

THE  
**36th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
OF THE  
**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**



**SPNHC**

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

**“Transform 2021”**

**Online meeting**

**May, 27, 2021**

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# Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections  
27 May 2021  
Online via Zoom Meeting

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1. Call to order
2. Agenda
3. Minutes of the 2020 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. Education
  - g. Elections
  - h. Emerging Professionals
  - i. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility
  - j. Legislation and Regulations
  - k. Long-Range Planning
  - l. Membership
  - m. Professional Development
  - n. Publications
  - o. Recognition and Grants
  - p. Web Site
7. Reports of Sessional Committees
  - a. Collection Theft & Security Monitoring in Collections
  - b. Collections and the Biodiversity Crisis
  - c. International Relations
  - d. US Federal Collections
8. Reports of Representatives (25)

Due to time constraints, please refer to the printed reports.
9. New Business
  - a. Awards & Recognition
  - b. Upcoming Meetings
  - c. Inclusion Statement
10. Old Business
11. Announcements
12. Adjournment

## 2020–2021 List of SPNHC Members Serving on Council and Committees

### COUNCIL

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Paul Mayer
President-Elect	Julian Carter
Past President	Barbara Thiers
Treasurer	Theresa Reilly
Managing Editor	Maribel Campbell
Secretary	Cindy Opitz

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Talia Karim	2018–2021
Fran Ritchie	2018–2021
Anna Monfils	2019–2022
Breda Zimkus	2019–2022
Shelley James	2020–2023
Randy Singer	2020–2023

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Archives Committee

Carol Kelloff	Chair
Lisa F. Palmer	Meghann Toner

#### Best Practices Committee

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

#### *Citations Subcommittee of Best Practices*

Margaret Landis	Chair
Mariko Kageyama	Ann Pinzl

#### Bylaws Committee

Barbara Thiers	Chair (Past President)
Laura Abraczinskas	Cindy Opitz (Secretary)
Andrew Bentley	

#### Conference Committee

Julian Carter, Chair (President-Elect)	
Tiffany Adrain	Angela Morrow
Laura Eklund	Sankurie Pye
Moe Flannery	Clare Valentine
Paul Mayer	Tim White

#### Education

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

#### Election Committee

Bethany Palumbo	Chair
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#### 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 Ciperia	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	Mark Renczkowski
Suzanne B. McLaren	Clare Valentine
Armando Mendez	Tim White
Cindy Opitz	

#### Emerging Professionals Committee

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

#### Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility Comm.

Anna Monfils	Co-chair
Vanessa Delnavaz	Co-chair
Molly Phillips	Co-secretary
Hayley Singleton	Co-secretary
Gretchen Anderson	Paul Mayer
Lyndell Bade	Rebecca Newberry
John Bates	Cindy Opitz
Alnycea Blackwell	Deb Paul
Laura Briscoe	Theresa Reilly
Julian Carter	Marcy Revelez
Amalia Diaz	Fran Ritchie
Ron Eng	Randy Singer
Adania Flemming	Barbara Tiers
Lisa Goldberg	Genevieve Tocci
Shelley James	Meghann S. Toner
Talia Karim	Richard Wittie
Jennifer Lanman	Breda Zimkus

**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

**Long-Range Planning Committee**

Julian Carter	Chair (President-Elect)
Suzanne Ryder	Co-chair
Laura Abraczinskas	Cindy Opitz
Stephanie Carson	Bethany Palumbo
Shelley James	Hayley Singleton
Anna Monfils	Meghann Toner
Dirk Neumann	

**Membership Committee**

Tiffany Adrain	Chair
Elena Benamy	Kari Panhorst
Richard Busch	Ann Pinzl
Talia Karim	Greg Watkins-Collwell
Rachel Malloy	Theresa Reilly (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	

**Recognition and Grants Committee**

Barbara Thiers	Chair (Past President)
Andy Bentley	Suzanne B. McLaren
Jean-Marc Gagnon	

**Publications Committee**

Mariel Campbell	Chair, Managing Editor
Mariana di Giacomo	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum
Shelley James	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	Asst. Ed., SPNHC Connection
Lisa Goldberg	Editor, Book Reviews
Breda Zimkus	Editor, Technical Leaflets
Sarah Ketelsen	Liaison, Membership Access
Carol Kelloff,	Archives Chair

**Web & Social Media Committee**

Liath Appleton	Chair
Jennifer Lanman	Jobs Board Manager
Irene Finkelde	Events Calendar Manager
Jessica Utrup	NH-COLL-List Manager
James Macklin	Consultant

*Social Media Team*

Lynn Jones	Social Media Manager
Mariana Di Giacomo	Twitter
Aditi Jayarajan	Instagram
Cara Smith	Instagram

*Website Editors*

Laura Abraczinskas	Bylaws
Tiffany Adrain	Membership
Theresa Reilly	Treasurer
Shelley James	Molly Phillips
Anna Monfils	

*YouTube Managers*

Emily Braker	Best Practices
Genevieve Tocci	Best Practices
Andy Bentley	Paul Mayer

*Slack Administration*

Mariana Di Giacomo	
Deborah Paul	
Genevieve Tocci	

## SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

### **Collections and the Biodiversity Crisis**

Libby Ellwood	Chair
Martin Alvarez	Roxi Kellar
Usman Atique	Austin Mast
Andy Bentley	Juri Miyamae
Jutta Buschbom	Mare Nazaire
Dina Clark	Gil Nelson
Jason Comer	Emma Rempel
Chelsea Dvorak-Specht	Soledad Tancoff
Alina Freire-Fierro	Erica Wheeler
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Martin Wiemers
Rachel Hackett	Justin Williams
Rothan Joglekar	Sarah Witiak
Talia Karim	

### **Collection Theft & Security Monitoring**

Paul Mayer	Co-chair
Rob Zschernitz	Co-chair

### **International Relations**

Sue Ryder	Chair
Deborah Paul	Deputy Chair
Mariana Di Giacomo	EPC Liaison
Armando Mendez	

### **US Federal Collections**

Janaki Krishna	Chair
Carol Butler	Chris Norris
Terry Childs	Sally Shelton
Janaki Krishna	

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## 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):** Mare Nazaire

**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):** Erica Krimmel

**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):** Bethany Paumbo

**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**  
**10 June 2020**  
**Online via Zoom Meeting**

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**Members Present: 169 attendees from 18 countries**

**1. Call to Order**

SPNHC President Barbara Thiers called the meeting to order at 9:31 pm CDT  
And referred all to find agenda, minutes, and reports in the ABM packet.

**2. Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda (found on page 3 of the ABM packet).

Moved: Paul Mayer;

Seconded: Mariel Campbell

Vote: All in favor: Yes (18);

Opposed: 0

**passed unanimously**

**3. Minutes**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting, held on 29 May 2019, at the Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois, USA, (found on page 7 of the ABM packet).

Moved: Carol Kelloff;

Seconded: Amanda Lawrence

Vote: All in favor: Yes (56);

Opposed: 0

**passed unanimously**

**4. President's Report**

BT referred to her written report starting on page 11 of the ABM packet.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

BT reported that Ruth O'Leary is acting as treasurer, though RO stepped down last year. Treasurer Melinda Peters was unable to complete her term and had to resign. RO heroically stepped in at the last minute to finish up the budget, financial review, and bookkeeping processes.

RO read the treasurer's report on pages 13 and 14 in the ABM packet, referring to the budgets on pages 16 and 17.

BT thanked RO for her work, thanked SPNHC donors, and admonished delinquents to pay their dues.

**Motion:** To accept SPNHC new members for 2019 and 2020, as listed in the ABM packet.

Moved: Paul Mayer;

Seconded: Ruth O'Leary

Vote: All in favor: Yes (58);

Opposed: 0

**passed unanimously**

**Motion:** To accept the report of the Past Treasurer and 2020 budget as amended.

Moved: Mariel Campbell;

Seconded: Paul Mayer

Vote: All in favor: Yes (87);

Opposed: 0

**passed unanimously**

BT responded to a question posted in the Q&A window of the zoom meeting: How much money was lost by postponing the Edinburgh 2020 conference until 2022? BT: Council agreed to consider the \$5000 loan as a gift. RO explained that beyond the \$5000 loan, conference money doesn't run through the SPNHC budget, but through the Local Organizing Committee; Edinburgh LOC member Elspeth Haston said no complete picture is available yet of the deficit due to cancelling 2020 conference contracts; the deficit will be borne by the two host institutions; some suppliers were helpful in transferring bookings to 2022. BT asked for (and received) applause for Acting Treasurer Ruth O'Leary for the job she did.

BT read another Q&A-window question: What does that mean, that Edinburgh is postponed for two years? Edinburgh LOC member Sankurie Pye explained that the SPNHC Council had agreed to allow the Edinburgh LOC to postpone the meeting, originally planned for 2020, until 2022.

**6. Reports of Standing Committees**

- a. Archives – Carol Kelloff: Referred to the written report.
- b. Best Practices – Co-chair Breda Zimkus: Referred to the written report and thanked Co-chair Jessica Cundiff for her service, now that both are stepping down and handing the chair position to Genevieve Tocci and Emily Braker.
- c. Bylaws – Linda S. Ford: Referred to the written report and noted that the committee is chaired by the past president, so LSF is stepping down and BT will take over.
- d. Conference – Paul Mayer: Referred to the written report.

- e. Conservation –Fran Ritchie: Referred to the written report.
- f. Elections – Bethany Palumbo: Referred to the written report
  - BT opened the floor for nominees for two Members-at-Large for election in the fall, noting that MAL service is a great way to see how the Society works and that current MALs worked hard on managing this virtual meeting.
- g. Emerging Professionals – Kari Harris, Mariana DiGiacomo: Referred to the written report and asked everyone to join them for the social on Friday.
- h. Legislation and Regulations - Dirk Neumann, Stephanie Carson: referred to the written report.
- i. Long-Range Planning – BT referred to the written report, also noting that Deb Trock was president-elect and would have been in charge of the Conference and Long-Range Planning committees but resigned from the president-elect position because she is retiring and leaving the field, and that Paul Mayer has stepped into the president-elect role and will become president at the end of this meeting.
- j. Membership – Tiffany Adrain: Referred to the written report.
- k. Professional Development – Jeff Stephenson, Nick Drew: Referred to the written report.
- l. Publications – Mariel Campbell: Referred to the written report.
- m. Recognition and Grants – Linda S. Ford: Referred to the written report, noting there will be more on awards later. LSF noted that the R&G committee is chaired by the past president, so LSF is stepping down and BT will take over the chair position at end of the ABM.
- n. Web & Social Media – Liath Appleton: Referred to the written report.

## 7. Reports of Sessional Committees

- a. Collection Theft & Security Monitoring in Collections—Paul Mayer noted that a symposium will be held at next year’s meeting and encouraged folks to resubmit abstracts for next year.
- b. Collections and the Biodiversity Crisis—Libby Elwood: Referred to the written report.
- c. Education—Anna Monfils: Referred to the written report.
- d. International Relations – Deborah Paul: Referred to the written report by committee chair Sue Ryder and the piece DP added about using Slack as a member benefit, justifying a potential dues increase.
- e. US Federal Collections – BT reported that chair Matthew Brown stepped down and there is no report.

## 8. Representative Reports (24)

For expediency, BT referred to the written reports in ABM package.

## 9. New Business

### a. Memoriam

BT noted that the Society lost some long-time members during the last year.

#### Janet Waddington, 1948–2020

Tim White and Deb Metsger gave a presentation on Janet Waddington, noting that she was recognized instantly by her enduring smile and sense of fun, and was a founding member of the Society who died in January 2020. Janet’s passion for museums dated to her childhood; she joined the invert paleo department at the Royal Ontario Museum in 1971, where her primary role was in collection management; she prepared a catalog of type specimens that was used as a template by other collection managers, among other significant academic achievements; the species *Raptoblatta waddingtonae* was named after her—an early cretaceous insect; she was an in-demand public speaker and fantastic tour guide behind the scenes in collections; she managed collection moves, collection databasing, and published the proceedings of a collection-care workshop in Ottawa in 1984, beginning her long association with the SPNHC *Collection Forum*; her SPNHC service included work as a Member-at-Large, Secretary, Chair of a Local Organizing Committee, Managing Editor, and was the 1998 recipient of SPNHC President’s Award for long-term and superior service to the society; at the Society’s 10<sup>th</sup>-anniversary meeting in 1995, her “Managing the Modern Herbarium” was the first discipline-specific SPNHC workshop; at the museum, she contributed to designing and building four new galleries, including the Age of Dinosaurs gallery; she was a people person, whose professional success was due in part to her congeniality; she retired from the Royal Ontario Museum in 2012 to spend time with her husband, Dennis, of 49 years, her children, and grandchildren, and managed their property as a forest/wildlife refuge. DM closed by saying, “Thank you, Janet, for enriching all of us with your expertise...and compassion.”

BT thanked DM and TW for their wonderful tribute to Janet Waddington and asked Ruth O’Leary to say a few words about Barb Brown.

#### Barbara Brown, 1954–2020

RO noted that she was unable to obtain photos of Barb, due to the pandemic and lack of access to the AMNH;



she knew that Barb had taken sick leave for a while and was stunned and upset at the news of her passing, as Barb was expected to recover; Barb had worked in the AMNH's department of ichthyology for over 35 years, where she saw extensive growth, major moves, and increased use in the department as well as an NSF collections improvement grant; in 2011. Barb was a founding member of the AMNH Collection Managers' Group; when colleagues Chris Johnson and Ruth O'Leary approached Barb for advice, Barb offered support, a sympathetic ear, and much advice; Barb will be sorely missed at lunches and beers; Barb served as SPNHC Treasurer from 2006–2012, and oversaw financial management of the Society during the transition to an online membership management system. RO noted that most were unable to attend Barb's wake and funeral, due to the pandemic, so a belated wake will be held after the pandemic; Barb wouldn't want a fuss but would surely appreciate the gathering and laughs. RO read a poem by Seamus Heaney, who was Irish, as Barb was, reflecting on memories of time along with his mother as a child, in the wake of her death. RO closed her tribute with, "Rest in peace, Barb."

BT thanked RO for her lovely tribute.

**b. Awards**

BT invited LSF to present awards.

LSF thanked RO for her tribute to Barb Brown, noting that Barb will be deeply missed.

LSF 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.

- i. Faber Innovation Grant—to Dr. R. Christopher Tacker from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh NC, for the proposal, "'Pyrite Disease' and Clay Minerals: The Threat to Natural History Collections; CT will receive \$1000.
- ii. Special Service Award—to Lisa Elkin and Chris Norris for their four-year professional efforts and editing expertise on the book, *Preventative Conservation: Collection Storage*, a well-received and highly praised collaborative SPNHC publication.
- iii. Special Service Award—to the SPNHC Emergency Ad Hoc Finance Committee for their diligent and effective efforts to assess and apprise the finances of the Society. Committee members consisted of Ruth O'Leary, Lisa Palmer, and Sue McLaren, all of which served as SPNHC Treasurers in the past.
- iv. Special Service Award—to the SPNHC Organizing Committee for the 2020 SPNHC Meeting, for organizing the 35<sup>th</sup> annual and 1<sup>st</sup> virtual meeting of the Society. Committee members include Liath Appleton, Andy Bentley, Emily Braker, Mariana Di Giacomo, Phaedra Fang, Elspeth Haston, Shelley James, Talia Karim, Amanda Lawrence, Paul Mayer, Rebecca Newberry, Cindy Opitz, Deborah Paul, Dorit Wolenitz, and Breda Zimkus.

LSF noted that this was her last year as chair of the Recognition and Grants committee, which is chaired by the SPNHC Past President; she expressed her gratitude to the Committee members for making her time enjoyable. She also noted that the announcement for award nominations will come out shortly by the new chair, Barbara Thiers, and urged members to look for the announcements and apply for grants and/or nominate their SPNHC peers for recognition awards.

**c. Upcoming Meetings**

2021 Jacksonville FL, with AIC: BT announced that the 2021 meeting will not be hosted by the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, as originally planned, because California Academy was hit hard by its closure and ensuing financial crisis; the California Academy would like to postpone until 2023. BT noted that the Society fortuitously received an offer from the AIC to join them for their 2021 meeting in Jacksonville FL. Paul Mayer shared a presentation from AIC's Ruth Seyler, which was shown during the SPNHC Council meeting on Monday and highlighted the facility and surrounding area in Jacksonville and the advantages of a joint meeting with AIC. PM addressed questions about the abstract review process (August through October, 3 rounds of reviews, about 200 usually accepted), and dancing (yes, we will make sure there is dancing). Several SPNHC members volunteered to help organize the meeting. PM Noted that some sessions would be joint, and some individual to the AIC and SPNHC, respectively. BT announced that with former President-elect Deb Trock stepping down, Paul Mayer will become President at the end of the ABM, and Julian Carter was appointed President-elect; JC will work with the organizing committee.

**Motion:** To accept the AIC's offer to hold the SPNHC 2021 meeting jointly with AIC in Jacksonville FL, May 11–15.

Moved: Carol Kelloff; Second: Mariana Di Giacomo

Vote: All in favor: Yes (88);

Opposed: 0

**passed unanimously**

2022: Edinburgh: BT noted that Council had approved a postponement of the 2020 Edinburgh conference until June 4–10, 2022. Edinburgh representative Sankyrie Pie praised the 2020 meeting line-up and noted that the Edinburgh LOC is looking for potential partner organizations, which add value to a conference. BT noted that the Society will be exploring the idea of holding virtual/hybrid meetings for those who cannot attend in person. **Motion:** To accept the invitation from the Natural Museums Scotland and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to co-host the 2022 meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections.

Moved: Linda S. Ford;

Second: Paul Mayer

Vote: All in favor: Yes (94);

Opposed: 0

**passed unanimously**

**d. Diversity, equity, and inclusion**

BT acknowledged the US Science Shutdown underway on this day, a widely endorsed effort in the scientific community to shut down normal operations in order to recognize the systemic racism that permeates our society and science in the history of this country; recommended activities today are to read, study, and reflect on ways to make our field more inclusive and to adjust our own perspective and understanding. BT noted that the Society did not shut the meeting down today because of the meeting's international nature and because people had prepared a long time for it. BT said that the SPNHC Council had committed on Monday to looking for ways to increase diversity in our Society and our relevance to a greater segment of our population, and particularly to fight racism in all its forms. BT noted that Council did not want to simply pull together a statement to post on the Society's website, but to begin a more deliberate process that begins with listening and discussion. BT invited thoughts and suggestions from the membership. There was general agreement to forming a DEI Committee as well as having DEI representatives in other SPNHC committees; several members volunteered or were nominated to serve on a DEI committee or to represent the DEI committee on other SPNHC committees (including Rebecca Newberry, Marcy Revelez, Anna Monfils, Deb Paul, Molly Philips, John Bates, Barbara Thiers, Adania Flemming, Richard Wittie, Jean-Marc Gagnon, Genevieve Tocci, and Lyndell Bade). Marcy Revelez suggested offering financial support to encourage minority travel and attendance; BT noted that it would be great to work toward something like the Faber Award, for people to develop programs in their collections, which are directly related to reaching Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in their communities. Past treasurer Ruth O'Leary noted that the Society has more money than we've had in a long time, due to extremely generous donations from LOCs that have had very successful annual meetings, and suggested using money sitting in investments and cash reserves to set up a sustainable program; BT said that she would leave it up to incoming president Paul Mayer to form a committee to develop ideas for programs and activities. There were also suggestions from membership to hold future symposia on decolonizing museums and minority perspectives on science careers. Anna Monfils provided a link to a call to action for an anti-racist science community, by our geology colleagues, and suggested that the Society might want to reach out to those folks as we develop our own vision and plan. BT agreed that partnering with other organizations for some synergy would be a great idea and thanked AM for that example, noting that the Society has a long history of partnering with other organizations on initiatives. Deb Paul mentioned the difficulty of ongoing conversations about whether to cancel one of the symposiums today, as some had called for, and the need to include the international community, as #BlackInStem today might be about indigenous peoples in other countries.

**e. Treasurer position**

BT reported that Melinda Peters was unable to continue in the role of Treasurer and sent all materials to BT; because SPNHC bylaws allow only the treasurer and president to pay bills, BT temporarily became SPNHC Treasurer, with Ruth O'Leary's terrific help. BT happily announced that we have a new treasurer, Theresa Reilly, who some might remember from her work organizing the 2019 meeting in Chicago; BT will work on transferring accounts and materials to TR in next few weeks.

**f. Finance committee**

BT reported that Council voted at its meeting earlier in the week to reinstate the Finance Committee, which played an advisory role in the past and was disbanded when past treasurer RO was doing such a superlative job; while RO has provided clear instructions, the treasurer's is a difficult job, and the Finance Committee is being reinstated to provide the treasurer with a support system and quarterly check-ins to see how things are going; new president PM will form the committee.

**10. Old Business**

None.

**11. Announcements**

- a. BT thanked our two outgoing Members-at-Large, whose terms are ending with this meeting—Amanda Lawrence (2017–2020), & Deborah Paul (2017–2020), who both worked so hard on this virtual meeting and went out with a bang; BT noted that they are valued members of the Society and that she is looking forward to seeing how they will continue to be involved.
  - b. BT welcomed our incoming Members-at-Large—Shelley James (2020–2023), from Western Australia, whose work from afar as part of the conference organizing team was brilliant, and Randy Singer (2020–2023), whose 3-year terms are now beginning, and Breda Zimkus (2020–2022), who is finishing Paul Mayer’s MaL term and has done a brilliant job leading the Best Practices committee until now.
- 12. Adjournment:** BT noted that with the close of the Annual Business Meeting, she is turning over the presidency to Paul Mayer, encouraging everyone to help Paul in every way that we can, because he missed out on serving two years of preparation as president elect. BT also noted that she so enjoyed being SPNHC president, which was not always easy and especially challenging during this last month, but that the way in which this meeting has come off has reaffirmed why she loves SPNHC.
- Motion:** To adjourn the Annual Business Meeting.  
 Moved: Linda S. Ford;                                Seconded: Paul Mayer  
 70 voted to adjourn, though no vote required.  
 BT adjourned the meeting at: 11:02 CDT.

## Report of the President

This is my first ABM presidential report. 2020 was a difficult year for all of us. However, there is a great group of dedicated people who have helped SPNHC continue with its work and goals. I would like to thank all the executive members and everyone in the Council, the Committee Chairs and their members, and the Representatives/Liaisons, and everyone else who have worked so hard and volunteered their time to make SPNHC a success. Our society is only as strong and successful as the people who support it.

### Elections

Talia Karim and Fran Ritchie will reach the end of their Members-at-Large terms after the 2021 Annual Business Meeting. Please help me express our appreciation and gratitude to them for all of their hard work. Also please help me welcome and wish good luck to Meghann Toner (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History), and Vanessa Delnavaz (Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History), who won the recent SPNHC election to fill these two positions.

### Emerging Professionals Committee

Kari Harris and Mariana Di Giacomo are stepping down as co-chairs of the Emerging Professionals Committee. They have done a terrific job chairing the Committee. Thank you for all of the hard work that you have put in as chairs of this committee.

### New Committees

We have two new standing committees, the IDEA Committee formerly known as the DEI Sessional Committee, and the Education Sessional Committee; both have become standing committees.

*Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee* will work to promote a diverse and inclusive community of collections professionals, identify and help remove barriers to participation in the biodiversity sciences, and promote activities that support the inclusion and retention of individuals of all identity groups within the collections field and associated scientific disciplines. When appropriate, the IDEA Committee will work alongside other SPNHC committees and support the planning, organization, and delivery of workshops and mentorship activities. The IDEA members will maintain a Wiki page of IDEA resources and communicate IDEA activities and resources through Society social media. Co-chairs are Anna Monfils, and Vanessa Delnavaz, and the Co-secretaries are Hayley Singleton and Molly Phillips.

*Education Committee* will work to develop, support, and promote formal (K-12, Undergraduate and Graduate), and informal education and outreach relative to natural history collections and biodiversity science as informed by natural history collections. The Education Committee will work closely with the Inclusion, Diversity, Education and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee to encourage education and outreach activities and materials that facilitate diverse and inclusive participation in the natural sciences, and promote activities that support the inclusion and retention of individuals of all identity groups within the collections field and associated scientific disciplines. When appropriate, the Education Committee will work alongside other SPNHC committees and support the planning, organization, and delivery of workshops and mentorship activities in association with annual meetings. Education

Committee members will maintain a branch of the SPNHC Wiki, a QUBESHub site of education and outreach resources, and communicate education activities and resources through social media. Co-chairs are Anna Monfils and Molly Phillips, and the Co-secretaries are Jen Bauer and Elizabeth Leith.

## **Annual Meetings**

2021: The organizing committee last year sent out a survey about SPNHC's first virtual meeting. The feedback we received was taken very seriously and we tried to implement as many of the ideas as we could this year. We all miss the in-person meetings and the chance to socialize (and dance) with old friends and the chance to meet new friends. This year we are trying a variety of different ideas to help with socializing online. I urge you to participate in as many of these events as possible, and I give special emphasis to the 16 virtual Collections tours. Social events occurring after the ABM are:

- *Virtual Collections Tours.* A series of invited tours from collections from around the world. Multiple dates in May and June.
- *Old Croone Day Social.* A 'Pub hour' to celebrate all things fluid preserved, and our collections as a whole! June 4 marks the day when William Croone presented the first fluid preserved specimens to the Royal Society in 1662. 4 June at 5.00pm (EDT)
- *SPNHC Coffee and Drinks Hour.* Another opportunity to enjoy a beverage of choice and meet up with colleagues across the world. 9 June at 9.00am (EDT)
- *Science Illustration Fun Hour.* Come join us for a fun virtual session creating your own scientific illustration and art! 17 June at 5.30pm (EDT)
- *SPNHC Mid-Summer Trivia.* Return of the legendary SPNHC 'Pub Quiz' in virtual form! 21 June at 5.00pm (EDT)
- *Special Interest Groups - Open Session.* An opportunity to host a discussion on topics raised from the conference. 25 June at 12.00pm (EDT)

2022: The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of SPNHC will be held on 4–10 June 2022 in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. The plan is to have an in-person meeting in Edinburgh with some virtual components, hosted by the National Museum of Scotland and the Royal Botanic Garden with international partner Biodiversity Heritage Library and national partner Natural Sciences Collections Association.

2023: The California Academy of Science has offered to host the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of SPNHC in San Francisco, California.

2024: Please let me know if you and your organization are interested in hosting the 39th annual meeting in 2024.

## **Convention on Biological Diversity Subsidiary Body**

SPNHC has successfully requested to be represented as an observer to the Convention on Biological Diversity Subsidiary Body on Implementation meeting SBI3 starting on 3 May and continuing to 13 June 2021. Our representatives will be Jutta Buschbom and Elizabeth (Libby) Ellwood.

## **BCoN Letter to House Science Committee**

SPNHC signed on to a Biodiversity Collections Network letter that was sent to the majority and minority staff directors of the US House Science Committee last month. The goal is to update them on recent initiatives and reiterate the value of the Extended Specimen Network and the 2020 report by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, for the need to broaden and deepen the collections and associated data to actualize the potential for biodiversity collections to inform 21<sup>st</sup>-century science.

## **Thank you**

Lastly, an enthusiastic thank you to Julian Carter and all the members of the Local organizing committee: Tiffany S. Adrain, Liath Appleton, Andrew Charles Bentley, Mariel Campbell, Mariana Di Giacomo, Laura Eklund, Irene Finkelde, Moe Flannery, Shelley James, Talia Karim, Erica Krimmel, Amanda Lawrence, Elise V. Lecompte, Anna Monfils, Rebecca Newberry, Cindy Opiyz, Theresa Reilly, Fran Ritchie, Ruth Seyler, Randy Singer, Hayley Singleton, Barbara Thiers, Gregory Watkins-Colwell, and Breda Zimkus. They have worked very hard and done a wonderful job in organizing, planning, and creating this meeting. I would also like to thank AIC and Ruth Seyler for welcoming us as partners and for their generous sponsorship of 12 conference places for SPNHC members through their Assisting Attendees Campaign.

Respectively submitted,  
Paul Mayer, SPNHC President

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## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

In 2020, the Society's total net assets increased to \$430,137 from a total of \$424,377 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2020 totaled \$477,447. Operating income was generated from three sources: membership dues, publication sales, and advertising in the Newsletter. A total of \$28,355 in membership dues was received. Sales of our six publications plus royalty payments brought in \$984. A total of \$2,100 in donations were received. 38 subscribers and 602 individuals, institutional, corporate, and student members were active for the year 2020. Of the 639 SPNHC members in 2020, 137 joined for the first time.

The first part of 2021 has seen steady income activity. By March 31, \$23,000 has been received from membership dues, including deferred dues paid in 2020. As of March 31, we have 639 active members, including Life members.

Membership renewals included 15 student, 328 individual, 31 library/subscriptions, and 27 institutional. As of April 15, 66 new members have joined for 2021, 20 of which are student memberships, 6 are institutional, and the remainder are individual. By April 16, 274 members who paid in 2020 had yet to renew for 2021.

As a reminder, please pay your dues on time.

The Treasurer's Office incurred the following expenses: \$1100 in merchant fees, \$3,179 for insurance, \$288 in annual fees for PO Box rental and DC transition costs, \$1,695 for Zoom, and \$371 for the annual fee for QuickBooks.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments saw a market value gain of \$17,711 while the money market account earned \$7,045 in dividends and interest. The CD account earned \$62 in interest.

Major expenses for the Society in 2020 were \$18,285 for publication expenses related to the *Collections Storage* book and \$1,000 for the Faber Award.

Additional expenses included \$255 for the 2020 election, \$275 for annual fees to Cross Ref/PILA. The Society anticipates expenses related to publications, insurance premiums, 2021 online elections, and AIBS membership.

Please contact the SPNHC President for further details.

Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa Reilly, Treasurer

**For the 2020 financial review, please see Appendix 1.**

### FY2020 Donations

Since April 1, 2020

Carolyn Hayes  
Hollinger Metal Edge  
Macroscopic Solutions LLC

Barbara Thiers  
University Products  
Russell D. White

Thank You

### FY2021 Donations

As of March 31, 2021

Tiffany Adrain  
Mariel Campbell  
Delta Designs

University Products  
John Daniel

Thank You

## FY 2020 SPNHC Operating Budget

01 January–31 December 2020

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$25,000	\$28,310	<b>\$3,310</b>
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$500	\$0	<b>(\$500)</b>
(3) Publication Sales	\$60,100	\$37,987	<b>(\$23,013)</b>
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$500	\$0	<b>(\$500)</b>
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$150	\$0	<b>(\$150)</b>
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$5,000	\$1,300	<b>(\$3,700)</b>
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$1,500	\$800	<b>(\$700)</b>
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$4,150	\$180	<b>(\$3,970)</b>
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	<b>(\$10,035)</b>	\$0	<b>\$10,935</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$86,865</b>	<b>\$68,577</b>	<b>(\$18,288)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(10) Election Committee	\$650	\$375	<b>(\$275)</b>
(11) Executive Contingency Fund	\$999	\$999	<b>\$0</b>
(12) Membership Committee	\$2,500	\$1,499	<b>(\$1,001)</b>
(13) Publication Committee	\$68,266	\$39,877	<b>(\$28,389)</b>
(14) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$1,400	\$1,400	<b>\$0</b>
(15) Treasurer's Office	\$11,000	\$7,250	<b>(\$4,150)</b>
(16) Web Committee	\$400	\$160	<b>(\$240)</b>
(17) President's Contingency Fund	\$1,250	\$1,250	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$86,865</b>	<b>\$52,810</b>	<b>(\$34,055)</b>

## FY 2021 SPNHC Operating Budget

01 January–31 December 2020  
(as of March 31, 2021)

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$25,000	\$21,325	<b>(\$3,675)</b>
(2) Life Members @ \$1,125	\$500	\$0	<b>(\$500)</b>
(3) Publication Sales	\$60,100	\$24,380	<b>(\$35,720)</b>
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$500	\$0	<b>(\$500)</b>
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$150	\$0	<b>(\$150)</b>
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$5,000	\$0	<b>(\$5,000)</b>
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$1,500	\$1,605	\$105
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$4,150	\$0	<b>(\$4,150)</b>
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	<b>(\$10,035)</b>	\$0	<b>\$10,035</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$86,865</b>	<b>\$47,310</b>	<b>(\$39,555)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(10) Annual Meeting Loan	\$5,000	\$0	<b>(\$5,000)</b>
(11) Election Committee	\$650	\$0	<b>(\$650)</b>
(12) Executive Contingency Fund	\$999	\$0	<b>(\$999)</b>
(13) Membership Committee	\$2,500	\$0	<b>(\$2,500)</b>
(14) Publication Committee	\$68,266	\$0	<b>(\$68,266)</b>
(15) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$1,400	\$0	<b>(\$1,400)</b>
(16) Treasurer's Office	\$11,400	<b>(\$2,200)</b>	<b>(\$9,200)</b>
(17) Web Committee	\$400	\$0	<b>(\$400)</b>
(18) President's Contingency Fund	\$1,250	\$0	<b>(\$1,250)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$91,865</b>	<b>(\$2,200)</b>	<b>(\$94,065)</b>

### New Memberships Received in 2020, After May 1, 2020

#### Corporate Members

Bioshare Digitization

#### Institutional Members

Canadian Museum of Nature, Research and Collections, Zoology, Canada  
 Colecciones Biológicas Universidad CES, Colombia  
 Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium, Botany, USA  
 Western Archeological and Conservation Center, Arizona, USA  
 Western Australian Museum, Perth, Australia

#### Regular Members

Moutie Abrahams  
 Karina Acton  
 Divya Anantharaman  
 Katherine Andrew  
 Danielle Benden  
 Lisa Boucher  
 M. Burgess  
 Jutta Buschbom

David Cannatella  
 Fernando Cervantes  
 Alison Colwell  
 Jason Comer  
 Ericka Correa Roldan  
 Elizabeth Fouts  
 Eulalia Garcia-Franquesa  
 Luz Gomez

Nicole Gunter  
 Michelle Hamer  
 Evon Hekkala  
 T. Rose Holdcraft  
 Andrew Johnston  
 Gail Kampmeier  
 Adam Kowalczyk  
 Laura Leibensperger

Jan Leitinger  
Fred Longstaffe  
Elizabeth Maly  
Erina McCann  
Katrina Menard  
Laura Monahan  
Travis Morgan  
Michael Norton  
Sandra Olsen  
Mark Omura  
Margaret O'Reilly

Bruce Orr  
Eugenia Pacitti  
Julia Percy-Bower  
Agnieszka Pierwola  
Kesler Randall  
Tiana Rehman  
Alana Rivera  
Eric Roalson  
Doug Rogan  
Alejandra Rojas  
Ryan Roney

Erin Sigel  
Valerie Soll  
Nancy Stevens  
Joanna Sumner  
Gabriela Truly  
Demetria Vigil  
Genevieve Walden  
Kate Wellspring  
Jeremy Wiles  
Joanne Wilkinson  
Atsushi Yabe

### **Student Members**

Madeline Arszulowicz  
Grace DeVault  
Kandiss Dowdell  
Devon Eldridge  
Jen Gossman  
Aditi Jayarajan

Lana Jewell  
Michelle Johnston  
Ashley Kempken  
Katherine Lambert  
Danielle Lane  
Castor LaPack

Linda Lassiter  
Ashley Lockwood  
Nicole Seiden  
Stacie Skwarcan  
Michael Thomas

### **New Memberships Received in 2020, As of April 15, 2021**

#### **Institutional Members**

Canndor Herbarium, California, USA  
Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Zoology, USA  
Michigan State University, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, USA  
Natural History Museum of Utah, USA  
The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Israel  
University of New South Wales, School of BEES, Australia

#### **Regular Members**

Lina Arcila Hernandez  
Brian Barbier  
David Bettman  
Alnycea Blackwell  
Joseph Bopp  
Vicen Carrió  
Emlyn Clark  
Amy Curtis  
Mimi Damwyk  
Emily DeArmon  
Joe Doherty  
Jennifer Dreyer  
Katherine Dunnell  
Renee Gamba

Lauren Gardiner  
David Giblin  
Paul Gignac  
Jessica Grady  
Cyrus Green  
Angela Hornsby  
Pamela Horsley  
Nina Hunt  
Catherine Lash  
Lua Lopez  
Katherine Mathews  
Haley O'Brien  
Jennifer Ogle  
Shyong En Pan

Mane Pritza  
Monique Raymond  
Laura Rooney  
Thomas Schossleitner  
Ainsley Seago  
Fedor Steeman  
Hannah Stewart  
Brian Tanis  
Sarah Taylor  
Cheryl Tripathi  
Lauren Vonnahme  
Vicky Wang

#### **Student Members**

Aimee Beaudette  
Audrey Crawford  
Rosielyn De Guzman  
Makayla Dean  
Claire Dean  
Sophie Egger  
Tanya Gascon

Jacob Gorneau  
Sara Hansen  
Arianna Kuhn  
Shanti Lindberg  
Johanna Loacker  
Jessica Mullins  
Soazig Négrel

Teresa Narvaez  
Erika Nielsen  
Klara Nordén  
Laura Rincon  
Cara Smith  
Alexis Williams



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## Member-at-Large Reports

### **SHELLEY JAMES**

It has been an interesting year as Member-at-Large for SPNHC, and I have greatly appreciated the continued outreach, communications, and activities of the SPNHC community, despite border closures across the globe. I look forward to a successful AIC/SPNHC 2021 Annual Meeting, having been involved in the weekly organizational meetings with AIC and members from the many time zones. I continue to be involved in the SPNHC Publications Committee and the SPNHC Diversity and Equity Committee as timing allows. As chair of the Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections I continue to liaise between MAHC-CHAH and SPNHC (see MAHC-CHAH report) and the Australasian collections community.

### **TALIA KARIM**

I served on the Collections and the Biodiversity Crisis Committee and the newly formed IDEA Committee (see those reports for activities), and assisted with planning for the 2021 joint AIC/SPNHC virtual meeting.

### **ANNA MONFILS**

See Education Committee report, IDEA Committee report, and SCNet Representative Report.

### **FRAN RITCHIE**

See Conservation Committee report.

### **RANDY SINGER**

I participated in the coordination and formation of the DEI Sessional Committee, which is now the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Committee (see IDEA Committee report). I also am helping to coordinate all of the virtual socials for the annual meeting.

### **BREDA ZIMKUS**

I have been serving on the Best Practices Committee, the Collection Theft and Security Monitoring Committee, the Publications Committee (as Technical Leaflets Editor), the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee, and the 2021 SPNHC/AIC Joint Virtual Annual Meeting Committee. See the Collection Theft and Security Monitoring Committee report for details regarding the consolidation of information and creation of a wiki page on this topic.

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## Standing Committee Reports

### **ARCHIVES**

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 Archives 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 continue to be collected by the Archives Committee. The COVID pandemic of 2020 forced the cancellation of all travel, so the joint SPNHC and ICOM NATHIST hosted a virtual meeting from 8–12 June 2020, using the Zoom video-conferencing format. Where possible, any material sent to the participants, such as the book of abstracts, committee reports, schedules, etc., were printed. An electronic copy of recordings, instructions, special service awards and other material was provided by Andrew Bentley for the archives. Mariel Campbell sent three boxes of historical material that will be processed and ready for SI Archives. Once the pandemic is over and we are able to return to work, we will transfer all the digital and physical material to SIA. 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](mailto:osiaref@si.edu) to retrieve records.

The Committee had one request for the 1996 Collection Forum 12 (2) that was missing from the SPNHC website. SI Archives did not have a copy so we are seeking a copy from members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Kelloff, Chair

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## BEST PRACTICES

The Best Practices Committee continued work on the SPNHC wiki and the Zotero Citation Library this quarter.

New or augmented SPNHC wiki pages include: Shipping Large Fossils, by Jessica Cundiff and Carrie Eaton, Geological Curation Methods, by Carrie Eaton, Archaeology Code of Conduct and Collection Curation, by Elizabeth Leith, a cross-discipline Taxonomic Resources page by Genevieve Tocci and Emily Braker, Sustainable Collections Practices and Digital Imaging Best Practices, by Jennifer Trimble, completion of the Accession of Specimens page by Andy Bentley, and updates to Shipping and Handling of Dangerous Goods, by Dirk Neumann.

New SPNHC committee wiki pages include: the Professional Development Committee page by Nicholas Drew, the IDEA Committee page by Genevieve Tocci, and updates to the Biodiversity Crisis Response Committee and Biodiversity Crisis Conservation Resource page by Andy Bentley.

Additional content from the *Preventive Care: Collection Storage* book has been selected for posting to the SPNHC wiki. Museum Studies students from George Washington University have supplied annotated bibliographic references for selected chapters, and this project will continue with additions each year. This material is now outlined in a spreadsheet prepared by Rachael Perkins Arenstein, which is ready for sharing with Best Practice Committee members who are interested in signing up to facilitate transfer and upload of this information to the wiki.

Margaret Landis has made progress on formatting a desktop version of the Zotero citation library for syncing with the web, and will have the web version updated at the end of April.

Finally, the Best Practices Committee held a quarterly virtual meeting on April 29 to check in on committee task progress and updates.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Braker and Genevieve Tocci, Co-chairs

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## 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.

No items have come before the Bylaws Committee since the time of the last newsletter report.

Respectively submitted,  
Barbara M. Thiers, Chair

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## CONFERENCE

The Covid19 pandemic continues to affect the feasibility of hosting physical conferences, and this has once again impacted the annual meeting. Towards the end of 2020, our partner in the 2021 conference, the American Institute for Conservation, reluctantly had to make the decision to cancel the physical conference and go fully virtual again for the 2021 conference. To support the planning, development of additional content, and running of this conference, a virtual Local Organising Committee (LOC) was formed by SPNHC to work closely with AIC.

Planning has continued for the rescheduled Edinburgh meeting in June 2022. This will be in partnership with two excellent organisations—the Natural Science Collections Association (NatSCA), and the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL). The proposed theme is “Through the door and through the web: releasing the power of natural history collections onsite and online.” The LOC are planning to create a hybrid conference but will be encouraging people to physically attend by making some content such as workshops, special interest groups and social events only available to physical participants. A big thankyou goes to the Edinburgh LOC for their hard work in continuing to bring this meeting together after the extremely difficult challenges faced from the Covid19 situation last year.

The California Academy of Sciences has offered to host SPNHC 2023 in San Francisco, California, May 28–June 2. The main conference venue and lodging will be at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square. The conference will include workshops, field trips, informative presentations, networking opportunities, and plenty of social events. It has been 10 years since the Academy welcomed the SPNHC community to visit its platinum-rated new building in Golden Gate Park, and the Academy staff are excited to welcome SPNHC colleagues back to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2023.

We currently have no offers to host a meeting in 2024, so are open to offers and ideas, but we are excited to announce an offer to return to the Peabody in Yale in 2025. This will be a year after their reopening to public after a major new build, and the team will have a lot to show off. 2025 will also be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Whitney Avenue building and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SPNHC—so lots to celebrate!

The Covid situation and the huge growth in virtual access has also further highlighted the increasing challenge and expense of holding the traditional annual meeting. The sustainability of the current hosting model for the conference, and how to make it more widely accessible and affordable in the future, is something the Committee and wider SPNHC community will need to consider.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julian Carter, Conference Committee Chair

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## CONSERVATION

Because of the joint annual meeting this year with the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), the Conservation Committee activities centered on facilitating the meeting, since so many of the committee members also belong to AIC. Members helped to read and choose abstracts for each of the joint sessions between AIC and SPNHC, as well as moderate the sessions. Co-chair Fran Ritchie wrote short articles introducing each organization to the other in their respective newsletters. To take further advantage of the partnership, three virtual workshops were offered during the pre-meeting week that were specifically designed based on feedback received during past Committee Meetings for development opportunities. The following workshops were led or instigated/backed by the Conservation Committee:

- **Identification of Archival Materials:** Archives often contain crucial documentation which supports the understanding and context of museum collections. Caring for these collections appropriately is important to long-term access and maintenance but is often complicated by the wide variety of needs from different types of materials. Identifying media and choosing the right solutions for housing can help prevent physical and chemical damage, as well as maintain organization and facilitate handling. The workshop focused on identifying archival materials and planning for long-term preservation. It incorporated current standards and best practices to help collection managers, emerging conservation professionals, and other museum professionals master identification, preventive conservation, and housing for archival materials.
- **Stressed about Pests? Integrated Pest Management for Heritage Professionals:** Integrated Pest Management (IPM), is now considered an essential component of a well-rounded preventive care policy to prevent insects and vertebrate pests from causing irreversible damage to cultural heritage collections. The workshop introduced participants to multiple aspects of sound IPM policy and procedures. After covering ideas for reducing the likelihood of infestation, the focus of the workshop was on identifying the most damaging museum pests and understanding treatment options for infested items. The workshop was designed for anyone needing an intro to the topic or wanting to refresh basic IPM knowledge. Co-taught by an entomologist/ pest

management professional and a conservator, this workshop was appropriate for a range of museum, library professionals including conservators, facility staff, collection managers, registrars, librarians and archivists at museums, libraries, and archives.

- **How to Label and Mark Your Collections:** Discretely and effectively labeling and marking museum collections with the catalog number (and/or other details) prevents one of the leading risk factors to collections: disassociation of objects. Museum collections must be legibly labeled for the purpose of keeping track of the physical location as well as associated data and provenance specific to that object. If the label is not legible, if it is lost or damaged, or if it fails in any way, the consequences can be catastrophic and disheartening—at best, the number is visually distracting to the museum visitor and detracts from the value of the object, and at worst the object is rendered useless to scientific or historical study. This workshop prepared participants for the decision-making process involved when choosing among the variety of techniques available to label complex collections. Participants were mailed kits with course materials that will allow them to then test the adhesive and mechanical techniques on different objects, with instructors on hand virtually to offer advice and tips for success in the moment. The workshop concluded with a group discussion on observations and questions.

Although not ideal that the meeting was in a virtual format, hopefully the exposure to different topics brought a new perspective to each organization.

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

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## EDUCATION

The SPNHC Education Committee has become a standing committee and worked to further our goals in promoting educational outreach using natural history collections.

Our first agenda item was to continue the DemoCamp tradition (previously called the Share Fair) and we have expanded its virtual format to include several other partnering organizations. The event will take place on June 28–29, 2021, with no cost for registration. Details on participants, presenter registration, and partners can be found here: <https://spnhc.org/education-democamp/>

### Natural History Education DemoCamp 2021



Future collaborations will include working with the Professional Development and Emerging Professionals Committees. We also plan on keeping the revised Education DemoCamp an annual tradition each summer.

If you are interested in joining the Education Committee, please contact the current committee members at: [educationdemocamp@gmail.com](mailto:educationdemocamp@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Monfils and Molly Phillips, Co-Chairs

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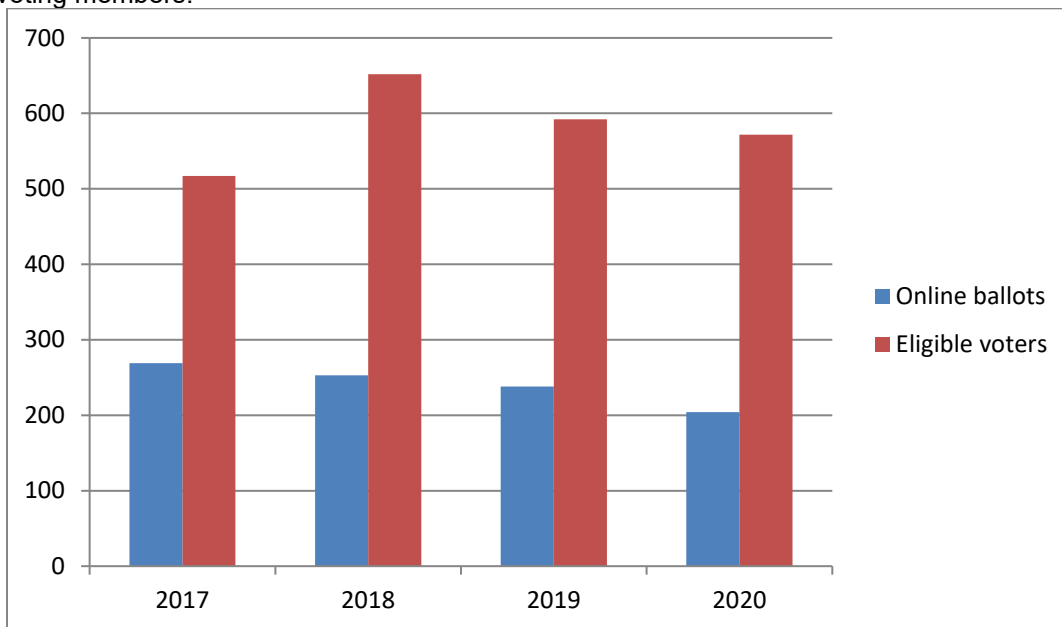
## ELECTIONS

**Election for Member-At-Large 2021:** Elections Online (<http://www.electionsonline.us/>) was used exclusively again this year. The fee for hosting the elections on this website was \$274.56. This was the last year we will use 'electionsonline' due to continuous software issues. For the 2022 election, we will use new software to be confirmed.

The call for nominations was sent via NHCOLL on June 30 2020. There were 5 nominations received from 5 different members. 3 nominees agreed to stand. The election started on December 2, 2020. All voting members (as of November 2020) were emailed with a link included directing them to the election online. At the close of the

election on January 2, 2021, the total number of returned ballots was 204, or 35.66% of the eligible members (572).

The bar chart below shows the voting trends over the last 4 years. Although there were email reminders throughout the election, the voting turn-out was slightly lower than previous years. We did however have a lower number of voting members.



Positions filled are two Members-at-Large. The successful candidates are:

1. **Meghann Toner received 128 votes, 62.75% of the total.**
2. **Vanessa Delnavaz received 124 votes, 60.78% of the total.**

These results have been shared with the membership via NH-COLL and the SPNHC Connection Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany Palumbo, Chair

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## EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

The Emerging Professionals Committee will host two events at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual and Second Virtual SPNHC Meeting, organized jointly with the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), to be held May 10–June 24, 2021.

The first one will be a social! It will be Thursday, May 13, at 5:30pm EDT. We will have a general discussion and the option to divide participants into groups with different areas of interest, if they want to participate in smaller group conversations.

Our second event will be our annual committee meeting, on May 18 at 10am EDT, to which we invite everyone to join and share ideas to help emerging natural history collections professionals.

This year our biggest change is that Kari and Mariana will be stepping down from their positions as co-chairs of the EPC. We have been so excited to lead this committee and we appreciate all of the experiences we've had and connections we've made. At this time, we are still searching for new leaders to take over and we look forward to helping them transition and watching the committee grow. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the committee, there are opportunities to lead it, coordinate the blog posts, keep up with social media, organize events at SPNHC meetings, and much more! If you are interested, please email us or contact us through social media!

And don't forget to follow us!



[@SPNHCEPC](https://twitter.com/SPNHCEPC)



[SPNHC Emerging Professionals Group](https://www.facebook.com/SPNHC_Emerging_Professionals_Group)

Respectfully submitted,  
Mariana Di Giacomo and Kari Harris, Co-chairs

## INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee was formed in January 2021. We have since focused our efforts on creating the committee's framework and foundation. As of April 2, the IDEA committee has been unanimously approved by the SPNHC Council to be a standing committee.

Over the past several months, we have focused much of our attention on the written material that defines the committee and outlines the work we plan to do. These documents include the following:

- **Committee Description** – Our committee description has been submitted to the council and approved in March.
- **Inclusion Statement** – An inclusion statement for the Society is currently in the works, with the input of several members of the committee. When completed, this will be made available and visible on the SPNHC website as its own page, including a section of current initiatives and progress, as well as resources that will be frequently updated.
- **Code of Conduct** – This is an item we would like to create for the Society as a whole, rather than only for individual meetings. We are interested in creating a reporting structure for the meetings and as a Society in general, with the potential designation of a “person of trust” that people can contact should an issue arise. AIC, our partner for this year's meeting, seems to have much of this structure in place, and we can possibly use their examples to create our own.
- **Land Acknowledgement Statement** – A land acknowledgement statement, or the guidelines on how to prepare such statements, have been discussed as a potential document to include in the Society. Funds would be needed to provide for consulting on the general statement for the Society, but we may also need to include guidelines for specific statements for each meeting location. More research will need to be done to fully understand the best way to go about creating such a statement and guidelines.
- **IDEA Wiki** – Resources are currently being compiled to be included in an IDEA Wiki page. We are collecting these internally, and they will soon be available here: [https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/IDEA\\_Committee](https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/IDEA_Committee)

Several discussions have taken place on the benefits of partnering with other similar organizations to work together on IDEA work. We have identified contacts with our Society that are affiliated with other organizations related to natural history, biodiversity, and collections. In March, members of the IDEA committee met with representatives from AIBS (American Institute of Biological Sciences), to discuss SPNHC becoming an AIBS organizational member. With widespread support for this within the committee, we are in the process of working out AIBS membership details.

Looking ahead, we plan to conduct an assessment on the demographics of our membership base, to better understand our diversity shortcomings and areas in which we need to focus. Funds will need to be secured, in order to carry this out. Other plans include partnering with the Membership Committee to help form initiatives for inclusive membership and breaking down financial barriers to inclusion in the Society. In addition, we would like to initiate pathways to education and outreach for under-represented communities within natural history and collections. We look forward to working with other SPNHC committees to make inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility a common thread throughout the Society.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vanessa Delnavaz and Anna Monfils, Co-chairs

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## LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The Legislation and Regulations (L&R) Committee acts as SPNHC's clearinghouse for information and events related to laws, regulations, permits, and other issues affecting natural history collections and objects. The committee work includes horizon scanning of issues relevant to the Society and the SPNHC community and, with the guidance and approval of the SPNHC Council, drafting position statements on behalf of SPNHC, to be sent to agencies, organizations, or legislators on national and international levels in cases where the collection, possession, ownership, transfer, display, research, storage, and transportation of natural history specimens are concerned. The following are recent updates.

**SBSTTA24 submission**—In August 2020, the L&R Committee and the Collections and the Biodiversity Crisis Committee jointly submitted comments, in collaboration with CETAF, to the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA24) on the draft monitoring framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to increase the visibility of contributions of taxonomic research and natural history collections in the monitoring framework for the 2050 goals and the 2030 targets. 52 specific comments on

the draft were submitted on SPNHC's behalf by President Paul Mayer. As stated in the submission's introduction, "the current draft lacks reference to specimen-based data of natural history collections and similar ex-situ facilities. Without proper specimen-based data, any measure on "trends in biodiversity," species abundance and species occurrence will give misleading baselines. We believe that our [natural history collections] contributions are key and have high relevancy not only for the post-2020 GBF, but also for all three objectives of the CBD and specifically for SDG 14&15." The 24th meeting of the SBSTTA will be held this spring, 3 May–13 June 2021.

**Import of fresh samples and eDNA**—The exchange and import of fresh unpreserved materials, like frozen unpreserved tissues, blood samples, and eDNA, have been complicated further in the current COVID-19 situation. Discussion of L&R Committee members revealed that interpretation by local and federal US agencies vary widely. We are currently gathering more information on this topic and explore opportunities about how to engage with relevant authorities in the US.

**Regulatory changes for EU Imports**—As of 15 March 2021, new regulations are in effect regarding EU imports. Commercial invoices generated by collection staff in browser-based electronic interfaces of express shipping companies (ex: DHL, UPS, FedEx) now enter directly into the EU's Import Control System (ICS2) prior to export and loading of parcels onto aircraft. To avoid any import issues, be sure to include in your Commercial Invoices a valid goods description ("preserved museum specimens" + detailed description of your goods), and a customs identification number (9705.00 is the customs tariff code for preserved museum specimens). Also include a description of the preservative, the details of the shipper and consignee with phone and email, and the Customs Identification number (applicable for EU collections).

**ABS training**—The L&R Committee is currently exploring options to offer an Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) training webinar. The training will be recorded and added to the SPNHC Wiki. Details will be shared via NHCOLL soon.

**Working Group meetings**—The L&R Committee holds bimonthly Working Group meetings to address current issues. Any L&R Committee members who are interested in participating in the Working Group meetings are welcome and should reach out to the co-chairs for more information.

The Fire Safety Subcommittee continues engagement with NFPA and currently tries to develop descriptions for typical storage conditions in fluid collections (e.g. container types, sizes, shelving, room size, fluid volumes).

NFPA still seems to need more details and descriptions, which seem to slow down the process. The Subcommittee currently considers taking a different approach, as they see difficulties in producing comprehensive, nationwide lists, e.g. for different shelving types and sizes found in fluid collections in the US.

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

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## LONG-RANGE PLANNING

In 2019/20, the Long-Range Planning Committee had begun the process of developing a new Strategic Plan for SPNHC. Unfortunately, this work has been temporarily halted, due to the ongoing challenges raised by the Covid19 pandemic.

As we begin to move out of the Covid situation, the key aim now for this committee will be to review the status of this project, and to move forward with developing the new strategic plan, working closely with the membership and partners of SPNHC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julian Carter and Suzanne Ryder, Co-chairs

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## MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee focuses on ways to promote the Society and retain existing, and attract new, members. We work with the SPNHC Treasurer to help members keep their dues up to date. We promote SPNHC at conferences by advertising in conference literature and exhibiting the Membership Booth. If you have a suggestion for exhibiting a virtual Membership Booth at an upcoming online conference or would like to volunteer to take the booth at an in-person conference, please contact Tiffany Adrain ([membership@spnhc.org](mailto:membership@spnhc.org)). You may be eligible for full complimentary conference registration. **Membership Committee is looking for a Co-chair and committee members to manage marketing and write Member Profiles for the SPNHC Connection Newsletter.** Please contact [membership@spnhc.org](mailto:membership@spnhc.org) if interested, or to nominate yourself or a fellow SPNHC

member for a profile feature. The Committee would be happy to hear from anyone with connections at future SPNHC Annual Meeting locations who can help us widen the membership reach of the Society.

Thank you, SPNHC members, for renewing or joining during the Covid-19 pandemic. I know this past year has caused hardship for a great many people. If you are able, please consider donating to one of the SPNHC funds to support the Society and other members (<https://spnhc.org/get-involved/donate/>), or consider sponsoring a colleague's Regular or Student Membership. Please recommend our Institutional Membership to your workplace, and Corporate Membership to your vendors. If you are tired of receiving renewal reminders from me, Life Membership might appeal!

SPNHC is a global community! We are champions of collections in Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay.

As always, please encourage your colleagues to join SPNHC, and remember to renew your membership on time (by February 14, 2022)!

Respectfully submitted, Tiffany Adrain, Chair

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Committee news

The PDC has begun work to implement some of the ideas discussed at the 2020 SPNHC virtual conference. This includes launching the Travel Grant Mentorship programs for the 2021 and 2022 SPNHC conferences, looking at the PDC's role in SPNHC's education mission, and updating the Wiki page.

### Travel Grant Mentorship Programs

Elise LeCompte chairs the sub-committee on Travel Grant Mentorship Programs. Elise and her team launched the 2021 Travel Grant Program to provide opportunities for upcoming grant recipients for virtual "travel" and participation in the conference. See below for the subcommittee report.

### General Mentorships

Mentorship continues to be a high priority of the PDC, given the continued support from many members in SPNHC for a broadened approach to mentoring opportunities. As a result of the Educational Sessional Committee phone call, it is clear more work needs to be done in establishing a true mentorship program.

### Demo Camps

Demo Camps used to be organized by the PDC; these now have been taken over by the LOCs for each conference. Interested participants are encouraged to submit Demo Camp abstracts through the normal abstract process and clearly indicate their submission as being a Demo Camp program.

### Workshops

The PDC's role in workshops is to maintain a list of popular (and necessary) workshop subjects and note if a subject may be due. We will be sending out a survey for SPNHC members on workshop topics to make sure the list is up-to-date and remains relevant.

### Course Announcements

The PDC provides a compendium of on-line courses in Museum Studies and Collections Management. This list is provided by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Professional Development Committee as a monthly service for NHCOLL subscribers. Please contact the course providers or instructors for more information or questions. As a reminder, NHCOLL is not open for advertising by individuals; however, if you would like to have your courses appear in this compendium, please feel free to submit your offerings to [jeff.stephenson@dmns.org](mailto:jeff.stephenson@dmns.org), and we'll see that you get in.

### Wiki

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 travel grants, and useful links to professional development resources. The PDC plans to continue adding to this site as the 2022 conference approaches and to what combination of "new" and "normal" ways of doing business in the future. The Wiki is designed to be a living site and to be regularly updated to best serve the community's needs.

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 and Jeff Stephenson, Co-chairs

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE

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 Organizing Committee. The first year of operation for the committee was 2017.

This year, 2021, we made significant adaptations to the program and awards, due to the conference being virtual again this year. First, we changed the name to the SPNHC Conference Registration Grants, since the awardees will have no travel costs this year but will be given free registration thanks to the American Institute for Conservation (AIC). Second, the application was edited to include the following changes:

- Awardees are not required to present a paper or poster as they have been in the past.
- Recipients are required to contribute to SPNHC in some manner. Ways to contribute included, but are not limited to:
  - Contributing a session/workshop review or report (e.g., a description of a collections management/conservation project, or a description of their research) to the SPNHC newsletter.
  - Submitting an article for publication in *Collections Forum*.
  - Submitting a virtual collections tour.
  - Presenting a paper or poster at this year's joint AIC/SPNHC 2021 virtual conference.

SPNHC members from countries in the following regions were strongly encouraged to apply—Central and South America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe.

There was a total of twelve (12) applicants. We awarded eleven (11) Fitzgerald grants and one (1) Christine Allen grant. Several people applied for both the Fitzgerald and the Christine Allen grant, due to an oversight on my part. In the last couple of years, we stated in the guidelines that people had to choose only one award for which to apply. I neglected to include that in this year's instructions. We received nine (9) international applications, including several underrepresented countries—Australia, Colombia, Madagascar, Mexico, and Uruguay—and three (3) from the US—Colorado, Florida, and Wyoming. (Interestingly, the recipient from Florida is a student studying at the University of Florida who intends to return to work in her native country of Colombia when she finishes her degree.)

We experienced another issue this year related to the requirement that applicants be SPNHC members. Six (6) of the twelve (12) applicants were not SPNHC members at the time of application. One (1) was granted a one-year free SPNHC membership, because she is submitting a virtual collections tour for the conference. Two (2) of the applicants' institutions were granted a one-year free institutional membership because the institution is submitting a virtual collections tour; therefore, these two applicants fall under the institutional membership. (SPNHC granted free registration and a free one-year membership to any individual or institution submitting a virtual collections tour.) The Conference Committee and the Professional Development Committee discussed trying to get current SPNHC members to donate individual memberships to cover the non-member applicants that remain. All of the non-member applicants are from underrepresented countries.

Meeting mentors will be assigned to those recipients that requested them, with the help of Jeff Stephenson and Nick Drew, co-chairs of the Professional Development Committee.

Future plans include continued fund-raising for future meetings and building the mentor pool.

My thanks to the many SPNHC members and others who helped with this committee—Jeff Stephenson, Nick Drew, Mariana Di Giacomo, Meghann Toner, Julian Carter, Theresa Reilly, and Ruth Seyler, Meetings & Advocacy Director, American Institute for Conservation. Many thanks go to AIC for donating free conference registration to the recipients.

### 2021 Grant Recipients:

#### **Fitzgerald Award**

Miora Christelle Andriambelomanana  
University of Antananarivo  
Antananarivo, Madagascar

Martín Batallés  
SAUCE-P / Universidad de la República  
Arroyo del Vizcaíno Collection  
Sauce, Canelones, Uruguay

Julieth Stella Cárdenas Hincapié  
Museo de la Salle  
Bogotá DC, Colombia

Fernando A. Cervantes  
Institute of Biology  
National Autonomous University of Mexico  
Ciudad Universitaria, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico

Amy Curtis  
Western Australian Herbarium  
Perth, Western Australia

Patti Wood Finkle  
Casper College Museums  
(Tate Geological Museum & Werner Wildlife  
Museum)  
Casper, Wyoming

Luz Miryam Gómez Piñerez  
Tecnologico de Antioquia  
Bioforense research group  
Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia

Laura Alejandra Rincón  
Museum Studies Program  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida

Cara Smith  
University of Northern Colorado  
Greeley, Colorado

Dianah Raharisoanarindra  
University of Antananarivo  
Antananarivo, Madagascar

### **Christine Allen Award**

Voahangy Soarimalala  
Faculty of Science, University of Antananarivo  
Antananarivo, Madagascar

Respectfully submitted,  
Elise Le Compte, Subcommittee Chair

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **COLLECTION FORUM**

*Collection Forum* Volume 33 (2019–2020) is now published online for access by current SPNHC members at <https://collectionforum.org>. The print issue of Volume 33 shipped in April 2021. *Collection Forum* Volume 34 (2020–2021) is in the process of publication as a special conference issue on the conservation of natural history collections in fluids.

The journal is currently accepting submissions for the 2021–2022 issue, Volume 35. Manuscripts received by August 2021 will come out online after they have been reviewed, accepted, and revised as needed, with the print issue scheduled publication by winter 2021–2022. Members who present at the SPNHC annual meeting are strongly encouraged to submit their manuscripts for consideration, particularly those who receive travel awards and support from the Society.

Please contact the editor with any access concerns. Address changes for print copies should be sent to [membership@spnhc.org](mailto:membership@spnhc.org). To subscribe to the journal or to add an institutional subscription, please update your membership at <https://spnhc.org/get-involved/become-a-member/join-now/> or contact the SPNHC Treasurer at [treasurer@spnhc.org](mailto:treasurer@spnhc.org).

Note that Allen Press has moved online access to *Collection Forum* to a new, advanced web platform called **Meridian**, hosted by Silverchair, at <https://meridian.allenpress.com/collection-forum>. The new Meridian platform comes with new features including:

- Mobile responsive website design
- Optional split-screen reading experience
- Suggested articles based on browser history
- Saved searches, alerts, and notifications

To access the site, please follow the instructions below.

1. Using the email address associated with your account, reset your password at <https://meridian.allenpress.com/my-account/reset-password>
2. Once your password has been reset, go to the journal homepage at <https://meridian.allenpress.com/collection-forum>
3. Select the Sign In button in the right-hand corner and sign in with your email and new password.

After following these instructions, you should have access to journal content. Please note that previous data on saved searches, alerts, and notifications from the old journal site will not be migrated to the new site. For instructions on how to save searches and sign up for alerts, please visit <https://meridian.allenpress.com/pages/how-to>. Please contact [meridiansupport@allenpress.com](mailto:meridiansupport@allenpress.com) with any questions you may have.

### **SPNHC BOOKS**

Congratulations to Lisa Elkin, chief registrar and director of conservation, American Museum of Natural History, and Christopher A. Norris, director of public programs, Yale Peabody Museum, for receiving the Fall 2020

[Preservation Publication Award](#) given by the Society of American Archivists (SAA), for their recent book, [Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage](#) (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, 2019). Congratulations to Lisa and Chris, and to everyone who contributed to this comprehensive volume!

Their book [Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage](#) is available through the AIC website at <https://store.culturalheritage.org>, where AIC members will receive a 15% discount off the \$95 purchase price, and additionally through the University Products website, <https://www.universityproducts.com/>. The Society is also moving forward with an upcoming eBook as well as international distribution via affiliates of University Products. Please contact [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org) for more information.

### **SPNHC LEAFLETS**

The SPNHC Leaflets are a series of single-topic, short papers on various technical aspects of collections care, management, preservation, and conservation. A typical SPNHC Leaflets contribution describes and suggests practical means for solving a technical problem or issue. SPNHC Leaflets are designed as training and education tools for natural history museum collection professionals and students in museum studies programs. If you are interested in publishing a Leaflets piece on natural history collections, please contact Breda Zimkus at [bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu) or the managing editor at [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

### **SPNHC CONNECTION**

*SPNHC Connection* Editor Liath Appleton continues to publish the society newsletter as well as serving as SPNHC webmaster. Please send *SPNHC Connection* newsletter submissions to Liath at [newsletter@spnhc.org](mailto:newsletter@spnhc.org). To access *SPNHC Connection*, please go to the Publications tab at [www.spnhc.org](http://www.spnhc.org). The most recent issues require member login.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

Ann Pinzl has stepped down after many years as SPNHC Book Reviews Editor. Thank you, Ann, for your dedication and years of service to the society!

I would like to welcome our new Book Reviews Editor, Lisa Goldberg, who brings many years of experience as a member of both SPNHC and AIC. Under Lisa's direction, the format for book reviews will be undergoing some changes. Starting in Fall 2021, the SPNHC Connection newsletter will publish a column on new publications of interest to the society, and book reviews will be moved to the journal *Collection Forum* for publication. To submit a potential publication for inclusion in the newsletter or to suggest a title for review, please contact [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

### **PUBLICATION COMMITTEE**

There are also open positions in the Committee for Assistant Production Editor, Associate Editor, and Copy Editor positions. Associate Editors are needed with expertise in the chemical and physical properties and conservation of fluid and earth sciences collections, although all interested parties are welcome. The Associate Editor for Production assists the Managing Editor with the Publications budget. Please [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org) for more information.

### **JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER ACCESS**

Past issues of the newsletter and the journal are available online at [www.spnhc.org](http://www.spnhc.org). More recent issues of *Collection Forum* published since 2014 are accessed through <https://collectionforum.org/> which requires a separate member login (see above for information on Meridian site access). Many thanks to Membership Online Access Assistant Sara Ketelsen for coordinating with the SPNHC Membership Chair and with Allen Press to assist with member access to *Collection Forum*. If you or your institution require assistance with accessing the newsletter or the journal, please contact [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

### **SPNHC PUBLICATION ARCHIVES**

Thanks to Carol Kelloff, Lisa Palmer, and Meghann Toner for their work to maintain the SPNHC archives. Carol is currently working with the SPNHC Managing Editor to put together a reference library of all current and former SPNHC publications. If you have older print copies of SPNHC books or journal issues that are currently missing from the [spnhc.org](http://spnhc.org) website, and you would be willing to donate and/or provide scanned copies of these publications, please contact us at [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

For any questions about the Publications Committee or to volunteer, please use the following contact emails:

*Collection Forum*  
[editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org)

*SPNHC Connection*  
[newsletter@spnhc.org](mailto:newsletter@spnhc.org)

*Leaflets*  
[bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu)

Respectfully submitted,  
Mariel Campbell, Chair

## RECOGNITION AND GRANTS

The Recognition and Grants Committee is charged with promoting and reviewing awards made by the Society, including member service recognition, vendor recognition, and the Faber Innovation grant. Announcements for the various SPNHC Awards and the Faber Innovation Grant were included in last newsletter and were also announced via NH-COLL.

The Christine Allen and Fitzpatrick grants fund travel to the SPNHC conference. Grants made for the virtual 2021 conference will offset the cost of registration for the successful applicants. Application forms can be found on the SPNHC website.

The Faber Innovation Grant provides the successful applicant the opportunity to address issues related to the management, care, conservation, or use of natural history collections. This year we received no applications for the Faber Innovation grant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara M. Thiers, Chair.

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## WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

The Web and Social Media Committee has grown over the past couple of years. Along with committee chairs and their own committee members, who currently edit various pages, we have the jobs board manager, Jennifer Lanman, and our new events calendar manager, Irene Finkelde. We also have a great team of social media managers on YouTube, Slack, Facebook, and Twitter, and we are about to start our new Instagram account, with Irene Finkelde and Cara Smith taking the lead. Mariana Di Giacomo and Aditi Jayarajan have been promoting the upcoming AIC/SPNHC meeting on Twitter, and we have already begun discussions on a social media game plan for next year. We are still looking for one more person who would like to work with me on improving our website resources and connectivity to the Best Practice Committee's SPNHC wiki. If you are interested in joining the team, you can reach us at [webmaster@spnhc.org](mailto:webmaster@spnhc.org). A complete list of committee members can be found at <https://spnhc.org/what-spnhc-does/governance/committees-and-representatives/>

Respectfully submitted,  
Liath Appleton, Chair

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## Sessional Committee Reports

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### COLLECTION THEFT AND SECURITY MONITORING OF COLLECTIONS

This committee is charged with investigating, identifying, and developing best practices for preventive measures that secure collections and using communication channels to alert the community of thefts and to monitor for the recovery of lost specimens. Brenda Zimkus has joined the committee and created a new google document with our best practice ideas. Please feel free to view and make suggestion at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17TXSAiX4iSqlHi0-7WNU2t451ErLdngeZUK0OWAqNnQ/edit?usp=sharing>

During the 36<sup>th</sup> SPNHC/AIC Virtual Annual Meeting the committee will meet on May 21, and chair a symposium entitled Collection Theft and Security-Monitoring of Collections on Monday, May 24, 12:00–2:00 pm (EDT). There will be three presentations and a chance to discuss the new Google document.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Mayer, Chair

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### COLLECTIONS AND THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

The Collections and the Biodiversity Crisis Committee had a productive year. Our active meeting schedule was enriched by valuable discussions with committee members from three continents. Our major accomplishments, and works in progress, are described here.

#### Surveying the collections community's thoughts on and priorities for conservation action

- 1) We presented the results of the well-accepted survey during the first quarter of 2020 on specific responses of the collections community to the call for conservation action conducted by the committee under the auspices of Erica Wheeler and Libby Ellwood at the [committee meeting](#) as part of the 2020 annual SPNHC conference.

The committee, in an interactive session with international participants, built on the survey's results and further explored and inquired into the prioritization of conservation actions the committee and SPNHC could undertake.

- 2) In October 2020, we hosted a webinar featuring Tara Cornelisse (Center for Biological Diversity), Robert Gropp (American Institute of Biological Sciences), Rebecca Johnson (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History), Jeremy Kerr (University of Ottawa) and Henry McGhie (Curating Tomorrow). The goals of the webinar included learning about active areas of work being done by the panelists at the intersection of collections and conservation, engaging new audiences in learning and asking questions about the role of collections in addressing the biodiversity crisis, and recruiting new members for the committee. The webinar was attended by nearly 300 people live and has since had over 200 views on the [SPNHC YouTube channel \(https://youtu.be/y2CIYI13SPI\)](https://youtu.be/y2CIYI13SPI).

### **Strategic planning and committee expansion**

- 3) We expanded the committee, with particular interest in engaging our colleagues in under-represented parts of the world. In January and February 2021, we conducted a series of weekly strategic planning meetings, led by Austin Mast. Participation in shaping the committee's mission and planning its work introduced interested colleagues to the committee and integrated them and their ideas immediately. The committee now includes several members from S. America, as well as additional members from N. America and Europe. We are keen to continue growing the committee and have incorporated work that can occur asynchronously into our plans to allow for participation from people unable to attend committee meetings.
- 4) Currently, we are in the process of forming working groups within the committee, which focus on specific objectives.
- 5) **Working Group Resources for the Collections Community:**  
We created, and have been populating, wiki pages for the committee's activities and relevant resources: [committee information \(https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/Biodiversity\\_Crisis\\_Response\\_Committee\)](https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/Biodiversity_Crisis_Response_Committee) and [resources showcasing the use of collections in conservation activities \(https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/Biodiversity\\_Crisis\\_Response\\_and\\_Conservation\\_Resources\)](https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/Biodiversity_Crisis_Response_and_Conservation_Resources). Andy Bentley has served as lead on this activity, and if there are additional resources you would like to see on the wiki, please send links directly to him, [abentley@ku.edu](mailto:abentley@ku.edu).
- 6) **Working Group Partnerships:**  
We are expanding our engagement with related communities, including participation in conferences, such as NatureServe Biodiversity Without Boundaries, where we are planning a roundtable discussion initiated by Austin Mast.
- 7) In August 2020, the committee, in cooperation with the Legislation & Regulations Committee and additional SPNHC partners, submitted comments by [SPNHC](#) (above-species level taxonomic and phylogenetic tools for conservation), and [Jutta Buschbom \(Statistical Genetics\)](#) (conservation-genomic tools at the population-genetic within-species level), to the public [peer review](#) process of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the draft indicator and monitoring framework of the [post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#).
- 8) This was followed by Jutta Buschbom and Libby Ellwood attending the informal meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and serving as SPNHC representatives at the subsequent informal meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3) of the Convention on Biological Diversity in March 2020. In our role as Observers, we began to get a sense of how SPNHC may best interact with the international conservation community and are making plans for future involvement that can more directly bring collections into conservation action.
- 9) **Working Group Regional Representation:**  
The working group on increasing regional diversity within the committee and SPNHC has the goal of improving the networking, visibility, and representation of the collections community and its fundamental contributions to conservation efforts worldwide and across all collection types (e.g. size, taxonomic groups, geographic focus). Following the idea of a global network of collections with regional centers, Soledad Tancoff (AR), Alina Freire-Fierro (EC), Martin Wiemers (DE), and Jutta Buschbom (DE), contacted two of the authors of the GBIF ideas paper <https://docs.gbif.org/collections-idea-paper/en/>, Barbara Thiers (Index Herbariorum), and Deborah Paul (TDWG Collection Descriptors interest group), as well as the GBIF Data Products team responsible for [GRSciColl](#), Marie Grosjean and Andrea Hahn. This working group is currently determining the prerequisites of a campaign contributing to populating and updating collections' information in GRSciColl.

Respectfully submitted,  
Libby Ellwood, Chair

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

After an extraordinary year with committee chair absent for some months due to being furloughed, the International Relations Committee aim to pick up the actions and objectives set out in the 2020 January report. We look forward to seeing you at the committee meeting in May.

S.Ryder is gathering membership and meeting attendance data to get a clear record of membership over time. The data from the virtual meeting last year will also be a useful, to see if the meeting reached a more international audience.

Actions for the coming year (carried over from 2020):

- 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? Perhaps via SLACK channel

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

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## US FEDERAL COLLECTIONS

Currently has no chair, no report submitted.

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## Representative Reports

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### ALLIANCE OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS OF CANADA (ANHMC)

No report submitted.

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

No report submitted.

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### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS (ASIH)

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the 2020 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH) to be canceled. No virtual meeting was held, but the IHCC meeting was held virtually and was well attended by collection personnel (including several student collection assistants and undergraduate students), representing at least 10 institutions or collections. The co-chairs of the IHCC, Gregory Watkins-Colwell and Sarah Huber (Virginia Institute of Marine Science), led the meetings. Additionally, many subsequent virtual “social hours” were held to discuss various topics of collections care and management, and most attendees agreed that it was something to carry forward post-pandemic.

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>.

Many discussions on how to better engage with other societies (like SPNHC) have been discussed, and pending more discussion, some ways-forward will be discussed with the various representatives on how to increase said relationships.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Singer, SPNHC Representative to ASIH

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## 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.

This year, unfortunately, due to COVID-19 quarantine restrictions, no collection accreditations were completed. The committee anticipates resuming on-site accreditations in 2021. Two collections have provided the committee with self-evaluation reports and requested accreditation visits:

- a. Northern Michigan University (Kurt Galbreath)—Committee members Cody Thompson and John Hanson have agreed to do the site visit once NMU opens up.
- b. University of Oklahoma, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (Brandi Coyner)—Committee members Robert Bradley and Caleb Phillips have agreed to do the site visit once UO opens up.

Site visits are sometimes conducted by Committee members at a host institution during the Annual Meeting. Otherwise, to minimize the cost of travel, a pair of committee members who work nearest to a site are recruited to conduct the visit.

The committee proposes to begin conversion of the Survey and Directory of Mammal Collections of the Western Hemisphere into a digital format hosted on the ASM website. The goal is a searchable collections directory database which can be easily updated with current collection statistics and contact information. This effort would be in collaboration with the Informatics Committee and the Mammal Diversity Database.

The ASM has long stated its support for and desire to increase the inclusion of Latin American mammalogists and collections. With this aim, the committee proposes to engage with a newly initiated group, *Museums and Emerging Pathogens in the Americas (MEPA)*, to enhance discoverability, digitization, and accessibility of Latin American mammal collections and tissue biorepositories, in an effort to support Latin American collections and facilitate bridging the gap between natural history collections, emerging disease research, One Health initiatives, and greatly enhance the quality of the collections data contained in the Survey and Directory of Mammal Collections of the Western Hemisphere.

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

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## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS (ASPT)

I am currently serving as the ex-officio member of the ASPT Systematics Collections Committee. The Committee will not be hosting a Collections Discussion Session at Botany2021—Virtual! as had been previously discussed.

The annual meeting of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists is scheduled for 19–23 as part of the Botany2021—Virtual! meeting. As indicated by the conference title, Botany2021—Virtual! will be held virtually this year, same as the Botany2020 meeting was held. Details of the conference can be found here: <http://botanyconference.org/>. It is anticipated that, like last year's meeting, this year's meeting will permit for increased participation and global representation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mare Nazaire, SPNHC Representative to ASPT

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## ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS AND COLLECTIONS SPECIALISTS (ARCS)

The ARCS 2021 Conference will take place beginning 10 November 2021, either as a face-to-face meeting in Montreal or in a hybrid format with both online and in-person events. In either case, the theme of the conference is Evolution, an examination of the constantly changing needs of our communities and the collections we care for. The conference website is <https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/2021-montreal-conference> (please note that a new

ARCS website will be launched in late spring).

The Programs section of the website includes recordings of webinars and presentations from past ARCS meetings and workshops, as well as the #ARCSchat PodCast and ARCS YouTube Live Stream and a variety of video, print, and other information sources at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/resources>. The comprehensive list of Covid-19 Resources for museums, with an emphasis on collections care, is regularly updated and is available at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/resources/covid-19-resources>.

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

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## **BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION STANDARDS (TDWG)**

The 2020 annual meeting of Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG), like most other conferences, was held virtually, due to COVID-19 restrictions. To accommodate a global virtual audience, the meeting was separated into two separate weeks. The week from September 21–25 included working sessions focusing on standards development. The second week, from October 19–23, was a virtual conference including traditional symposia with talks and posters ([www.tdwg.org/conferences/2020/](http://www.tdwg.org/conferences/2020/)). 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 most cases, as they were published as a Proceedings in the journal Biodiversity Information Science and Standards (BISS: <https://biss.pensoft.net/>). You can also watch all of the presentations via the TDWG YouTube channel (search for TDWG). The virtual environment, combined with free registration, made TDWG accessible to many who would not normally be able to attend the conference, including many SPNHC members!

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 manages 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 conferences, and second, as 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 (<https://www.tdwg.org/community/cd/>). Related to this, a new task group was struck to develop a Minimal Information about a Digital Specimen (MIDS) standard to more consistently “measure” digitization progress (<https://www.tdwg.org/community/cd/mids/>). Also, there is increasing discussion and engagement on curation attribution standards (<https://www.tdwg.org/community/attribution/>). 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 2021, TDWG is being realistic in its assessment of COVID-related travel impacts and will once again hold an all-virtual conference in association with our host from the University of Florida Biodiversity Institute. Although no date has been set at this time, the conference will take place in Fall, most likely in October or November. Check out the website for more information.

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

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## **COLLECTIONS STEWARDSHIP PROFESSIONAL NETWORK (CSAAM)**

The Collections Stewardship Professional Network will present a Virtual Conference with events during the week of 18 May (details at <https://www.collectionsstewardship.org/csaam-virtual-conference-2020>).

The CS-AAM listserv continues to be an important source of collections care information (there is a link for subscribing to the listserv in the Resource section of the website at <https://www.collectionsstewardship.org/listserve>). For those new to the profession or those who are willing to help mentor new professionals, there is a link to the mentorship program (in cooperation with ARCS, the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists) at <https://www.collectionsstewardship.org/mentoring>.

CS-AAM has assembled a collection of useful documents and web pages for museums during the pandemic,



which is available on the website at <https://www.collectionstewardship.org>.

The Leadership Ledger tab in the News & Events section contains regularly updated messages from the CS-AAM leadership about current events that affect museum collection stewardship.

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

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## ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (ECN)

### BACKGROUND

ECN formed an MOU with SPNHC in late 2016; this is our 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2020 (Virtual: “Entomology collections during a global pandemic”)**

The ECN meeting was virtual for 2020, **Monday–Wednesday, 9–11 November 2020**. One of the few up-sides was the unique opportunity to hear from colleagues from all over the globe, who usually might not be able to attend the meeting.

The following is from the ECN leadership: During this global pandemic, entomological collections have been drastically affected. From furloughed employees, to working on specimens from home, to responding to stories about “murder” hornets, we’ve all been impacted in numerous ways. We’re looking for presentations about how you and your collection have responded to this pandemic. We want to hear from all members of the global collections community, and are seeking diverse members from public, private, government, and independent entomological collections. If COVID-19 has affected your collection in some way, this symposium may be for you.

The general program overview included the following:

- Entomological Collections of the World, brief virtual collection tours: organized by Nicole Gunter
- Entomology Collections During a Global Pandemic: organized by Tommy McElrath, and Oliver Keller
- Contributed talks: moderators Olivia Boyd and Cody Bedke
- Equity, Justice, and Inclusion in Ento: Making Entomological Collections Research more Accessible: moderators Antonio Gomez, Nat Young, Kendra Del Toro
- Tales from the Field, vol. 5: organized by Derek Woller, and Michael L. Ferro
- Digitization: moderator Kristin Jayd
- Contributed Posters Session

In the end, the meeting had 451 registrants, and the ECN was able to donate \$751 to EntoPOC, from the proceeds of the meeting registrations. We had 59 talks and participants from 33 countries. Here is a link to the meeting information: <https://ecnweb.net/meeting/>

Also, this link will take you to the program details: <https://ecnweb.net/ecn2020/>

**ECN 2020 meeting organizers:** Chris Grinter, Nicole Gunter, Christy Bills, Isabelle Betancourt, Ashleigh Whiffin, Karen W. Wright, Oliver Keller, and Patrick Gorrington

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

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## GEOLOGICAL CURATORS’ GROUP (GCG)

No representative has been named—open position.

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## GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)

The following is my report on the activities of the Geological Society of America. The GSA Associated Societies Meeting took place on 7 April 2021. Their work on DEI may be a useful resource for us.

### **The Geological Society of America Annual Meeting**

After a virtual national meeting in 2020, GSA will try a hybrid meeting in Portland, Oregon, this October. Given the uncertainties involved, there is a back-up plan for a completely virtual meeting. Much depends on the city of Portland and the state of Oregon, and the vagaries of COVID.

Virtual field trips present challenges. Disability groups within IAGD (International Association for Geoscience Diversity, <https://theiagd.org/> ) are developing resources and guidelines for those. Many meetings are combining, going entirely virtual. Exploration geophysics societies are combining for a fall meeting.

The Geochemical Society negotiated laptops in each room for Goldschmidt hybrid meetings. They use Zoom connection. Speakers can't wander freely, but the costs are far lower than using cameras and broadcasting.

### **COVID Safety at the Meeting**

Questions arose about COVID liability waivers to sign for meeting. These are hard to trace back, unenforceable, and extremely variable from state to state. Temperature checks are basically useless, because of asymptomatic transmission.

The Portland meeting will require masks and social distancing. They have contracted for electrostatic cleaning at lunchtime and after each days' sessions.

### **Personal Safety at Meetings**

The choice of Portland, Oregon, as a meeting site raised questions about personal safety and selection criteria. GSA tries to "go where the rocks are" and select meeting sites without political considerations of voting rights, trans rights, LGBTQ+ rights, etc. GSA wants to be considered apolitical.

Dissenting discussion was initiated by Anita Marshall (IAGD). To wit: "Apolitical" is a position of privilege, some of our members are people actively endangered by policies in some states. Geology is not separated from society. International societies noted that some populations are actually illegal in some countries. Nothing formal came from the discussion, but the consensus was that we should take care of our people first.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Talia Bear is the GSA Diversity Officer and gave the presentation. She would be an excellent contact as we start off the IDEA Committee. [tbear@geosociety.org](mailto:tbear@geosociety.org)

There were two statements released from GSA after George Floyd's murder, affirming our stance on racism and diversity. GSA staff have been undergoing training with URGE (Unlearning Racism in the Geosciences). There are "pods" at institutions and universities.

GSA is also a participant in GEOASCEND, an NSF initiative that started in January. Twenty-six Associated Societies in the geosciences are also participating.

Results from standing Diversity Committees underlines the importance of nominating committees and nominations in making sure diverse groups are included. Alberto Montanari, pres. EGU, confirmed this. Talia Bear noted that at the base of the problem is recruitment of poorly represented populations into GSA.

### **Statute of Limitations**

Final discussion from the members: Is there a statute of limitations on code of conduct violations? The answer from GSA, The Geochemical Society, and The Paleontological Society is, there are none.

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

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## **GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY (GBIF)**

SPNHC is an organizational Associate Participant in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF: [www.gbif.org](http://www.gbif.org)). James Macklin is the current GBIF "Head of Delegation" for SPNHC and also serves as the Canadian Node Manager. The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual GBIF Board Meeting was planned to be held in the United States in the Washington DC area, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, was held virtually from October 20–22.

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 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.

GBIF is currently facilitating discussion on the concept of Extended (a US perspective) or Digital (an EU perspective) Specimens and working to reconcile these toward further implementation. There will be a moderated community discussion on this topic the second two weeks in February (see the advertisements for more details). More discussions on relevant topics, such as global persistent identifiers, are planned for later in the year. GBIF also introduced the concept of hosted data portals, based on both regions and themes, and has begun working with several organizations on pilot projects.

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"(1). 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 the GBIF

1: <https://www.biodiversityinformatics.org/en/>

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## 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). 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. HENTF guidance is organized by:

**Lori Foley and Nana Kaneko**

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

Through September 2020, the United States had 16 natural disasters that each caused \$1 billion in damage. The United States had a record-setting Atlantic Hurricane season, with 30 named storms. In addition to hurricanes: wildfires burned over 4 million acres across California; rain and floods in Michigan caused over 10,000 residents to evacuate their homes, due to flooding; and heat, the leading cause of weather-related deaths, caused the area of Phoenix, Arizona, to have 144 days of temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

HENTF Members continue work in 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 exist.
- 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.

HENTF held its quarterly members' briefing on Feb 18, 2021. John Wetenhall, representing the Association of Academic Museums & Galleries Task Force for the Protection of University Collections, and Richard Kurin, SI's Ambassador-at-Large, discussed university collections and the potential for these being deaccessioned and disposed of as a result of financial shortfalls at their home universities. John and Task Force co-chair, Jill Deupi, would like to collaborate with SPNHC Leadership to prevent university natural history collections from potentially being lost to science due to monetary hardship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Palmer, SPNHC Representative to HENTF

## **INTEGRATED DIGITIZED BIOCOLLECTIONS (iDigBio)**

As one pandemic year rolls into another, iDigBio is continuing to look for opportunities to serve the natural history collections community by providing logistical support and leadership for advancing digitization, despite COVID-related challenges. With more colleagues working from home, documenting best practices has moved from the back burner list to become a hot topic. iDigBio has been collaborating with the Society of Herbarium Curators, the Entomological Collections Network, the US paleo collections community, and the SPNHC Best Practices Committee to gather and refine existing documentation related to digitization, and to eventually integrate this information into the SPNHC wiki.

iDigBio continues to work closely with GBIF, the Atlas of Living Australia, DiSSCo, the Biological Collections Network, and other partners to formalize and expand existing cooperative relationships among the world's largest biodiversity infrastructures, to improve the availability and accessibility of biodiversity research data worldwide. For example, we are pleased to have completed the integration of the iDigBio list of collections with the GRSciColl collections registry, now hosted on GBIF infrastructure.

This past year also marked the end of the US National Science Foundation's Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections program. Digitization proposals will now be funded under NSF's Infrastructure Capacity for Biology program, and this transition offers an opportunity to think strategically about how future digitization activities fit into the overall vision for our collections. iDigBio was pleased to offer a free, online course on Strategic Planning for Biodiversity Collections for the first time in Fall 2020, and we hope to make this an annual occurrence.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erica Krimmel, SPNHC Representative to iDigBio

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

No report submitted.

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## **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPOSITORIES (ISBER)**

The ISBER 2021 Annual Meeting & Exhibits is scheduled to take place May 10–14, 2021, for those in the Western Hemisphere, and May 11–15, 2021, for those in the Eastern Hemisphere. This virtual meeting will feature live and on-demand sessions, oral and poster abstract presentations, interactive workshops, and an exhibit hall. The ISBER 2021 Program Committee worked hard to prepare a virtual meeting program focused on connection and collaboration, which offers many opportunities for networking and discussion. For more information see the conference website: <https://www.isber.org/page/ISBER2021AnnualMeeting>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Breda M. Zimkus

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

The COVID-19 pandemic and major environmental events continue to impact Herbarium collections across Australasia. Shipment of loans and exchange within Australasia has been reinstated, but international border closures and limited international shipping still impede international transactions. We send our best wishes and support to our international colleagues who continue to face severe challenges during this time.

The Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH) and Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections (MAHC) continue to populate and update the new website: <https://chah.gov.au/>. We highly recommend scientists and collections institutions refer to the information shared on the website and on our Index Herbariorum listings prior to requesting materials.

MAHC and HISCOM (Herbarium Information Systems Committee) continue to work together to improve data delivery, data quality, and collections best practice within the Australasian region.

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

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## NATURAL SCIENCES COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION (NatSCA)

During 2020 NatSCA has been continuing to help the natural science collection sector here in the UK. The first lockdown meant our 2020 conference was cancelled at the last minute. Instead, we held our 2020 AGM online in May and then began organising ways to continue to support our members. In November 2020, we held our first completely virtual conference “Decolonizing Natural Science Collections,” with 11 talks presenting and discussing the colonial links to natural science collections and raising awareness on the issue. It was well attended by an international audience of over 300. The talks and Q&A sessions were recorded and can be accessed following this link to our Youtube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5VcGY4WITGigF4Q\\_h7M8eA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5VcGY4WITGigF4Q_h7M8eA)

Our Bill Pettit Memorial Award for the conservation of collections went to two projects last year—the SS Great Britain Last Passenger project, and to King’s College to curate and digitise their Odontological collection. In 2021, we will be funding 3 amazing projects. All will have results reported on our blog soon: <https://natsca.blog/>.

Recent events, including the coronavirus pandemic, have seen significant changes to our sector’s environment, including risks to collections and employment. To further understand the needs of the membership and guide our long-range planning, we undertook, for the first time, a membership survey. The 23-question survey was sent to the membership in August 2020 and was live for 5 weeks. The results have offered a great deal of information, and a detailed report on our findings will be published on our website soon.

We had a few committee changes this year, with Paolo Viscardi stepping down as Chair, and Isla Gladstone taking the reins. As always, we offer deep gratitude to the whole NatSCA committee and all our wonderful volunteers who keep everything moving. Here’s to a brighter 2021!

Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany Palumbo, SPNHC Representative to NatSCA

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## NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE (NSC Alliance)

The NSC Alliance has had a busy and eventful year. The issues facing member institutions and societies due to the pandemic persisted, and the NSC Alliance continued to lobby at the federal level for the government support needed to assist the community through these difficult times into the future. This has been a period of change for the Alliance. In October 2020, Rob Gropp, who had been with the Alliance for 25 years and served as Executive Director for much of that time, departed for a new directorship at the Association for Psychological Science. In consultation with the NSC Alliance board and the leadership of our partner, the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), the Alliance hired a new Executive Director, Dr. Jyotsna Pandey. Since 2018, Dr. Pandey served as Public Policy Manager with the AIBS. In her role at AIBS, Dr. Pandey developed experience advocating for our community in Washington DC. Dr. Pandey did her doctorate in Biological and Agricultural Engineering at Pennsylvania State University.

Since taking the reins at the NSC Alliance, Pandey has been actively engaged in coordinating and leading NSC Alliance-related activities. In 2020, the Alliance urged Congress to include natural history museums, botanical gardens, and other scientific societies and research organizations in economic measures crafted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Alliance also joined AIBS and SPNHC in reminding federal science policy officials that biological collections can be critical to better understand societal problems, such as zoonoses like SARS-CoV-2, and calling for a ten-year investment of \$1 billion to support collections-enabled research and education. Working with The Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN), SPNHC, and AIBS, we surveyed individuals affiliated with US biodiversity science collections to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 related disruptions and closures on biodiversity research and education collections. Alliance president Bates presented about collections and professional societies at the December AIBS board meeting symposium focused on the Bioeconomy.

Through early 2021, the Alliance has continued to work with our national partners to advance and implement the Extended Specimen Network plan and act on goals set forth for the natural history museum community in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report: *Biological Collections: Ensuring Critical Research and Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Pandey, working with BCoN, organized a webinar with the Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN), and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), on the future of biological collections in January. The Alliance is planning a Collections Policy and Advocacy Meeting and continues to work with key committees in Congress and sponsor virtual Biological Sciences Congressional District visits. With the new Congress and administration, there are new opportunities to build the relationships with policymakers necessary to secure funding and ensure that our research and education

programs are informing solutions to major societal problems.

Pandy organized much of the 2021 virtual consultation on the extended/digital specimen concepts that was led by Global Biodiversity Information Facility in March. NSCA president Bates and Pandey continue to work with a small group of participants from the US Nagoya Protocol Action Group to seek support for additional workshops related to maintaining the Learn Nagoya website, while also advocating for continued 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/>). Members are receiving the monthly NSCA newsletter via e-mail, which summarizes a broad variety of issues and activities with relevance to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bates, NSCA President and SPNHC Representative to NSC Alliance

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## **PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PS)**

The 2020 meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) was held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting October 26–30. GSA was hosted completely online this year, due to COVID-19, as were all PS sponsored sessions and events.

One of the main PS events relevant to SPNHC members was a Town Hall Meeting on “The Future of Paleontological Collections: Physical and Digital,” organized by Sandy Carlson and the PS Governmental Affairs Committee. Part of discussion was on how PS can work with other relevant organizations and societies to raise the awareness of paleontological collections and their role in scientific research more broadly, and advocate for the funding necessary for adequate stewardship. A number of SPNHC members were in attendance and participated in the discussion. Since the Town Hall there have been discussions on how PS and SPNHC can work together, including resurrecting the PS Collections Committee. The newly reformed PS Collections Subcommittee had its first meeting in March and there will be more to share on activities in the fall newsletter.

The next meeting of PS will be held during GSA in Portland, Oregon October 10-13, 2021. For more information on The Paleontological Society go to: <http://www.paleosoc.org/>

On a final note, I have been the SPNHC representative to PS for more than 10 years now and would like to hand this off to another SPNHC member active in PS. I think it is time for a fresh perspective. If you are interested in this representative position, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Cundiff, SPNHC Representative to PS

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## **SMALL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (SCNet)**

During the 2020 summer, the [Small Collections Network](#) and iDigBio hosted a listening session 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 future years. 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

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## **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.

In conjunction with iDigBio, the Society held a Strategic Planning Course for Herbaria in Spring 2021. About 50 participants from herbaria around the world took part in the 8-week course.

SHC will be hosting a symposium entitled “Not Your Average Specimen!” with presentations highlighting noteworthy specimens in collections that would help to engage stakeholders (administrators, school groups, etc.) gain a broader understanding of the importance of herbaria. This will be held immediately following the Botany2021 meeting in July.

The annual meeting of the Society was originally to be held in Boise, Idaho, USA, as part of the Botany2021 meeting on July 19–23, 2021. The Botany2021 meeting will now be a virtual event.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Rabeler, SPNHC Representative to SHC

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## SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (SVP)

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology planned for October 14–17, 2020, in Cincinnati, Ohio, was hosted virtually and attended by numerous SPNHC members. The annual Preparators Session focuses on topics related to paleontological collections conservation and care. SPNHC is typically represented at the Preparators Committee, Government Affairs Committee, and SVP business meetings. The 2021 SVP meeting is currently planned for November 3–7, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

In 2020, SVP established a new committee on Collections and Repositories, tasked with addressing policies and issues that arise related to the curation, conservation, and the resulting funding needs of vertebrate paleontological specimens. The membership consists of collections professionals, including collections managers, curators, and museum directors, and coordinates with the Preparators and Government Affairs Committees.

In December 2017, SVP and partner organizations responded to Trump administration efforts to reduce or eliminate US National Monuments containing significant paleontological resources. Bears Ears and Grand Staircase—Escalante National Monuments were established under the Antiquities Act specifically to protect vertebrate paleontological resources. The administration’s new boundaries excluded at least 500 known scientifically important sites from the monument, thus weakening protection and making them ineligible for monument-based funding streams. More than 40 paleontologists have ongoing work that is affected. SVP responded by filing lawsuits challenging the legal authority of the President to make these cuts. More information about this action and rationale can be found on the SVP website (<https://vertpaleo.org/What-is-Vertebrate-Paleontology/Fossil-Preservation-Law-in-the-US.aspx>). On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed an executive order instructing the Secretary of the Interior and relevant department heads to conduct a review of monument boundaries to be submitted within 60 days. Partners feel that this is favorable news and encourage advocates of scientific resource management to write to state and federal representatives in support of monument protection.

In April 2020, SVP sent a letter to the editors of more than 300 natural history journals publishing on paleontological specimens, regarding ethics and standards (<https://vertpaleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SVP-Letter-to-Editors-FINAL.pdf>). The letter addressed two topics: the first regarding the ethics of accepting manuscripts describing fossils collected in conflict zones, in particular the “Burmese amber” excavated in Myanmar, and recommends editorial policies that consider the ethical circumstances related to specimens acquired as the result of human exploitation or black markets. Second, this letter reiterates the importance of ensuring that described or figured specimens enter the public trust and provides template policies that require fossils being described or figured to be accessioned into a publicly accessible permanent repository. More information on these topics is available under the News and Governance Documents sections of the SVP website (<https://vertpaleo.org>).

In September 2020, SVP wrote to Christie’s Auction House to request that the sale of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton known as “Stan” be restricted to institutions dedicated to the public trust. The statement can be accessed at the SVP website (<https://vertpaleo.org/auction-of-t-rex-stan/>). Ultimately, the skeleton sold to an anonymous bidder for \$31.8 million, the highest price ever paid for fossil remains.

The SVP wishes to remind SPNHC members that it offers several awards and grants that might have relevance to those interested in paleontology. These include grants (<https://vertpaleo.org/the-Society/Awards.aspx>) to promote student research and fieldwork, like the Estes, Patterson, and Wood awards. The Jackson Student Travel Grant and Scientists from Economically Developing Nations Grant both help support travel to the SVP annual meeting. The Hix Preparators Grant is awarded to advance fossil research, standards, and training in preparation and collections disciplines. The SVP also newly established the SVP Futures Award, supporting summer undergraduate research projects in vertebrate paleontology by students that identify as underrepresented ethnic minorities or people of color. Funds will provide a competitive stipend and research costs, including travel for fieldwork. Not all of these awards limit eligibility to current members of SVP; check the requirements carefully.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Brown, SPNHC Representative to SVP

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## Appendix 1 Inclusion Statement

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections commits to enhancing inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in our organization and the work we do. The Society acknowledges our lack of direct focus on this need in the past, and is aware of the substantial work to be done. All current members, as well as our extended audience, should feel welcomed, included, and recognized in our organization. We aim to be transparent in our future initiatives and progress as we strive to create lasting support for broader audiences.

We recognize that it is not enough to only welcome and encourage underrepresented groups to our organization, but also necessary to help facilitate pathways for interest and education for all within the fields of natural history, museums, and collections. To do this, we must break down barriers to entry and involvement within our Society and meetings, as well as within the spheres of natural history, museums, and collections in general. Privileges and prejudices to be acknowledged include, but are not limited to, race, color, ethnicity, nationality, religion, socioeconomic status, veteran status, education, marital status, language, age, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, genetic information, learning differences, and neurodiversity.

Moving forward, we value the inclusion of new narratives from underrepresented voices in natural history, museums, and other collecting institutions. We recognize that many natural history museums originated in a western white colonial perspective and have discriminated against indigenous peoples and historically excluded traditional knowledge. We support decolonization efforts in natural history collections and museums by working with all stakeholders to address this exploitative past.

SPNHC has formed a committee to organize and oversee the work to be done throughout the Society relating to the matters of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA). We have chosen these terms as the pillars of our work in the committee. Definitions of each have been adapted from the [American Alliance of Museums \(AAM\)](#) –

- **Inclusion:** An intentional, ongoing effort to ensure diverse individuals participate fully in all aspects of organizational work, including decision-making processes
- **Diversity:** The ways in which people are different and the same at the individual and group levels.
- **Equity:** Fair and just treatment of all members of a community
- **Accessibility:** Giving equitable access to everyone along the continuum of human ability and experience

Upcoming plans within the SPNHC IDEA Committee include:

- Conducting an audit of the Society's current demographics to better understand the diversity and representation present in the Society's membership, and thus inform future initiatives.
- Reaching out to other allied societies and organizations related to natural history and collections to create a global community around these important topics. These conversations will allow us to discuss and learn from one another about diversity and inclusion in a broader sense.
- Creating accessible outreach and education materials around the ideas of diversity, decolonizing in the natural sciences, and museum collections.



**Appendix 2**  
**Accountant's Review Report and Financial Statements**

*These have not been received yet and will be appended as soon as they are in hand*