAMs), as well as writing Data Management Plans. We now need a section on digitization workflows with social-distancing built in. If you know of great resources / examples of these, please do contribute them.

I'd like to close by saying how much I look forward to SPNHC 2022 in Edinburgh. We will have learned much by then, most of which we never expected to. Much will be accomplished too, in harnessing the power of collections and collections staff to be part of addressing any future "spillover" events.

My last piece as SPNHC MaL, it's been a privilege and honor. Thank you for the opportunity and your confidence in me. This is an amazing organization (but you know that).

FRAN RITCHIE

See Conservation Committee report, p. 21.

Standing Committee Reports

ARCHIVES

2019 End of Year Report, 30 December 2019. The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) houses the archives of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). SIA currently holds 16 deposits of SPNHC material totaling 23.5 cubic feet. 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.

The members of the archive committee act as liaison between SIA and SPNHC. In preparation for the transfer to SIA, the documentation and material related to the activity of the Society are organized in archival boxes and a "finding aid" typed for each box. The material is arranged in folders with year, type of documentation and a brief summary of the folder's content. When known, files received from individuals are noted. Although the Society has moved to electronic publications, these are printed and cataloged for deposit. The finding aid along with the boxes are transferred to SIA, where an accession number is assigned to the deposit and the finding aid uploaded to the SIA website.

Material, documentation, images, and publications have been received from various sources and individuals since the formation of this Archive Committee. Twelve cubic feet of material dating from 1982–2018 has been processed and transferred to SIA on 14 August 2019, under the Accession number 19-198 (see attached "finding aid"). To find other material deposited at SIA go to <https://siarchives.si.edu/collections/search?query=SPNHC>.

Many of the Archive holdings are located off-site. If copies of material are needed, or if you need to consult an accession, please contact SIA Reference Team at osiaref@si.edu to retrieve records.

As we now move into the digital age, the question about how to process and store electronic images and photographs is being discussed. The Committee is working with SIA and will be transferring this digital material to the archives later in 2020.

The Committee did have one request for material from the SI Archives this year. The 2001 Collection Forum, vol. 17 was missing from the SPNHC website. A request was submitted to SIA and within the week a digital copy was produced and now can be accessed via the SPNHC website.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kelloff, Chair

BEST PRACTICES

The Best Practices Committee had its first virtual committee meeting via Zoom in early February, before this video conferencing application became part of daily life for everyone. The meeting was organized to test out the new Zoom account, discuss ongoing wiki projects, and begin to transition the new committee co-chairs, Emily Braker and Genevieve Tocci. If other SPNHC committees would like to use the account to host a meeting, please contact the committee co-chairs to request a meeting date/time and be provided with login credentials.

In the light of many museums and collections closing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Breda Zimkus created a Continuity of Operations page (https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/Continuity_of_Operations), with information gained from her role in transitioning staff of Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology to remote work. Continuity of Operations will likely be an important topic at the upcoming virtual meeting, so we expect to add perspectives from other institutions and additional information as a result of both presentations and discussions. If others would like to contribute to this topic, they are welcome to add content to the wiki page directly or email Breda (bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu), if they do not have a SPNHC wiki account.

There are a number of other additions to the SPNHC wiki. Andy Bentley created an Accession of Specimens page (https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/Accession_of_Specimens), based on acquisition policies and procedures used at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute. Andy has also added new information on vermiculite and more detailed packing information to the Shipping and Handling of Dangerous Good page (https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/Shipping_and_Handling_of_Dangerous_Goods).

We have been honored to serve as co-chairs for the Best Practices Committee for the past five years, and we are proud of the progress made to enable an infrastructure that allows best practices to develop and evolve in response to new knowledge and innovations. We plan to continue to make contributions to the Best Practices Committee under the guidance of the new committee co-chairs, and we look forward to working with them in this endeavor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Cundiff and Breda Zimkus, Co-chairs

BYLAWS

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

Bylaws: No changes have been proposed to the Society Bylaws.

Leadership Manual: A major overhaul of the Committees' Leadership Manuals (LM) was accomplished this year, owing to the rollout of the new SPNHC website. All 14 Standing Committees' LMs were altered from a PDF and posted via an active format. Standing Committee Chairperson(s) were responsive to these updating efforts and took the opportunity to make significant changes to their respective LMs. Updating efforts subsequently shifted to the Sessional Committees LMs and the majority were finalized with a remaining few in the final stages. The Committee also looked at the defunct SPNHC Committees in an effort to capture

historical info.

Discussions were ongoing with the Archives Committee on the transferring of updated procedural documents.

Since this committee is chaired by the SPNHC Past-president, this is my last year as its Chair. I want to express my gratitude to the committee members, especially Laura Abraczinskas, whose personal efforts was integral to the accomplishments and success of the committee.

Respectively submitted,
Linda S. Ford, Chair

CONFERENCE

As you are all aware, the plans for our 2020 meeting, which was to have been hosted with ICOM-NATHIST at the National Museums of Scotland, has been postponed to June 4–10, 2022. As our colleagues work to adjust their plans for the meeting, they will be posting updates on-line at <http://www.spnhc-icomnathist2020.com/>.

A small group of SPNHC members have been volunteering their time to plan a virtual SPNHC 2020 meeting. At the time of this writing, the committee is planning to put together a schedule which will include presented papers, potential plenary speakers, a virtual Council Meeting and Annual Business Meeting, as well as Committee Meetings and possibly Special Interest Group Meetings. It is, as yet, unknown if there will be workshops offered virtually.

At the present time, the 2021 meeting—which was to have been hosted by the California Academy of Sciences—is also up in the air. The Academy has determined that it will be unable to host in 2021. We anticipate a much-reduced attendance, due to staff layoffs and budgetary constraints, and have determined that holding the meeting in San Francisco, as planned, is not an option.

Fortuitously, we were contacted by Ruth Seyler, who is the Membership and Meetings Director for AIC (American Institute for Conservation), regarding the possibility of conducting a joint meeting next year. Their meeting is to be held in Jacksonville, Florida, at the Hyatt Regency, from May 11–15. We are currently exploring this possibility and will be discussing this potential change during our virtual 2020 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Trock, Chair

CONSERVATION

MATERIALS SELECTION AND SPECIFICATION WORKING GROUP (MWG)

The Materials Selection and Specification Working Group (MWG) is a community of collection care, conservation, analytical science, and allied professionals united in developing guidelines and best practices for selecting, evaluating, and disseminating materials used in collection care.

The MWG held its third meeting in the fall of 2019, at the American Museum of Natural History and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Several Conservation Committee members are in the MWG, and we are working to integrate and update the RDU information into the larger MWG platform. You can keep up with the MWG at http://www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Materials_Working_Group

PUBLICATIONS

The Conservation Committee would like to commend the editors and contributors of the book *Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage* for an excellent publication. We encourage those who care for collections to check out the chapter abstracts on the SPNHC Wiki.

PORTABLE LEARNING

The Committee is focusing on providing more communications and resources for the SPNHC membership and the museum field as a whole. Members are currently working on creating and updating the National Park Service Conserve-O-Grams, as well as creating SPNHC Leaflets and "How-Tos." These resources are short publications designed to offer practical information on collection care for our specific types of materials.

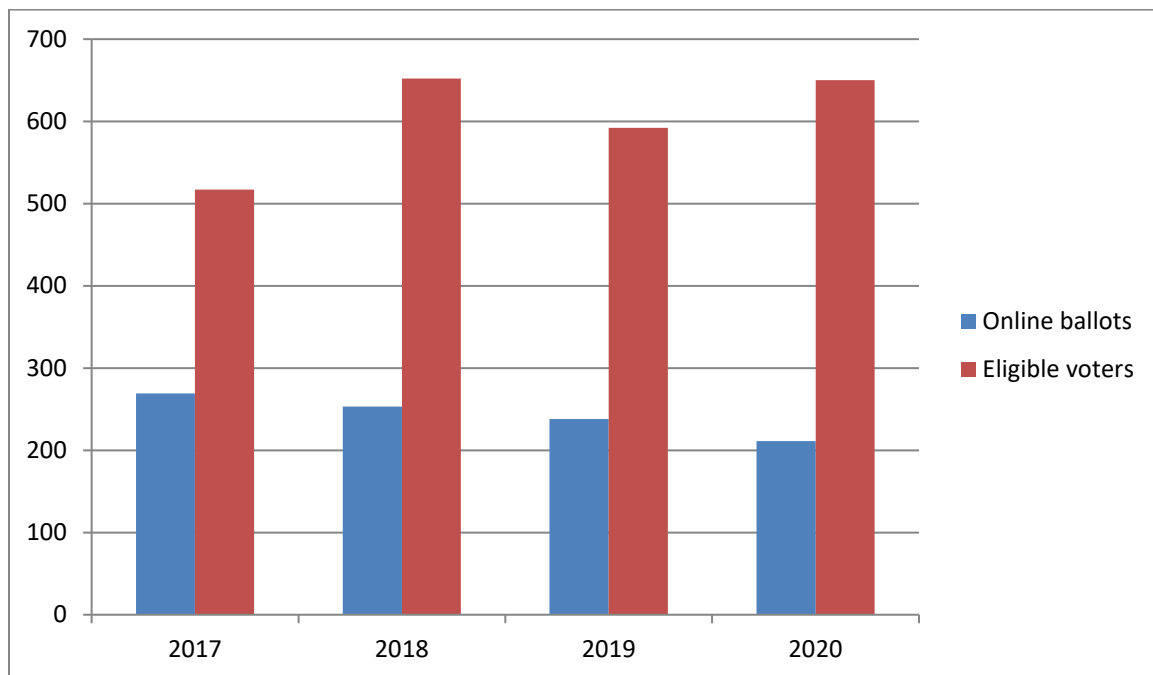
Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Newberry and Fran Ritchie, Co-chairs

ELECTIONS

Elections Online (<http://www.electionsonline.us/>) was used exclusively again this year. The fee for hosting the elections on this website was \$255.43.

The call for nominations was sent on July 30, 2019. There were 11 nominations received and 9 nominees agreed to stand.

The election started on December 1, 2019. All voting members (as of November 2019) were emailed with a link directing them to the online election website. At the close of the election on January 1, 2020, the total number of returned ballots was 211, or 32.46% of the eligible members. This is a decrease of 11.4% from the previous year. The bar chart below shows the voting trends over the last 4 years. Although a reminder was sent halfway through the election, the voting turn-out was still lower than the previous 3 elections.



Positions filled are President-Elect, Secretary and 2 Members-at-Large. The successful candidates are:

1. **President-Elect- Paul Mayer, The Field Museum Chicago receives 118 votes, 55.92% of the total.**
2. **Secretary- Cindy Opitz, University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, receives 93.36 votes of the total.**

3. **Member-at-Large, Shelley James, the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, receives 41.71% of the total**
4. **Member-at-Large, Randy Singer, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, receives 37.44% of the total**

Since it is not possible for a Member-at-Large to also hold the role of President-Elect, Paul Mayer will stand down from his position as Member-at-Large. Third runner-up Vanessa Delnavaz (who received 30.81% of the vote) will instead serve as Member-at-Large for the remainder of his term, until 2022.

These results have been shared with the membership via NH-Coll and through the SPNHC Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Bethany Palumbo, Chair

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

During last year's meeting, we shared the results of a survey we had launched, which provided data that allowed us to better understand the needs of the Emerging Professionals within the natural history world. From the results, we decided to continue to highlight the importance of the committee and to work more closely with Professional Development.

Due to the postponement of the 2020 Annual Meeting, we will not have an Emerging Professionals Luncheon this year. However, we will host a virtual get-together as a Zoom event during the Virtual Meeting, on Friday June 12th, at 11:30 PM (UTC). We look forward to engaging the whole Emerging Professionals community and hope that this is a wonderful networking opportunity, especially for those that are new to a SPNHC meeting. We also invite anyone interested in the EPC to attend our virtual committee meeting on Monday, June 8, at 3 PM (UTC).

We are still seeking blog authors! If you would like to write a blog post for "Cracking the Collections," please contact us at spnhcepg@gmail.com

We are also seeking members of the committee who would like to be more actively involved. Our plans for 2020 involve expanding our membership, resuming blog posts, and finding better ways to connect with and support emerging professionals in SPNHC. During our committee meeting and virtual social event, we will recruit interested members and hope to make our committee grow. If you are interested in being involved with the committee, please email us or contact us through social media!

And don't forget to follow us!

Twitter: @SPNHCEPC

Facebook: SPNHC Emerging Professionals Group

Respectfully submitted,
Mariana DiGiacomo and Kari Harris, Co-chairs

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The Legislation & Regulations Committee has been following developments on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and would like to share some updates.

POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Even though the preparations for the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming are delayed through the current COVID-19 outbreak, there is huge political pressure on the parties to agree on new Biodiversity Targets after the [Decade on](#)

[Biodiversity 2011–2020](#) ends this year and because the agreed Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) did not reach the anticipated outcomes.

Parties are currently developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and a zero draft has been published February this year ([CBD/WG2020/2/3](#)). The parties largely agree that the activities to protect our habitats and environments need to be intensified, especially because species loss and pressure on habitats through a changing climate increases. Therefore, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should include indicators and measures to evaluate what has been achieved by 2030 and 2050. This includes **introduction of indicators to measure benefit sharing** under the CBD.

A first draft of these indicators can be found in Appendix [CBD/WG2020/2/3/ADD1](#), the relevant section for non-monetary benefits sharing are Point 5 in Appendix 1:

Draft 2030 target	Suggested elements of the targets for monitoring	Suggested indicators
The benefits, shared fairly and equitably, from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, have increased by [X] by 2030 and reached [X] by 2050.	Change in the amount of non-monetary benefits shared.	Number of research and development results shared* Number of collaborations in scientific research* Number of participations in product development* Number of transfers of technology* Number of people trained* Number of jobs created* Number of joint ownerships of relevant intellectual property rights*

and in point 18 in Appendix 2:

Draft 2030 target	Suggested elements of the targets for monitoring	Suggested indicators
Promote education and the generation, sharing and use of knowledge relating to biodiversity, in the case of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent, ensuring by 2030 that all decision makers have access to reliable and up to date information for the effective management of biodiversity.	Change in the rate of generation and access of biodiversity information available.	Growth in Species Occurrence Records Accessible through GBIF. Proportion of known species assessed through the IUCN Red List. Species Status Information Index.

Asterisked* indicators also have relevance to monitor Sustainable Development Goals under the Sustainable Development Programme of the UN, their measurement is not legally binding (but surely will increase the visibility who shares benefits, and who don't). Contributions of Biodiversity Research have been characterized by leading negotiators as “nice-to-have.”

The Legs & Regs Committee co-chairs follow the current developments.

DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION AND POTENTIAL INCLUSION UNDER THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

In March this year, the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) was supposed to meet in Montreal to compile a synthesis of views on the peer-review studies and open points in the current DSI-debate. The physical meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute, due to the

COVID-19 outbreak, and a virtual meeting had to be prepared over the weekend. One of the co-chairs of the Regs & Legs committee participated in this expert meeting on behalf of CETAF.

SPNHC engages as stakeholder in this process and submitted view to the CBD Secretariat to:

2019–2020 inter-sessional period of decision 14/20, paragraph 9 of the conference of the Parties to the CBD: <https://www.cbd.int/abs/DSI-views/2019/SPNHC-DSI.pdf>.

During the AHTEG meeting, the scoping studies on [Concept and Scope](#), [Traceability and Databases](#) and [Domestic \[ABS\] measures](#) were controversially discussed, especially which elements of 'DSI' could and should potentially fall under Nagoya Regulations. The huge relevance for the ongoing discussion and the meeting of the SBSSTA (Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice) has been emphasized during the meeting and during drafting of the final report; it should be available shortly here: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/DSI-AHTEG-2020-01>.

DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE POTENTIAL INTRODUCTION OF A GLOBAL MULTILATERAL BENEFIT SHARING SYSTEM UNDER THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

In the ongoing discussion of the CBD and NP Parties of the potential use of Global Multilateral Benefit Sharing systems, a [scoping study](#) was commissioned by the Secretariat of the CBD to investigate current benefit sharing arrangements. Natural History Collections have prominently been mentioned in this study (with direct reference to individual CETAF Members such as Kew Gardens or the MNHN in Paris), while [SPNHC's Threatened Collections Toolkit](#) made available through the SPNHC Wiki had been cited that *"So-called orphan or endangered collections may be disposed of rapidly, with possible issues relating to documentation arising for the recipient."* The authors stated that this and further examples are *"illustrative of the challenge of genetic resources of untraceable origin in ex situ collections which might be ameliorated by a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism."* Another argument put forward is that Natural History Collections would hold a lot of pre-CBD material for which (usually) no benefits are shared if these are utilized in the sense of the NP.

In close collaboration with other international associations and organizations such as CETAF, the German Leibniz Biodiversity Research Alliance (LVB), and the German Association of Life Sciences (VBIO), SPNHC submitted views on this scoping study and its unbalanced views on Natural History Collections and their work. The submission is available under this link: <https://www.cbd.int/abs/Art-10/Peer-review/SPNHC1.docx>.

Because of the far-reaching implications for collections, the SPNHC Legs & Regs committee will follow this closely.

WEBINAR: OVERVIEW OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

On 27 February 2020, the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) presented a webinar entitled *Life Finds A Way: An Overview of the Nagoya Protocol from the US Government*. The speaker was Mr. Patrick Reilly, a Foreign Affairs Officer in the US Department of State serving in the Office of Conservation and Water in the Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Scientific Affairs. Mr. Reilly, who serves as the US Focal Point for Nagoya and is an expert on ABS issues, spoke in this introductory webinar about the history and content of the Protocol, the difference between monetary and non-monetary benefit sharing, and how the US government can help US organizations navigate the compliance process when working with other countries. For those interested in learning about the Nagoya Protocol, a recording of the webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.aibs.org/events/webinar/nagoya-protocol.html>.

SPNHC 2020 IN EDINBURGH

Although we are disappointed that we won't see you all at the 2020 conference in Edinburgh, we look forward to gathering together at our next committee meeting, whether it be online or in person. The Legs & Regs Committee welcomes the participation of all members and other interested parties.

Respectfully submitted,
Dirk Neumann and Stephanie Carson, Co-chairs

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

A Strategic Plan was developed by the LRP in 2011–2012 and adopted in 2013. Many of the objectives of that plan have been addressed and/or assigned to relevant committees for implementation. We are now in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan. To that end we will be developing three or four new goals, along with several objectives designed to help us achieve those goals.

There has been some delay in this process as we have been anticipating the release of two reports, one from the Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections (<https://interdisciplinary.si.edu/collections/interagency-working-group-scientific-collections/>), and one from the National Academy of Sciences. Both of these reports should provide valuable insights to help inform the development of our new Strategic Plan.

We had been planning to solicit feedback on these goals and objectives and were going to use the committee meeting at Edinburgh to discuss the feedback and next steps. The emergence of COVID-19 has put this planning on hold at the present time.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Trock and Suzanne Ryder, Co-chairs

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee focuses on ways to promote the Society, retain existing members, and attract new ones. We promote SPNHC, with members' help, by displaying the Membership Booth at conferences and advertising in conference literature. Please contact Tiffany Adrain (membership@spnhc.org), if you would like to help promote the Society, especially if you have ideas for virtual marketing or promotional materials as conferences continue to be shifted online. If you are planning to attend a meeting in person, you may be eligible for free registration in exchange for exhibiting the Membership Booth. Membership Committee has been working hard with the Treasurer to reorganize responsibilities and membership database set-up. Thank you, everyone, for your attention to, and patience with, membership renewal this year. We will continue to work with the SPNHC website company, Surface Impression, to make renewing your membership a smooth process and develop member resources, such as "Find A Member." One new feature recently available is the ability to create profiles for up to 50 individual staff associated with an Institutional Membership. If you are the contact for an Institutional Membership, please get in touch if you need help setting this up. It can be done easily by logging into your Institutional Membership profile.

Many thanks to Ann Pinzl for organizing and writing the Member Profile, a SPNHC Connection newsletter feature that has been running since 2008. Ann is looking for someone to take this over from her after the Fall newsletter, so please contact Membership if you are looking for an opportunity to engage fellow members and contribute to the newsletter.

Please consider joining the Membership Committee. I would be very happy to hear from anyone interested in co-chairing the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Adrain, Chair

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE NEWS

The PDC has worked to implement some of the ideas discussed at the 2019 SPNHC. This included launching the Travel Grant Mentorship programs for the 2020 SPNHC conference, looking at the PDC's role in SPNHC's education mission, and updating the Wiki page.

The PDC participated in a conversation around SPNHC's role in education through the Educational Sessional Committee. Participants for the call included members of the PDC, the EPG (Emerging Professionals Group), and interested parties. The call was moderated by Anna Monfils. The call made it clear that several of the initiatives for the PDC and the EPG do overlap with different intended audiences being focused on by each group. It is the view of the PDC that more work needs to be done regarding education and development initiatives.

The Committee has begun updating the Professional Development Wiki site. The site has been updated to reflect the current committee chairs, new information on the 2020 travel grants, and useful links to professional development resources. The Wiki is designed to be a living site and be regularly updated to best serve the community's needs.

TRAVEL GRANT AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

The SPNHC Travel Grant Program Subcommittee was established at the 2016 SPNHC Annual Meeting in Berlin. This committee operates under the auspices of the Conference Committee and the Professional Development Committee, with additional input from the Recognition and Grants Committee. The committee also works closely with the Local Arrangements Committee. The first year of operation for the committee was 2017.

This year, 2020, there were a total of eighteen (25) applications—19 Fitzgerald and 5 Christine Allen and 1 incomplete. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the 2020 conference in Edinburgh, no travel grants were actually awarded. The money set aside for the program, \$3000, will be used for expenses related to the virtual conference that will be held in place of the on-site conference.

The continued success of our Travel Grants mentorship program, together with a great deal of enthusiasm from many members in SPNHC for a broadened approach to mentoring opportunities, has led to a discussion on how we might identify and implement additional ways to match professionals for their mutual benefit. In conjunction with the Emerging Professionals Group, an FAQ is being constructed to aid new meeting attendees in navigating the annual conference.

As always, if any member of SPNHC would like to work on any of these projects, please contact Jeff Stephenson or Nick Drew. We value and appreciate your volunteer efforts on behalf of SPNHC and your colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicholas Drew, Co-chair

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Associate Editor Janet Waddington, former Managing Editor of Collection Forum. Janet was dedicated to the society and to the journal, and her unfailing assistance and encouragement will be greatly missed.

Thanks to Mariana di Giacomo, Marcy Revelez, Scott Ruffolo, and Genevieve Tocci for volunteering as Associate Editors, and to Breda Zimkus as Leaflet Editor. I would also like to thank Hayley Singleton for her assistance as Production Assistant Editor and liaison to the Treasurer. Thanks to Sara Ketelson for serving as an essential liaison between the Publications Committee, the Membership Committee, and Allen Press to resolve member access issues with Collection Forum, and to Carol Kelloff who continues to ensure that SPNHC publications are added to the society archive. Finally, a huge round of applause to Special Publication Editors Lisa Elkin and Chris Norris for their successful efforts to bring the Collection Storage: Preventive Conservation volume to press in 2019.

COLLECTION FORUM

The journal continues to receive a steady number of new submissions, but additional manuscripts are needed in order to continue to publish print volumes on an annual schedule. Members who present at the SPNHC annual meeting, particularly those who receive travel awards and support

from the Society, are encouraged to submit their manuscripts for consideration to the journal.

The most recently published issue of *Collection Forum* is Volume 32 (2018), which was published online in 2019 and came out in print early this year. Volume 33 (2019) is currently in process of online publication but needs additional submissions for a print issue. Volume 34 (2020) is scheduled to come out this year as an additional special volume on fluid preservation, presenting the results of the Symposium on Conservation of Natural History Collections in Fluids: Feedback and Perspectives, hosted 5–7 December 2018 in Paris.

SPNHC LEAFLETS

If you are interested in publishing a piece on natural history collections, please contact Breda Zimkus at bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu or at the editor's email, editor@spnhc.org.

SPNHC CONNECTION

As SPNHC Connection Editor, Liath Appleton not only produces SPNHC Connection, the biannual society newsletter, but also serves as SPNHC Webmaster. Many thanks to Liath for her significant efforts on behalf of the society! Thanks also to Lori Schlenker and Harlan Svoboda for their efforts as newsletter Assistant Editor and Advertising, respectively. Members may access the newsletter through the www.spnhc.org website; current issues require a member login. Note that the newsletter is no longer available through the *Collection Forum* portal.

We regret to announce that Ann Pinzl is stepping down as Book Reviews Editor. We are actively recruiting a new editor for this position; interested parties should contact Liath Appleton at newsletter@spnhc.org or Mariel Campbell at editor@spnhc.org. Suggestions for book reviews to include in upcoming editions of SPNHC Connection should be sent to editor@spnhc.org.

PAST JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER ISSUES

Past Journal volumes and newsletters, excluding the current edition, will continue to be available at www.spnhc.org. *Collection Forum* volumes from 2014 to the present are also hosted online on the *Collection Forum* website at <https://collectionforum.org/>. This site will undergo a migration to a new hosting service in 2020.

BOOKS

Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage by Lisa Elkin and Christopher A. Norris, editors, came out in print in Fall 2019 after several years of dedicated effort. The book is the result of a collaboration between the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, the American Institute for Conservation, the Smithsonian Institution, and the George Washington University Museum Studies Program. Tremendous thanks are due to everyone who contributed, especially to Special Publications Editors Lisa Elkin and Chris Norris and to Bonnie Naugle at AIC, as well as to all the contributing authors. A monumental effort at 944 pages and 5 lbs. hardcover, *Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage* covers all types of collections, including science, fine and decorative art, history, library, archive, and digital collections. A book summary and excerpts are available at <https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/Collection>. The first printing of 700 copies has sold out as of January 2020, recovering all costs for the society. A second print run of 500 is now available through AIC at <https://store.culturalheritage.org>.

The Society has also committed support for the publication of a new book on Best Practices in Fluid Preservation, to be edited by Dirk Neumann, John Simmons, and Julian Carter. The book, currently estimated at 110 pages and 25 figures, is tentatively scheduled for a 2021 publication date. Funds have been allocated in the Publication Committee budgets for 2020 and 2021.

ALLEN PRESS

Julia Allen continues as the SPNHC representative at Allen Press. Allen Press is in the process of switching from Pinnacle to a new platform, Silverchair (Meridian), for hosting online content. Migration to the new platform and customization of the *Collection Forum* portal has been delayed but should occur by the end of 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Mariel Campbell, Chair

RECOGNITION AND GRANTS

The Recognition and Grants Committee is charged with promoting and reviewing the various awards of the Society, which are in recognition of a member's service, vendor recognition, as well as the Faber Innovation grant.

A change in the wording of the Faber Innovation Grant was approved by SPNHC Council in Chicago, IL and implemented for this year's call for grant submittals. Grant proposals were reviewed for potential funding and the winning proposal selected was "Pyrite Disease" and Clay Minerals: The Threat to Natural History Collections submitted by Dr. R. Christopher Tacker at North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC. The winner will be publicly announced at the ABM at the 2020 SPNHC Virtual Meeting.

Three Special Service Awards are recognized and will be presented at the ABM at the 2020 SPNHC Meeting. The Awards are: 1) to Lisa Elkin and Chris Norris for their four-year professional efforts and editing expertise on "Preventative Conservation: Collection Storage," a well-received and highly praised collaborative SPNHC publication; 2) to the SPNHC Emergency Ad Hoc Finance Committee for diligent and effective efforts to assess and apprise the finances of the Society. Committee members are Ruth O'Leary, Lisa Palmer and Sue McLaren; and 3) to the SPNHC 2020 Organizing Committee for organizing the 35nd annual and 1st virtual meeting of the Society. Committee members are Deb Paul, Andy Bentley, Mariana Di Giacomo, Shelley James, Talia Karim, Amanda Lawrence, Paul Mayer, Rebecca Newberry, Cindy Opitz, Dorit Wolenitz, and Breda Zimkus.

No travel grants were awarded this year, since the 2020 SPNHC Meeting will be virtual owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the rollout of the new SPNHC website this year, the Committee also reviewed the pages for awards and recognition and updated the content.

Since this committee is chaired by the SPNHC Past President, this is my last year as its Chair. I want to extend my gratitude to the Committee members for their unwavering support and participation when called upon.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda S. Ford, Chair

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

The new website is up and running, with only a few kinks that are still being worked out. I hope that you all have logged in at least once, and that you enjoy the new layout. If you have any issues or suggestions, please contact Liath Appleton at webmaster@spnhc.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Liath Appleton, Chair

Sessional Committee Reports

COLLECTION THEFT AND SECURITY MONITORING OF COLLECTIONS

No report submitted.

COLLECTIONS AND THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

The committee was formed in Summer 2019, and since that time we have focused our efforts on two major initiatives. The first was to survey the community to gain insight into opinions surrounding the role of natural history collections in addressing the biodiversity crisis. In addition to surveying SPNHC members, we also posted the survey to taxon- or discipline-specific listservs of related fields. We received over 300 responses from around the world. A slight majority (55%) of respondents were not SPNHC members, though ~90% replied that they work “Directly” with natural history collections in their work. Eighty percent think that SPNHC should work actively to address the biodiversity crisis. This was illuminated further in open response text that described a strong feeling towards maintaining current SPNHC activities while supporting other ways to address the biodiversity crisis, e.g., bringing conservation strategies directly into natural history collection and museum practices and policies, support for taxonomists, and support for conservation-oriented legislation. Survey results will be written up and shared broadly.

The second was preparing for a Town Hall session at the 2020 Conference. Once the in-person meeting was cancelled and given the virtual conference format, we decided to postpone our symposium, hold a committee meeting to engage SPNHC membership and build support for the committee. This will be followed by a virtual meeting in late summer 2020, where we will devote a larger amount of time to sharing survey results and analysis, discussing how this committee can be most productive, and deciding on next steps.

The committee is eager to engage with the SPNHC community, seeing where SPNHC membership lies on this topic and how the committee can best address our collective interests.

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Ellwood, Chair

EDUCATION

Based on feedback and interest from several SPNHC members and the leadership teams for the Professional Development Committee (PDC) and the Emerging Professionals Committee (EPC), the Education Sessional Committee was proposed to the SPNHC council and approved. The goals of the Committee were set as follows:

1. Affirm the current committee structures and charges for EPG and Professional Development, and propose a modified structure, if the committee thinks this is warranted.
2. Review SPNHC’s contributions to education, both formal, informal and workforce training; identify gaps.
3. Propose short term and long-term goals for SPNHC’s educational mission

A call was made to the general SPNHC membership and leadership asking for interested members.

The committee met on September 11, 2019. Jeff Stevenson presented on current goals and efforts for the PDC, and Kari Harris discussed the work of the EPC. Both groups shared current goals, roles, charge, structure, and membership. The PDC reiterated the committee emphasis on formal professional training and mentorship. Among other activities, The PDC is formalizing a mentorship program. The EPC stressed the goal to understand the needs of new members and

highlighted a new goal to provide materials for first time attendees to conferences. Kari Harris noted a central goal of the EPC is to have representation on all SPNHC committees. Leadership from both committees discussed the challenges of some overlapping goals but did not see a specific need for a modified structure.

During the discussion, gaps in unmet needs were identified under the broadly defined goal of education as it relates to SPNHC and the current committees' structures, functions, and goals. The gaps identified included needs specific to formal and informal education and outreach relative to museums and specimen data, and broadening participation by museum users and among museum professionals. Looking forward, the Education Sessional Committee will be working to propose ideas and activities to address these unmet education needs within SPNHC and develop short- and long-term goals.

Since the initial meeting of the Education Sessional Committee, several new activities have emerged.

1. The SPNHC 2020/ICOM NATHIST conference has moved to a virtual meeting. The SPNHC Education Sessional Committee is planning to meet during this time to discuss short- and long-term goals for the group. We are planning an open call for members interested in providing feedback or being members of the committee.
2. [Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections](#), [Biodiversity Collections Network](#), [Extended Specimen Network](#), [AIBS](#), [QUBESHub](#), [BioQuest](#), and [Biodiversity Literacy in Undergraduate Education](#) supported an effort titled [Extending Specimens: Curators in the Classroom sprint to implementation](#). This was an effort to bring museum professionals and faculty together to efficiently implement vetted and engaging biodiversity modules for the virtual classroom. Thanks to the efforts of John Bates, Blake Cahill, Libby Ellwood, and Julie Allen, we were able to assist faculty members in educating students in the Covid-19 classroom.
3. For three years in a row, SPNHC, [iDigBio \(Integrated Digitized Biocollections\)](#), and BLUE have offered an Educational Materials Round Tables session at the annual SPNHC Conference. The Educational Materials Round Table concept evolved from the successful model created by Teresa Mourad from the Ecological Society of America. The session offers colleagues the opportunity to present collections-based education or outreach materials, to provide feedback as potential adopters, and to build collaborations among different institutions. This has been a popular workshop, and the Education Sessional Committee wants to make this a regular part of the annual SPNHC meeting and formalize the role of the committee in helping to plan for the annual event. Alongside formalizing the SPNHC association and role of the committee in facilitating the Round Tables, we hope to create a SPNHC webpage to host education and outreach materials as Open Education Resources available to the broader community of educators (K–12, undergraduate, and graduate), and outreach professionals. Specifics are currently in development.

In the coming year, we hope to expand the membership, goals, and products related to the Education Sessional Committee. Membership is currently open to all interested parties, and we encourage involvement from the SPNHC community.

Membership:

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Monfils, Chair

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International relations committee meeting was well attended this year [2019], and we had a constructive and interesting discussion with thoughts and ideas for moving forward. Much of the discussion covered matters arising in other committee meetings so it was recognized that there is a crossover with the work of other committees, so it was suggested that the committee chairs

might benefit from a quick get together, breakfast or coffee, to brief each other before the council meeting at each SPNHC meeting. We might benefit also from beginning to use the SPNHC Slack channel to talk more frequently.

S.Ryder presented some simple graphs produced from the membership data available to date. The graphs showed the fluctuation of total members since 1994 and how the international membership was made up over the same time period. It was pointed out that the data available was not easy to manipulate and going forward we should carefully consider the data we gather and how would be useful to tell us about the society. The correct data would allow us to consider the need, value, and benefits to Society members. It was agreed that careful thought should be given as to what data we should collect going forward to better inform council about the Society membership.

Language and translations was also a discussion topic, and it is thought that we should revisit the possibility of including content in other languages. Perhaps we could ask willing members to translate key pages of the website and add articles/literature in other languages in our resources.

After a very successful meeting in New Zealand in 2018, it was recognized that the society needed to maintain the interest that that meeting generated to the members in the southern hemisphere. We discussed the possibility of 'recruiting' an ambassador for region to relay information or create a 'node' which could run meetings adjacent to the main SPNHC meeting and live stream the technical session, etc. Ideas to help retain engagement are very welcome.

Actions for the coming year:

- Work with membership to define the membership and activities metadata we need to collect
 - o What data – more comprehensive and considered
 - o Data protection/permissions
- Past meeting attendee lists
- Wikipedia page update—needs doing, needs volunteers
- Accessibility, value, and benefits to retain members that cannot always attend meetings
 - o Nodes (recruit regional ambassadors)
 - o Translations
 - o Live stream meetings
 - o (Remote mentoring? via SLACK channel we are setting up perhaps?)

UPDATE. SPNHC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POST COVID-19.

From Deb Paul as Deputy Chair. Given all our recent and on-going changes in our every-day worlds due to COVID-19, some things become even clearer and sharper. Looking at the report suggestions, these bits now seem particularly relevant and pressing:

- a SLACK channel for all SPNHC members, a perk and a huge help for global communication across our membership.
 - a need to get our Wikipedia page updated and translated so those needing our expertise can find us
 - a push to gather our international expertise for the value of collections and collections expertise in both addressing and preventing any "spillover" events.

Hope to see many of you at the online meeting ready to take on these most urgent of needs. In anticipation, Deborah Paul, for Suzanne Ryder.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Ryder, Chair, and Deborah Paul, Deputy Chair

US FEDERAL COLLECTIONS

No report submitted.

Representative Reports

ALLIANCE OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS OF CANADA (ANHMC)

During the 2019/20 fiscal year, the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC) successfully completed some long-term projects and ushered in some new initiatives.

- The Alliance's first national traveling exhibition "Museums' Choice: Fossil Favourites from Across Canada" ended a three-year tour of the country in downtown Edmonton at the new facilities of the Royal Alberta Museum. The exhibition was very well received across the country and was instructive regarding the costs and benefits of traveling a small exhibition across such great distances.
- The Annual General Meeting for the ANHMC was held in Regina Saskatchewan at the end of September 2019, hosted by our Vice President, Dr. Ray Poulin and his colleagues at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. Despite the unexpected snowstorm, the meeting was a success. The Bruce Naylor award was given to Dr. John E. Storer for his contributions to the field of natural history in general and to paleontology in particular.
- The second 'Value of Nature' workshop was held in Ottawa in March 2020. These workshops bring together museum professionals from across Canada and across the breadth of expertise of the Natural History museums in Canada. Scientists, educators, administrators, and designers met to draft a proposal to Polar Knowledge Canada to support a cross-Canada initiative to draw public and research attention to biodiversity issues in the north. A preliminary proposal has been submitted to the Canadian Government that focuses on northern Canadian collections held in institutions across the country.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Wheeler, SPNHC Representative to ANHMC

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION OF ARTISTIC AND HISTORIC WORKS (AIC)

Like SPNHC, The American Institute for Conservation has moved this year's annual meeting in May to a virtual platform.

AIC, along with the Foundation for the Advancement of Conservation, has been striving to become more accessible and transparent. In recent months they have developed excellent resources for dealing with COVID-19, relating to both the health and safety of conservators/collection care staff and the care of collections during this stressful period.

<https://www.culturalheritage.org/resources/emergencies/collections-care-amid-covid-19>

They also have, in recent years, broadened their focus on collection care to include collection management. AIC is now running the Connecting to Collections Care programs as well as hosting STASH.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Anderson, SPNHC Representative to AIC

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS (ASIH)

The 2019 and 99th annual ASIH meeting occurred as part of the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH) 24–28 July 2019, in Snowbird, UT USA. The meeting was held at the Cliff Lodge. The JMIH was attended by 879 people (461 professionals and 418 students), representing 21 nations. On 26 July 2019, the ASIH Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee (IHCC) met. The IHCC meeting was well attended by collection personnel (including

several student collection assistants and undergraduate students), representing at least 15 institutions or collections. The co-chairs of the IHCC, Gregory Watkins-Colwell and Sarah Huber (Virginia Institute of Marine Science), led the meeting. Kate Bemis (final year because of graduation), and Jennifer Gardner are now the current student representatives.

The IHCC meeting was attended by 41 collection personnel (including several student collection assistants), representing at least 25 institutions or collections. The meeting began with discussion about the third annual Spiritus Award, which was presented to John Simmons for collection stewardship in herpetology. The 2019 Spiritus committee was composed of Greg Watkins-Colwell (Chair), Katherine Maslenikov,, and Meredith Mahoney.

The 2019 JMIH was particularly special because the IHCC sponsored a Symposium titled: The Expanding Role of Natural History Collections (Eric Hilton, Chair; Greg Watkins-Colwell, Co-chair; Sarah Huber Co-chair). The symposium was well attended and included 19 talks from invited speakers, with funding provided by ASIH, SSAR, and HL. Six manuscripts resulting from the symposium have been submitted to *Copeia* for publication in an upcoming issue.

At the 2017 ASIH meeting, the accreditation sub-committee presented plans for a society wide accreditation at the business meeting and received approval for the Executive Committee to proceed with an accreditation proposal. The current committee consists of Sarah Huber (Chair, ichthyology), Jessa Watters (herpetology), Katherine Maslenikov (ichthyology), Randy Singer (ichthyology), Ben Frale (ichthyology), and Kirsten Nicholson (herpetology). The committee met at the 2019 JMIH to discuss plans moving forward and had hoped to test run an accreditation at the 2020 JMIH. This has been postponed. The committee continues to evaluate and improve the accreditation process in anticipation of a test run at a future meeting.

The IHCC continues to use a Google Group to improve routine communication among IHCC members and to facilitate involvement of those individuals who are unable to attend JMIH. Visit this group at <https://groups.google.com/group/asih-coll>.

In addition to the IHCC meeting another activity worth mentioning with regards to professional society meetings was the adoption of a JMIH-wide code of conduct. This code of conduct document lays out policies and best practices for conduct at JMIH meetings and highlights not only the types of unacceptable behavior, but also how the society will deal with offenders. The document can be found here: https://asih.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/JMIH_Code_of_Conduct_2019-01-23.pdf. In addition to the code of conduct the JMIH leadership also appointed a Safety Officer in charge of enforcement and mediation.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Singer, SPNHC Representative to ASIH

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS (ASM)

Beginning in 1972, the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) has had a standing committee called the Systematic Collections Committee, originally an *ad hoc* committee formed at the request of the National Science Foundation. The Society has defined this committee's responsibilities as follows: (1) Advising curators worldwide in matters of collection administration, curation, and accreditation; (2) Maintaining a directory of mammal collections and conducting a survey of existing collections once each decade (most recently published in 2018); and (3) maintaining a list of curatorial standards for mammal collections and managing a collection-accreditation program.

Once a collection evaluation process has been completed, the Committee forwards its recommendations to the ASM President for review. The President notifies the collection's administration of the Committee's decision. If accreditation is to be conferred, the President sends a letter, an Accreditation Certificate, and a copy of the Final Report. These Reports generally contain both positive observations and recommendations for improvement. The latter rarely comes as a surprise to collection staff. Rather, the Committee works with the staff to articulate areas for which they need greater administrative support. It is intended that the

Committee's recommendations will highlight the importance of the collection to the mammal research community as well as helping to leverage greater institutional support for the collection.

This year, the ASM Curatorial Standards for Genetic Resources Collections was published in the 100th issue of the Journal of Mammalogy. Phillips, Caleb D., Jonathan L. Dunnum, Robert C. Dowler, Lisa C. Bradley, Heath J. Garner, Kathryn A. MacDonald, Burton K. Lim Marcia A. Revelez, Mariel L. Campbell, Holly L. Lutz, Nicté Ordóñez Garza, Joseph A. Cook, Robert D. Bradley, and the Systematic Collections Committee of the ASM. 2019. Curatorial guidelines and standards of the American Society of Mammalogists for collections of genetic resources. Journal of Mammalogy 100, no. 5 (2019): 1690-1694. gyz111, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmammal/gyz111>.

In close connection with that publication, the committee completed accreditations of six collections (two mammal collections and four genetic resources collections): (a) Angelo State Natural History Collection, Angelo State University (reaccreditation of mammal collection and accreditation of genetic resources collection); (b) Museo de Zoología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (reaccreditation of mammal collection); (c) Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico (accreditation of genetic resources collection); (d) Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University (accreditation of genetic resources collection); and (e) Royal Ontario Museum (accreditation of genetic resources collection). The Northern Michigan University and the University of Oklahoma, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, have provided the committee with self-evaluation reports and requested accreditation visits. These are currently on hold due to COVID-19 quarantine issues. The committee hopes to conduct site visits for accreditation before the end of 2020 and requests a renewal of the \$2000 budget approved last year.

To view the documents mentioned here and other collection-related information, see: <http://www.mammalogy.org/committees/systematic-collections#tab3>.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne B. McLaren, SPNHC Representative to ASM

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS (ASPT)

I have served as an ex-officio member of the ASPT Systematics Collections Committee since 2006. The chair of the committee leads a Curator's meeting during the annual Society meeting. One of the committee goals is to promote regional networking of US herbaria, interfacing with participants in the Global Plants Initiative, and the NSF-ADBC program.

The annual meeting of the Society was originally to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, USA, as part of the Botany2020 meeting on July 18–22, 2020. As of this writing, the Botany2020 meeting will, like the SPNHC meeting, be held virtually with details still evolving.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Rabeler, SPNHC Representative to ASPT

ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS AND COLLECTIONS SPECIALISTS (ARCS)

Presentations, recordings, and handouts from the 2019 biennial meeting of the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS) are now available on the ARCS website at <http://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/2019-conference/presentations-and-recordings>. You can also find presentations from the 2017 and 2015 meetings on the ARCS website.

A comprehensive and continuously updated list of Covid-19 Resources for museums (with an emphasis on collections care) is available on the ARCS website (www.arcsinfo.org) at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/resources/covid-19-resources>. Many other resources are also available on the website, and during the Covid-19 crisis the #ARCSChat Podcast and YouTube Live Stream will continue on the first Tuesday of each month (see <https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/arcschat> for details).

The next biennial ARCS meeting will take place in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from 10-12 November 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
John E. Simmons, SPNHC Representative to ARCS

BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION STANDARDS (TDWG)

The 2019 annual meeting of Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) was part of a larger conference branded Biodiversity_Next that also included the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), a new pan-European Research Infrastructure initiative (DiSSCo), the national resource for digitized information about vouchered natural history collections (iDigBio), and the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF). The conference was hosted by the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in collaboration with the Netherlands Biodiversity Information Facility in Leiden, Netherlands from October 22-25 (<https://biodiversitynext.org/>). The conference was a great success, attracting over 700 attendees! You can check out the abstracts for talks and posters along with the presentations themselves in many cases as they were published as a Proceedings in the journal Biodiversity Information Science and Standards (BISS: <https://biss.pensoft.net/>).

For those of you who are new to TDWG or are interested in learning more, please visit our website now integrated with our GitHub repository (<https://www.tdwg.org/>). TDWG also recently started an open access journal called Biodiversity Information Science and Standards or BISS referenced above. This journal serves two purposes, first to publish the TDWG Proceedings of abstracts for their annual conference, and second, a forum for biodiversity informaticians to publish articles on biodiversity standards, methods, guidelines, models, and applications. If you have content relevant to these topics, please consider publishing in BISS. With specific relevance to SPNHC, members of the Natural Collections Description Interest Group continue to make significant progress on the task of creating a new “Collections Description” data standard for describing collections of natural history materials at the collection level; one NCD record describes one entire collection. Also, there is increasing discussion and engagement on curation attribution standards. As I continue to stress: “the standards being evaluated by TDWG, and the applications that implement them, have a direct impact on many SPNHC members involved with specimen data capture, management and curation.”

In 2020, TDWG is once again strategically partnering with other like-minded biodiversity entities. The conference branded “Biodiversity Summit 2020” will be hosted by iDigBio and the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) Smithsonian, and include the GBIF governing board meetings. The conference will be held in Alexandria, VA USA, from the 20–25th of September (<https://www.idigbio.org/content/biodiversity-summit-2020>). As the current Chair of TDWG, I am very excited about this event and hope to see many of you there!

Finally, if you are interested in biodiversity standards, I would urge you to become a member and contribute. It takes a wide range of skill sets and knowledge to produce standards and all are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
James Macklin, SPNHC Representative to TDWG

COLLECTIONS STEWARDSHIP PROFESSIONAL NETWORK (CSAAM)

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the 2020 annual meeting of the Collections Stewardship Professional Network (CSAAM) has been postponed due to the cancellation of the American Alliance of Museums annual meeting (in its place, AAM is planning a virtual meeting with the theme, “Radical Reimagining” for 18 May and 1–4 June, #AAMvirtual; for details check https://annualmeeting.aam-us.org/?_ga=2.10053244.870094711.1586799573-384916704.1544736199).

The CS website is hosting a comprehensive, continuously updated list of Covid-19 resources with an emphasis on care of collections at <https://www.collectionsstewardship.org/covid19-resources>. Those interested in the resources or with information to contribute to the list are encouraged to visit the site. In addition, the CS website (<https://www.collectionsstewardship.org>) continues to maintain the popular Supplies and Materials list, a Form and Policy Swap page, a list of Publications & Papers of interest to collections managers, news from the Lexicon Task Force, and the new Deaccession Toolbox (which contains resources for confronting deaccessioning issues).

The CS listserv continues to host a steady stream of queries, responses, and announcements despite the interruptions due to the Covid-19 crisis and remains available to anyone interested (<https://www.collectionsstewardship.org/listserv>).

Respectfully submitted,
John E. Simmons, SPNHC Representative to CSAAM

ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (ECN)

BACKGROUND

ECN formed an MOU with SPNHC in late 2016; this is our third full annual report. ECN is a 501(c)(3) non-profit international organization dedicated to promoting entomological science through the preservation, management, use and development of entomological collections and to disseminating information and fostering communications between collections managers around the world regarding best practices in entomological (and arthropod) natural history collections. The Network is organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes.

ECN 2019:

The 2019 annual meeting of the Entomological Collections Network (ECN) was held 16-17 November in St. Louis, MO, USA, in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Entomological Society of America. The two-day meeting included 201 registered attendees. Additional data regarding number of symposia, member symposia, posters, etc. can be found in the program:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eRiJfmx2YfKiGVUy97-CIZIfCQryYK1JDkpFSg-F_BA/edit?usp=sharing

New this year, the ECN was able to offer four students travel scholarships of \$250 each.

The ECN had a change of executive committee members, though secretary, treasurer and social media remain (Christy Bills, Patrick Goring & Isa Bentancourt, respectively), president is now Chris Grinter, and we have new program chairs.

The Annual ECN Business Meeting was held 16 November (5:00–6:00 pm), followed by the ECN Mixer and Poster Session and the Annual ECN Annual Banquet. All sessions and meetings were held in the Marriott St. Louis Grand: Landmark Ballrooms 1, 2, 3.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel K. Young, SPNHC Representative to ECN

GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP (GCG)

No representative has been named.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK

GSA is still operating, with staff and members working remotely. Boulder, Colorado, and Washington, D.C., are under stay-at-home orders. The Annual Meeting of the GSA was planned for Montreal, Quebec, on October 25–28. Abstract, housing and registration have all been pushed

back to July 1, 2020.

Cordillera and Rocky Mountain regional sections of GSA cancelled their May meetings entirely. The North-Central Section of GSA was to meet on May 18–19 in Duluth, Minnesota, but has moved to a virtual meeting instead. It is the first of the GSA regional sections to do so. Planners expect to learn a great deal about executing a meeting in this format. The meeting is free of charge—no registration. Details on talk and poster formats are available at https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section_Meetings/GSA/Sections/nc/2020mtg/home.aspx. GSA staff may provide valuable experience if SPNCH moves to a virtual meeting.

GSA ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES MEETING

March 25, 2020, GSA President Donald Siegel and GSA Executive Director Ms. Vicki McConnell conducted the Spring Associated Societies Meeting by video. Topics included response to COVID-19, overlapping ethics guidelines between societies, and the GSA decadal strategic plan.

The Ethics Guidelines were adopted in September 2019, and provide an umbrella for other ethical guidelines and policies already in place (e.g. publishing, conflict of interest). The Ethics Guidelines are available [here](#). A Code of Conduct is already in place for the meetings of GSA and is widely available, listing expectations and unacceptable behaviors.

The President and Executive Director shared the “Future Aspirations” section of the decadal strategic plan with attendees, and invited participation going forward. Summarized, these are:

- • Advancing scientific discovery, rigor and integrity
- • Supporting young professionals and students
- • Hosting premier conferences and meetings
- • Influencing geoscience policy and linking geoscience to society
- • Providing a sense of community and venues for networking

Finally, GSA invites associated societies to collaborate in producing Theme Sessions for regional and annual meetings. My opinion is that this is fertile ground for extending the visibility of SPNCH and its efforts.

ADDENDUM, 1 JUNE 2020

GSA meeting with European Geoscience Union, 29 May 2020, regarding their experience with virtual meetings. The European Geoscience Union had scheduled its large General Assembly meeting for 4–8 May 2020 in Vienna. More than 18,000 abstracts were submitted. They had seven weeks to turn one of the world’s largest geoscience conferences into a virtual event. Their partner was Copernicus.org. Representatives were EGU President Alberto Montanari, Executive Secretary Philippe Courtial, and member Susanne Buiter. I’m not sure about Dr. Buiter’s position, but she handled most of the details of planning and execution. Overall, they called the meeting a success. 103 countries were in attendance rather than 110. More than 60% of the presentations were uploaded in advance. Post-presentation discussion was handled in the chat, which was not recorded. Most of the attendees were pleased with the results.

Successes

- Dr. Buiter was pleased that talks were much more accessible, making science that much more transparent. People did not have to worry about missing talks, either.
- Dr. Montanari observed that all talks “had the same dignity.” There was no real distinction between talks and poster sessions.
- Session convenors were able to keep talks on schedule quite well.
- Travel costs for attendees were much lower.
- Short YouTube videos worked very well to orient and prepare people for the new procedures.
- The short courses garnered 9000 views.
- Town Hall meetings, Great Debates, and symposia worked well online.

Problems:

- Digital misbehavior. Chat was not recorded, and there were instances of people challenging speakers on chat, issues of screenshots published on other social media, improper

language, trash-talking on other social media platforms, etc. Dr. Montanari attributed this to people being alone in a room rather than in a room with other professionals and noted that some of these complaints could lead to sanctions.

- Ethics. Abstracts were covered by Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. This presents a serious problem for those presenting scientific data prior to publication- data could be screenshot and stolen. Care must be taken in deciding what to present. This may put a real limitation on members' decision to attend or not. The Geochemical Society presents the Goldschmidt Conferences, which are the world's largest international geochemistry gatherings. There are very specific prohibitions against recording talks, taking pictures of poster sessions, or taking pictures of presenters' slides. This is unenforceable for virtual meetings.
- Copyright- People tend to use figures from their previous publications in their talks. Virtual meetings require formal permission from the publisher for use of these figures.
- Time zones- EGU attracts worldwide participation. Some people gave talks at 2:30 a.m., while others had 5:30 a.m. slots, depending on which direction they lived from the meeting.
- Social interactions did suffer. People missed the networking opportunities. General consensus was that the future would be a kind of hybrid meeting. Dr. Buiter noted that captioning of talks was desirable.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. R. Chris Tacker, SPNHC Representative to the GSA

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY (GBIF)

SPNHC is an organizational Associate Participant in The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF: www.gbif.org). James Macklin is the current GBIF "Head of Delegation" for SPNHC, TDWG as Chair of the Executive and also currently serves as the Canadian Node Manager. He participated in the 26th Annual GBIF Meeting in October 2019 in Leiden, Netherlands held in concert with the Biodiversity_Next Conference (1).

GBIF continues to promote the digitization and mobilization of biodiversity observation data and provide support through making available a wide variety of tools, best practices and documentation. In addition, if you have not looked at the country-level information pages, I encourage you to do so, as they can be very informative. Numerous opportunities are also available for training at various scales as well as competitions for funding to develop new tools and methods for data mobilization, quality control, and dissemination. I encourage all members to get involved and support this critical organization.

I would like to highlight one of the GBIF Young Researchers Award recipients for 2019, Nicky Nicolson from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (2). Nicky won the award for her PhD research on using data mining and machine learning techniques to identify collectors and duplicated herbarium specimens, improving data and inferring connections between different collections. This has long been a challenge close to my heart and is a great example of research that is a direct benefit to SPNHC members being recognized.

Lastly, a reminder for all to support GBIF and the biodiversity informatics community's unified vision to globally coordinate biodiversity-based resources and infrastructures. This is being realized through the formation of "An Alliance for Biodiversity Knowledge"(3). I encourage everyone to go to the new website and learn more about the concept of this new initiative and consider signing on as an individual or organizational/institutional participant: "Join us in the next phase—help us in aligning resources and investments in biodiversity informatics to improve knowledge of the world's species and understanding of the dynamics of natural systems in support of a sustainable future for science and society."

Finally, please let me know if you have ideas for future collaborations between SPNHC and GBIF.

Respectfully submitted,
James Macklin, SPNHC representative to GBIF

- 1: <https://biodiversitynext.org/>
- 2: <https://www.gbif.org/news/4n8ZCfuK3zxseKAHRMcfA8/award-winner-uses-data-mining-and-machine-learning-to-identify-collectors-and-duplicated-herbarium-specimens>
- 3: <https://www.biodiversityinformatics.org/en/>

HERITAGE EMERGENCY NATIONAL TASK FORCE (HENTF)

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) is a cooperative venture between the Smithsonian Institution Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCIR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under:

Lori Foley

Administrator, Heritage Emergency National Task Force
Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration
FEMA | DHS

The mission of HENTF is to protect cultural heritage in our nation's states, tribes, territories, and local communities from the damaging effects of natural disasters and other emergencies. This is a summary of the Annual Members Meeting, *Strengthening the Role of HENTF Members*, in Washington, D.C., held on 13 June 2019.

HENTF Members were self-assigned into three working groups:

- Communications Working Group: to create and maintain tools that will help HENTF members to obtain situational awareness during emergencies; share resources with constituents and gather damage assessments; and empower constituents to effectively communicate with the public about cultural heritage and disasters.
- Asset Mapping Working Group: to develop, coordinate, and strengthen effective outreach networks to support cultural institutions from the threats of disasters by maximizing the implementation of existing datasets of domestic culture institutions and encourage the development of new datasets where none exists.
- Resource Development Working Group: to examine existing resources and identify challenges in disseminating disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation resources before, during, and after emergency situations.

Filling in for Cathy Hawks, SPNHC representative, Lisa Palmer (incoming SPNHC representative), participated in the Asset Mapping Working Group. Issues of privacy and protecting culturally sensitive collections and collecting/archaeological areas were of concern. The group considered whether this data should be included in mapping. This working group, led by Andrew Robb at the Library Congress, will focus on gathering publicly available data from existing datasets.

Additionally, HENTF held a national phone conference in January 2020 to disseminate information and resources to constituents in Puerto Rico who have been affected by the multitude of earthquakes occurring there. HENTF was able to organize emergency response initiatives by using newly developed online dashboards to collect and disseminate information for impacted constituents.

Respectfully submitted,
Catharine Hawks, Outgoing SPNHC Representative to HENTF, January 29, 2020

INTEGRATED DIGITIZED BIOCOLLECTIONS (iDigBio)

CURRENT MATTERS

iDigBio finds itself near the end of year 9, as you read this. As I type, our efforts center around strategically selecting our specific activities for the next 18 months, in collaboration with SPNHC

and the worldwide biodiversity collections community. You might expect to see topics like: increasing inclusiveness in museum data use and access, virtual (online) communication skills, ten years of digitization—lessons learned/next steps conversations, small collections activities, georeferencing events, and mobilizing trait data from your collections. If you've got a different topic in mind, we're listening.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

At this point at iDigBio, we need community-wide review of Adobe Connect recordings made through the last nine years at various events. Which to keep, which to let go? If you know of ones you really want / need to keep, please let us know.

PRUDENT MATTERS

With all the uncertainty we face, planning for the future seems a tad challenging (yes, you here my British-heritage understatement here). Many of you find yourselves writing up new pandemic preparedness plans, designing (re)opening plans, and re-designing digitization workflows to incorporate "social-distancing." This last topic quickly rose to the top of the list for plenary sessions at SPNHC ICOM NATHIST 2020. This conversation promises to be thoughtful, and potentially stress-relieving, as we learn more about our individual and organizational experiences and future plans. Certainly, these outcomes need to find a home on the SPNHC wiki and, if at all possible, get translated into multiple languages. For any digitization workflows, please do get them to the iDigBio Wiki.

This COVID-19 pandemic, zoonoses, and pathogens broadly speaking, offer a likely (hopefully?) once-in-a-lifetime chance (for each of us) to communicate the critical data and resources collections offer. Not only can collections meet the need for online access to relevant data, but also we offer expertise and collaboration for addressing / preventing future spillover events.

HOPEFUL MATTERS

I sincerely hope, with every molecule of me, that next time we're meeting in person, together—That our conversations revolve around the beauty, value, and potential of collections, data, and expertise of all collections staff. Or as [Steven Lubar](#) says about museum specimens and the people who collect them, "They highlight the affective, emotional and sensual relationship between people and things."

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Paul, SPNHC Representative to iDigBio

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS—COMMITTEE FOR MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS OF NATURAL HISTORY (ICOM-NATHIST)

We were all looking forward to the joint SPNHC and ICOM NatHist meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, this year. With the advent of the pandemic, the meeting will be in the virtual realm this year, within the same time frame.

ICOM NatHist Web site provides excellent resources, including a position statement on evolution, a white paper on wildlife trafficking, and continued internationally based projects such as: Platform 2022, a partnership between ICOM NATHIST, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and Botanic Gardens International, encouraging the world's governments to use sound science provided by collecting institutions when making decisions around sustainable development. The project includes a free downloadable exhibition of beautiful wildlife <http://www.platform2022.org/>

Another product of great use is [The Code of Ethics for Natural History Museums](#). The objective of this document is to set ethical standards on specific issues that natural history museums face. It sets forth a position statement that explains the purpose of natural history museums and their responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Anderson, SPNHC Representative to ICOM-NatHist.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPOSITORIES (ISBER)

The ISBER Board of Directors made the difficult decision not to proceed with the 2020 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 14–18, 2020. This decision was made after careful consideration and comprehensive evaluation of currently available information related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. ISBER leadership wanted to gain a better understanding of the challenges its membership was facing given the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as address and support the needs of the international biobanking community around preparedness and risk management, so it hosted a number of discussion and information sessions:

1. Understanding COVID-19 Webinar (April 7, 2020; recording available)
2. Vendors Town Hall (April 15, 2020; recording available)
3. COVID-19 Biobanking Challenges Survey (deadline for completion: April 22, 2020)
4. General Members Town Hall (May 13)
5. Tools for Risk Management and Emergency Preparedness for Repositories (Date to be confirmed)

All ISBER COVID-19 activities can be found at <https://www.isber.org/page/covid-19>. They are open to both ISBER members and non-members, free of charge.

Respectfully submitted,
Breda M. Zimkus, SPNHC Representative to ISBER

MANAGERS OF AUSTRALASIAN HERBARIUM COLLECTIONS— COUNCILS OF HEADS OF AUSTRALASIAN HERBARIA (MAHC-CHAH)

As for all natural history collections around the globe, the past year has seen many challenges for Australasian Herbarium Collections. While no significant damage was incurred, environmental disasters occurred throughout the region, including record bushfires, flooding, and extensive hail and dust storms, and COVID-19 saw the partial or full closure of institutions throughout the region. The shipment of loans and exchange material into and out of Australasian institutions has ceased, but communications continue with Federal and State biosecurity agencies to ensure streamlined and safe import and export of invaluable herbarium specimens. The Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections (MAHC) held an in-person meeting in Darwin, Northern Territory, hosted by the Northern Territory Herbarium, 20–22 August 2019. The 18 participants represented Australian (12 institutions) and New Zealand (4) herbaria, the Atlas of Living Australia, and the Herbarium Information Systems Committee (HISCOM) of the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH). Virtual meeting options were available for those who could only participate remotely. Teleconferences were held in December 2019 and March 2020, and future meetings will be moving to a virtual meeting platform for the next scheduled meeting in June 2020, a positive outcome resulting from institutions moving to work-from-home scenarios requiring virtual meeting platforms. Discussion topics continue to focus on actions for compliance with Nagoya Protocol on Access Benefit-Sharing, developing herbarium best practice guidelines for Australasia, increasing access to collections and images through the Australasian Virtual Herbarium, and integrated pest management and disaster management. Institutions have focused on safe work practices in light of COVID-19 and are now developing return-to-work plans. A new website is due to be released in the next quarter, which will enable greater sharing of the work being undertaken by CHAH and its sub-committees. Many in the collection community were involved in the Taxonomy Australia (<https://www.taxonomyaustralia.org.au/>) national workshop and roundtable discussions to develop a roadmap towards discovering and

documenting the biodiversity of Australia. The role and needs of collections in this endeavor was one of the components. All members are looking forward to participating in the SPNHC-ICOM NATHIST 2020 Virtual Meeting in June and are grateful for the opportunity to be able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley James, SPNHC Representative to MAHC-CHAH)

NATURAL SCIENCES COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION (NatSCA)

2019 has been yet another uncertain year, with the implications of Brexit still being identified. NatSCA has been helping to support the natural science collections sector by liaising with Defra to help inform them of the needs of museums with scientific collections with regards to Brexit & CITES legislation. To help address some of the other bigger-picture issues surrounding the decline of subject specialist expertise in the museums sector, we have been working with other Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs). A large part of this work involves us being on the steering group for the SSN Consortium. This is an important group, as it joins together the voices of around 40 SSNs similar to NatSCA, amplifying the message that museum collections need knowledge to unlock their potential. Through the Consortium we have an opportunity to engage more effectively with sector bodies, and we have already helped inform the Art Fund and Arts Council England about how the wider museums sector is supported by specialist groups and how they as funders can better support the work we do. This has resulted in a new funding strand from the Art Fund, and we are in discussion with Arts Council England about how SSNs might be better supported to increase capacity for developing and delivering resources for our members.

We had good uptake of our conference bursaries this year, after increasing the award from a maximum of £100 to £250. Our 2019 Bill Pettit Memorial Award went to two projects. The Dorman Museum "Leo the Lion conservation project" and the Victoria Gallery, Liverpool, "Primate skeleton conservation project." Both will have the results reported on our blog. Training delivered this year included "Finding Funds for Fossils, Ferns and Flamingos: how to secure money for museum collections," run in partnership with the World Museum Liverpool; a "Care and Conservation of Insect Collections" workshop was run in partnership with The Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and "An introduction to mobilising your collection's biodiversity data" workshop in partnership with Bristol Culture and NMH London. This training ties in with our aim of facilitating the integration of the UK national dispersed collections with the European Distributed System of Scientific Collections (DiSSCo) program. DiSSCo looks to become an increasingly important initiative for mobilizing collections data and improving access to collections around the UK and Europe, similar in scope and focus to iDigBio. This will be an area of priority for NatSCA in the coming few years.

Our AGM and conference was on the theme of "Dead Interesting: Secrets of Collections Success," which was generously hosted by the National Museum of Ireland, with additional tours kindly provided by the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland. At the AGM, the membership voted for a proposed change in NatSCA's status to a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO). This is a step that many SSNs are undertaking since the CIO status was introduced by the Charities Commission in 2013, since it confers 'legal personality' allowing entry into contracts on behalf of the organization rather than individual trustees. We had several committee members stepping down at the end of their term or due to capacity issues this year. I would very much like to thank Roberto Portela-Miguez, Miranda Lowe, Rachel Jennings, and Emma Nicholls for all their valuable efforts in supporting NatSCA over the years. While we're sad to lose such wonderful members of our committee, we are delighted to welcome Jen Gallichan, Glenn Roadley, Amanda Callaghan and Kirsty Lloyd, who have joined us. Speaking of welcome additions, I would like to congratulate NatSCA's Conservation Rep Lucie Mascord on the birth of her daughter.

Finally, I would like to offer my deep gratitude to the whole of the NatSCA committee and the excellent volunteers who help us in our mission. That includes: the Conservation Group (Natalie Jones, Emilia King-ham, Julian Carter, Bethany Palumbo, Arianna Bernucci, Vicen Carrio, Nigel Larkin, Gill Comerford, Simon Moore, and Vicky Purewal); the Editorial Board (Bethany Palumbo,

David Notton, Matthew Parkes, and Rob Huxley); and our operational support team who help us deliver events, projects, the conference, and the essential work involved in keeping things running (Justine Aw, Lily Wilks, Natalie Jones, Sam Barnett, Antoinette Madden, and Erin McNulty). As ever, I want to end with a special vote of thanks to our Treasurer Holly Morgenroth, whose support enables everything we do.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvette Harvey, SPNHC Representative to NatSCA

NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE (NSC Alliance)

The NSC Alliance has continued to work in recent months to represent the interests of natural science collections to policymakers and institutional administrators. NSC Alliance has participated in efforts to complete and promote the Biodiversity Collections Network's (BCoN) "Extending US Biodiversity Collections to Promote Research and Education" report. This has included distributing the report strategically in Washington and presenting about the report at meetings (e.g., Morphosource/iDigBio workshop on digital data, Duke University).

The NSC Alliance provided supportive comments to an OSTP request for proposals on the "Desirable Characteristics of Repositories for Managing and Sharing Data Resulting from Federally Funded Research." These comments used the BCoN report as a basis for requesting greatly enhanced support for the infrastructure and staffing associated with connectivity and storage of museum data.

John Bates, in his capacity as NSC Alliance president, has participated in the US Nagoya Protocol Action Group which is organized by ESA. This group has been developing a website with information for researchers about Nagoya (<https://learnnagoya.com/>). Ongoing discussions about Access to Digital Sequence Information continue to be a priority for this group, and NSCA (with SPNHC) has engaged to produce or sign jointly developed documents arguing for the need to maintain open access to digital sequence information.

The NSC Alliance continues to produce regular on-line updates of activities, which are archived on the website (<http://www.nscalliance.org/>).

Respectfully submitted,
John Bates, NSCA President and SPNHC Representative to NSC Alliance, 30 April 2020

PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PS)

The 2019 meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) was held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, September 22–25.

The next meeting of The Paleontological Society will be held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, October 25–28, 2020.

For more information on The Paleontological Society go to: <http://www.paleosoc.org/>

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Cundiff, SPNHC Representative to PS

SMALL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (SCNet)

SCNet has been active in recruiting, retaining and supporting small collections in the last year and developed a small-collections working and interest group focused on research contributions of small collections. This Small Collections Working Group (SCWG) continues to work with BCoN, iDigBio, SPNHC, and NSCA to expand the SCNet and further efforts to create a sustainable small collections community. SCNet is very interested in working with interested members of the collections community to expand the SCWG and identify and address the needs of small collections.

SCNet, BCoN, iDigBio, NSCA, and BLUE co-sponsoring the 5th annual SCNet Symposium at SPNHC 2019. The goal of the symposium was to highlight data-driven examples of the contributions small biological collections make to the national digitization initiative and resultant biodiversity research. Sixteen speakers participated in the full day of talks and covered topics related to small collections in the context of their unique and valuable contributions to digitization, aggregated data and metadata, and downstream research. The SCWG is currently drafting a manuscript to highlight the contributions of small collections to research.

During the 2020 summer, the [Small Collections Network](#) and iDigBio are hosting listening sessions to gather community feedback on how small/regional collections (including those held at field stations) have been involved in iDigBio and ADBC activities to date, as well as what activities (webinars, workshops, trainings, etc.) would be most valuable to focus on in the upcoming year. SCNet is interested in perspectives from any collection size and any level of iDigBio/ADBC involvement, including no previous activity with iDigBio/ADBC. This is an opportunity to let SCNet know what has been successful in the past, as well as to provide constructive criticism that will help improve future SCNet activities. Look out for these sessions to provide some feedback on how SCNet can meet the needs of the small-collections community.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Monfils, SPNHC Representative to SCNet

SOCIETY OF HERBARIUM CURATORS (SHC)

The Society focuses on promoting the importance of herbaria in teaching, research, and service to the community at large. Members are active in the continued development of regional and/or state-level consortia and are participating in various regional efforts as well as increasing our international presence.

I am completing my final year of a second 3-year term as a Member-at-Large on the Executive Board of SHC. I also served on the ad hoc Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee this past year.

The major event for this year was supposed to be a half-day symposium entitled “*Biodiversity Research Collecting Is More Important Than Ever—Ushering in a Collecting Renaissance*,” to be held immediately following the Botany2020 meeting. I have not heard if the symposium will still be held.

The annual meeting of the Society was originally to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, USA, as part of the Botany2020 meeting on July 18–22, 2020. As of this writing, the Botany2020 meeting will, like the SPNHC meeting, be held virtually, with details still evolving.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Rabeler, SPNHC Representative to SHC

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (SVP)

No report submitted.

Appendix 1



25th Anniversary Year

SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018



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THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections New York, New York

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related statements of activities, cash flows, and functional expenses, for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagements in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

Accountant's Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Burdette Smith & Bish, LLC

Fairfax, Virginia June 10, 2020

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

(REVIEWED)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 264,734	\$ 269,374
Accounts receivable	39,045	-
Inventory	35,216	22,527
Total Current Assets	<u>338,995</u>	<u>291,901</u>
INVESTMENTS	<u>69,493</u>	<u>60,430</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 408,488</u>	<u>\$ 352,331</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 13,166	\$ 17,393
Deferred revenue	930	11,166
Total Current Liabilities	<u>14,116</u>	<u>28,578</u>
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	423,517	332,743
With donor restrictions	660	1,010
Total Net Assets	<u>424,177</u>	<u>333,753</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 408,488</u>	<u>\$ 352,331</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

(REVIEWED)

<u>2019</u>	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue, gains, and other support:			
Membership dues and subscriptions	\$ 35,819	\$ -	\$ 35,819
Publication sales	43,714	-	43,714
Contributions	19,374	771	20,145
Investment income, net	24,338	-	24,338
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	921	(921)	-
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	<u>124,155</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>124,015</u>
Expenses and losses:			
Program	24,192	-	24,192
General and administrative	9,200	-	9,200
Total Expenses	<u>33,392</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,392</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	90,774	(150)	90,624
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>332,743</u>	<u>1,010</u>	<u>333,753</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 423,517</u>	<u>\$ 860</u>	<u>\$ 424,377</u>
 <u>2018</u>	 <u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	 <u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	 <u>Total</u>
Revenue, gains, and other support:			
Membership dues and subscriptions	\$ 33,070	\$ -	\$ 33,070
Publication sales	4,114	-	4,114
Contributions	7,170	12,735	19,905
Investment income, net	(4,438)	-	(4,438)
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	15,424	(15,424)	-
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	<u>55,342</u>	<u>(2,689)</u>	<u>52,653</u>
Expenses:			
Program	42,513	-	42,513
General and administrative	12,808	-	12,808
Total Expenses	<u>55,321</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,321</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	21	(2,689)	(2,668)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>332,722</u>	<u>3,699</u>	<u>336,421</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 332,743</u>	<u>\$ 1,010</u>	<u>\$ 333,753</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

(REVIEWED)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash received from members and customers	\$ 59,423	\$ 55,764
Cash paid for program and support services	(105,533)	(45,531)
Interest and dividends received	5,270	7,545
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	<u>(11,940)</u>	<u>16,501</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Disposal of intangible asset	17,300	-
Net Cash Provided by (Used In) Investing Activities	<u>17,300</u>	<u>-</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	5,360	16,501
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>259,374</u>	<u>240,573</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 264,734</u>	<u>\$ 259,374</u>
RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 90,524	\$ (2,555)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	(17,300)	-
(Gain) loss on valuation of investments	(19,055)	12,254
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	(39,045)	-
(Increase) decrease in inventory	(12,559)	757
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(4,207)	5,733
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	(10,255)	(305)
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	<u>\$ (11,940)</u>	<u>\$ 16,501</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

(REVIEWED)

<u>2019</u>	Program Services	General and Administrative	Total Expenses
Annual meeting	\$ 8,040	\$ -	\$ 8,040
Bank charges	-	698	698
Consulting - best practices	1,189	-	1,189
Newsletter and journal	7,618	-	7,618
Election costs	-	288	288
Insurance	-	631	631
Membership	2,701	-	2,701
President contingency funds	-	780	780
Professional fees	-	6,240	6,240
Travel grant	3,904	-	3,904
Treasurer's office supplies	-	729	729
Web committee	3,770	-	3,770
	<u>\$ 24,192</u>	<u>\$ 9,200</u>	<u>\$ 33,392</u>

<u>2018</u>	Program Services	General and Administrative	Total Expenses
Bank charges	\$ -	\$ 1,024	\$ 1,024
Cost of goods sold	788	-	788
Newsletter and journal	11,199	-	11,199
Election costs	-	368	368
Grant work	96	-	96
Insurance	-	3,516	3,516
Membership	2,227	-	2,227
President contingency funds	-	1,677	1,677
Professional fees	-	6,660	6,660
Travel grant	17,648	-	17,648
Treasurer's office supplies	-	663	663
Web committee	10,590	-	10,590
	<u>\$ 42,613</u>	<u>\$ 12,608</u>	<u>\$ 55,321</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

(REVIEWED)

NOTE 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (the Society) was formed in 1985, and then incorporated in 1988 under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania. The Society seeks to improve the preservation, conservation and management of natural history collections to ensure their continuing value to the society. Substantial support is received from approximately 600 members, representing 21 countries, who are interested in the development and preservation of natural history collections.

Support and Expenses

Contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give to the Society that is, in substance, unconditional. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions expire in the fiscal year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets depending on the nature of the restrictions. When a restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets.

Member support received in advance of the membership period is recorded as deferred in the accompanying statements of financial position.

Expenses are recorded when incurred in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting.

Fair Value Measurements

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States established a framework for measuring fair value, clarifying the definition of fair value within that framework and expanding disclosure about fair value measurements. U.S. GAAP established a three- tiered fair value hierarchy with Level 1 representing quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in an active market, Level 2 representing quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in an active market that is non-active or with other than directly or indirectly observable inputs, and Level 3 representing estimate values based on unobservable inputs. Related disclosures are segregated for assets and liabilities measured at fair value based on the level used within the hierarchy to determine their fair values.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that effect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Society considers all short-term non- restricted investments to be cash equivalents.

Inventory

The Society maintains an inventory of professional books for sale to members and to the public. Inventory is recorded at lower of cost or market.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

(REVIEWED)

NOTE 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

Investments

Investments are reported at market value using level 1 methodology. Contributions of marketable securities are recorded at their fair market value at the date of donation.

Intangible Asset

The Society capitalized expenditures related to long-term functional website building and design fees. Expenditures for ordinary maintenance and updates are charged to operations as incurred. When management deems the property to be impaired beyond further use, the remaining unamortized balance is expensed in the current year. The cost and related accumulated amortization are then eliminated from the accounts. Amortization is provided for under the straight-line method over a period of three years.

Classes of Assets

To ensure the observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Society, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting purposes into the following classes established according to their nature and purpose.

Net assets without donor restrictions Net assets that are not subject to donor- imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the Society. The Society's board may designate assets without restrictions for specific operational purposes from time to time.

Net assets with donor restrictions Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Society or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Tax Exempt Status

The Society has been granted exemption from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended and is classified as other than a private foundation. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been made.

Management evaluated the Society's tax positions and concluded that the Society had taken no uncertain tax positions that require adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements. With few exceptions, federal and state information returns for the years prior to 2016 are no longer subject to examination by tax authorities.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

(REVIEWED)

NOTE 2 – Inventory

Inventory, at cost, consists of the following at December 31:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Ideas and Practical Solutions - Vol 1	\$ 355	\$ 24
A Preventive Conservation Approach - Vol 2	104	104
Managing the Modern Herbarium	1,224	1,441
MuseumWise: Workplace Words Defined	5,543	5,543
Museum Studies	798	61
Health and Safety	14,903	15,354
Preventive Conservation	12,269	-
	<u>\$ 35,216</u>	<u>\$ 22,527</u>

NOTE 3 – Investments

Investments, at market value, consist of the following at December 31:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Mutual funds	\$ 99,498	\$ 50,430

Fair market values for certificates of deposit and mutual funds, which are the amounts reported in the statements of financial position, are all based on the quoted market prices, Level 1 methodology, less any dividend and interest income earned but not yet received. Carrying value approximates fair market value.

Investment income for the years ended December 31, is comprised of the following:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Unrealized gain (loss) on market value	\$ 19,065	\$ (12,254)
Interest and dividends	5,270	7,545
	<u>\$ 24,335</u>	<u>\$ (4,709)</u>

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

(REVIEWED)

NOTE 4 – Net Assets

Net assets consist of the following at December 31:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
With Donor Restrictions:		
Christine Allen fund	860	1,010
Total With Donor Restrictions	\$ 860	\$ 1,010
Without Donor Restrictions:		
Undesignated	\$ 423,817	\$ 332,743
Total Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 423,817	\$ 332,743

NOTE 5 – Liquidity and Availability of Resources

The Society's financial assets available within one year of the balance sheet date for general expenditure are as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 240,179
Certificate of deposit	24,554
Other investments (if needed)	99,498
Net assets with donor restrictions	(860)
	\$ 363,371

As part of liquidity management, the Society has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available as general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations come due. In addition, as part of liquidity management, the Society invests cash in excess of daily requirements in short-term options such as certificates of deposit and sweep accounts and long-term options such as investments in income and growth funds. The Society's financial assets available at December 31, 2019 are sufficient to cover all of its obligations.

NOTE 6 – Expense Allocation

The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributable to one or more program or supporting functions of the Society. Those expenses include publication, communications, and travel. These expenses are allocated based on estimates of time and effort.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

(REVIEWED)

NOTE 7 – Subsequent Events

Subsequent to year end , the World Health Organization announced a global health emergency due to a new strain of coronavirus (COVID-19), which became a global pandemic in March 2020 and resulted in unprecedented actions by governments around the world to curtail the spread of the disease. These events have resulted in high level of uncertainty and volatility in the financial markets and have had an enormous impact on businesses, organizations, and consumers in all sectors. The outcome and timeframe is a highly unpredictable and as such, the Society is not able to estimate the effects of COVID-19 on its results of operations, financial condition or liquidity for 2020.

The Society evaluated its December 31, 2019 financial statements for subsequent events through June 10, 2019, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.