

THE
38th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE
**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

“Taking the Long View”

**Hilton San Francisco Union Square,
San Francisco, California, USA
June 2, 2023**

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Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
2 June 2023

Hilton San Francisco Union Square,
San Francisco, California, USA

1. Call to order
2. Agenda
3. Minutes of the 2022 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. Biodiversity Crisis Response
 - e. Conference
 - f. Conservation
 - g. Education
 - h. Elections
 - i. Emerging Professionals
 - j. Finance
 - k. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility
 - l. Legislation and Regulations
 - m. Long-Range Planning
 - n. Membership
 - o. Professional Development
 - p. Publications
 - q. Recognition and Grants
 - r. Web Site
7. Reports of Sessional Committees
 - a. Collection Theft & Security Monitoring in Collections
 - b. US Federal Collections
8. Reports of Representatives (27)
Due to time constraints, please refer to the printed reports.
9. New Business
 - a. Awards & Recognition
 - b. Upcoming Meetings
10. Old Business
11. Announcements
12. Adjournment

2022–2023 List of SPNHC Members Serving on Council and Committees

COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Julian Carter	2022–2024
President-Elect	Greg Watkins-Colwell	2022–2024
Past President	Paul Mayer	2022–2024
Secretary	Tiffany Adrain	2022–2024
Managing Editor	Mariel Campbell	
Treasurer	Theresa Reilly	

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Shelley James	2020–2023
Randy Singer	2020–2023
Vanessa Delnavaz	2021–2024
Meghann Toner	2021–2024
Irene Finkelde	2022–2025
Jennifer Trimble	2022–2025

STANDING COMMITTEES

<p>Archives</p> <p>Carol Kelloff Chair</p> <p>Lisa F. Palmer Meghann Toner</p> <p>Best Practices</p> <p>Emily Braker Co-chair</p> <p>Genevieve Tocci Co-chair</p> <p>M. Andriambelomanana Adam Kowalczyk</p> <p>Andy Bentley Erica Krimmel</p> <p>Eva Biedron Carrie Levitt-Bussian</p> <p>Matthew Brown Meredith Mahoney</p> <p>Christina Byrd Katherine Mallalieu</p> <p>Julian Carter Tommy McElrath</p> <p>Julia Colby Paul S. Mayer</p> <p>Michelle Coyne Amanda Millhouse</p> <p>Jessica D. Cundiff William Moser</p> <p>Carrie Eaton Dirk Neumann</p> <p>Leanne Elder Katie Pearson</p> <p>Nicole Fisher D. Raharisoanarindra</p> <p>Marilyn Fox Nicole Seiden</p> <p>Anya Friedrichs Randy Singer</p> <p>M. Grenda-Kurmanow Hayley Singleton</p> <p>Shelley James Jennifer Trimble</p> <p>Carol Kelloff Greg Watkins-Colwell</p> <p>Stevie Kennedy-Gold Dan Young</p> <p>Breda Zimkus</p> <p><i>Citations subcommittee</i></p> <p>Margaret Landis Chair</p> <p>Mariko Kageyama Ann Pinzl</p> <p>Biodiversity Crisis Response</p> <p>Libby Elwood Co-chair</p> <p>Jutta Buschbom Co-chair</p> <p>Martin Alvarez Alina Friere Fierro</p> <p>Usman Atique Jean-Marc Gagnon</p> <p>Andy Bentley Rachel Hackett</p> <p>Dina Clark Sara Hansen</p> <p>Jason Comer Rohan Joglekar</p> <p>Chelsea Dvorak Specht Talia Karim</p>	<p>Biodiversity Crisis Response contd.</p> <p>Roxy Kellar Emma Rempel</p> <p>Austin Mast Soledad Tancoff</p> <p>Juri Miyamae Erica Wheeler</p> <p>Anna Monfils Martin Weimers</p> <p>Mare Nazaire Justin Williams</p> <p>Gil Nelson Sarah Witiak</p> <p>Bylaws</p> <p>Paul Mayer Chair (Past President)</p> <p>Laura Abraczinskas Tiffany Adrain (Secretary)</p> <p>Andy Bentley</p> <p>Conference</p> <p>Greg Watkins-Colwell Chair (President-Elect)</p> <p>Cindy Opitz Co-chair</p> <p>Paul Mayer Sponsor Liaison (North America)</p> <p>Clare Valentine Sponsor Liaison (Europe)</p> <p>Sankurie Pye Edinburgh, 2022</p> <p>Moe Flannery San Francisco 2023</p> <p>Laura Eklund San Francisco 2023</p> <p>Shelley James TDWG 2024</p> <p>Tim White New Haven 2025</p> <p>Tiffany Adrain Elise LeCompte</p> <p>Conservation</p> <p>Fran Ritchie Chair</p> <p>Meghan Abercrombie Nicole Feldman</p> <p>Gretchen Anderson Irene Finkelde</p> <p>Rachel Arenstein Alice Gimat</p> <p>Lori Benson Lisa Goldberg</p> <p>Stephanie Black Catharine Hawks</p> <p>Julian Carter Becky Kaczkowski</p> <p>Sophie Cersoy Carolyn Leckie</p> <p>Luci Ciperia Devon Lee</p> <p>Silvia Da Rocha Dani Measday</p> <p>Mariana Di Giacomo Armando Mendez</p> <p>Liatte Dotan Eugenie Milroy</p> <p>Lisa Elkin Rebecca Newberry</p>
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Conservation contd.		IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) contd.	
Cindy Opitz	Dee Stubbs-Lee	John Bates	Paul Mayer
Shelley Paine	Julia Sybalsky	Alnycea Blackwell	Rebecca Newberry
Bethany Palumbo	Sheldon Teare	Laura Briscoe	Deb Paul
Sophie Phillips	Anastasia van Gaver	Julian Carter	Theresa Reilly
Halina Piasecki	Rob Waller	Amalia Diaz	Marcy Revelez
Veronique Rouchon	Tim White	Ron Eng	Fran Ritchie
Education		Adania Flemming	Randy Singer
Molly Phillips	Chair	Lisa Goldberg	Barbara Thiers
Liz Leith	Co-secretary	Shelley James	Genevieve Tocci
Jennifer Bauer	Co-secretary	Talia Karim	Richard Wittie
Maria Armour	Stephanie Killingsworth	Jennifer Lanman	Breda Zimkus
Anthony Baniaga	Adam Kowalczyk	Legislation and Regulations	
Lori Benson	Linda Lassiter	Dirk Neumann	Co-chair
Vicky Chan	Gastón A., Martini	Breda Zimkus	Co-chair
Christina Chandler	Anna Monfils	Mariel Campbell	Diane Pitassy
Jason Comer	Darin Penneys	Adam Ferguson	Lori Schlenker
Annmarie Fearing	Julia Robinson	Geoff Keel	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Anja Friederichs	Chris Tacker	Bill Moser	
Corinne Fuchs	Greg Watkins-Colwell	Andy Bentley	Transport of Dangerous Goods
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Jessa Watters	<i>Fire Code Subcommittee</i>	
Rachel Hackett	Luc Willemse	Paul Morris	Robert Waller
Kari Harris		John Simmons	
Elections		Long-Range Planning	
Bethany Palumbo	Co-chair	Greg Watkins-Colwell	Co-chair (President-Elect)
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Co-chair	Suzanne Ryder	Co-chair
Emerging Professionals		Laura Abraczinskas	Dirk Neumann
Kevin Krajcir	Co-chair	Tiffany Adrain	Cindy Opitz
Jessie Nakano	Co-chair	Julian Carter	Deborah Paul
Marie Angel	Robyn Crowther	Annmarie Fearing	Ann Pinzl
Finance		Shelley James	Hayley Singleton
Julian Carter (President)	Chair	Anna Monfils	Barbara Thiers
Theresa Reilly	Treasurer	Membership	
Mariel Campbell	Managing Editor	Suzanne Ryder	Chair
Tiffany Adrain	Secretary	Tiffany Adrain	Ann Pinzl
Barbara Thiers	Irene Finkelde	Elana Benamy	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Carol Kelloff	Cindy Opitz	Talia Karim	Theresa Reilly (Treasurer)
Suzanne B. McLaren	Suzanne Ryder	Professional Development	
IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access)		OPEN POSITION	Chair
Meghann S. Toner	Co-chair	Jeff Stephenson	Training Compendium
Vanessa Delnavaz	Co-chair	Elise LeCompte	Chair, Travel Grants subcom.
Molly Phillips	Co-secretary	OPEN POSITION	Co-chair, Mentorship subcom.
Hayley Singleton Hyde	Co-secretary	Meghann Toner	Co-chair, Mentorship subcom.
		Nicholas Drew	Chair, PD Wiki-page subcom.

Publications		Web & Social Media	
Mariel Campbell	Co-chair, Managing Editor	Liath Appleton	Chair
Scott Rufolo	Co-chair, Asst. Manag. Ed.	Jennifer Lanman	Jobs board manager
Mariana Di Giacomo	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum	OPEN POSITION	Events Calendar
Shelley James	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum	Jessica Utrup	NHCOLL-L list manager
Genevieve Tocci	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum	James Macklin	Consultant
Liath Appleton	Editor, SPNHC Connection	<i>Social Media Team</i>	
Lori Schlenker	Asst. Ed. SPNHC Connect.	Lynn Jones	Manager
OPEN POSITION	Advert'ing, SPNHC Connect.	Mariana Di Giacomo	Aditi Jayarajan
Lisa Goldberg	Assoc. Ed., Book Reviews	Irene Finkelde	Cara Smith
Breda Zimkus	Editor, Technical Leaflets	<i>Website Editors</i>	
Carol Kelloff	Archives Chair	Laura Abraczinskas	Bylaws
Recognition & Grants		Tiffany Adrain	Secretary
Paul Mayer	Chair (Past President)	Suzanne Ryder	Membership
Andy Bentley	Suzanne B. McLaren	Theresa Reilly	Treasurer
Jean-Marc Gagnon		Shelley James	Anna Monfils
		<i>YouTube Managers</i>	
		Emily Braker, Genevieve Tocci; Best Practices	
		Andy Bentley	Paul Mayer
		<i>Slack Administration</i>	
		Mariana Di Giacomo	Genevieve Tocci
		Deb Paul	Greg Watkins-Colwell

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Collection Theft & Security Monitoring of Collections			
Paul Mayer	Co-chair		
Rob Zschernitz	Co-chair		
US Federal Collections		Erica Krimmel	Fran E Ritchie
Janaki Krishna	Co-Chair	Jennifer Leasor	Shannen Robson
Carrie A. Eaton	Co-Chair	Liz Leith	Adam Rountrey
Greg Liggett	Co-Chair	Carrie Levitt Bussian	Kara Schneiderman
Bernd Bock	John Harwick	Kirsten MacKenzie	Bruce Schumacher
Stephanie Carson	Jasmine Heckman	William Moser	Steven Sullivan
Fernando A. Cervantes	Kathy A. Hollis	Jessica Nakano	Meghan Truckey
Lauren Cohen	Kelly Hood	Conni O'Connor	Jacob Van Veldhuizen
Rachel Delovio	Mariko Kageyama	Kari Alyssa Prassack	Nicole Volden
Katrina Derieg	Anya Kitterman	Tiana F. Rehman	Miriam Watson
Julia Grasso	Laura Knutson Murray	L. Catherine Riddle	Justin Wilkins

ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC): Jean-Marc Gagnon

American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS): Anna Monfils

American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC): Gretchen Anderson
(rotating off, 2023)

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH): Randy Singer

American Society of Mammalogists (ASM): Suzanne McLaren

American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT): Mare Nazaire (rotating off, 2023)

Association for Materials and Methods in Paleontology (AMMP): Christina Byrd

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

Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF): Jutta Buschbom

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Jutta Buschbom

Entomological Collections Network (ECN): Dan Young

Geological Curators' Group (GCG): Andrew Haycock

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): Katie Pearson

International Council of Museums—Committee for Collections of Natural History (ICOM-NATHIST):
Gretchen Anderson (rotating off, 2023)

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 Science Collections Alliance (NSCA): John Bates

Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA): Bethany Palumbo

Paleontological Society (PaleoSoc): Jessica D. Cundiff

Scientific Collections International (SciColl): Barbara Thiers

Small Collections Network (SCNet): Anna Monfils

Society of Herbarium Curators (SCH): open position

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP): Matthew Brown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SPNHC

The SPNHC Long Range Planning committee would be very grateful if you could spend a few minutes completing the below survey. We are looking to renew the strategy for the society and would like to understand the views and requirements of the membership. The results of the survey will inform the review and help establish the future direction of the society. Your time and contributions are much appreciated.

[Please follow this link to start the survey.](#)

The deadline for completion has been extended to June 03, 2023.

With many thanks and kind regards,

Suzanne Ryder and LRP team

PROPOSED SPNHC BYLAW AMENDMENT

A draft of proposed amendments to the SPNHC Bylaws is linked below. A vote on the proposed changes will take place at the ABM.

[Current Bylaws](#)

[Proposed Amendment](#)

ELECTION OF SPNHC OFFICERS

Nominations are open for the positions of:

- Two [Members-At-Large](#)
- [Secretary](#)
- [President-Elect](#)

Please send nominations to the Election Committee at bethanypalumbo@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE!
September 2 - 7, 2024
SPNHC/TDWG Joint Annual Meeting
Okinawa Convention Centre, Okinawa, Japan



“Enhancing Local Capacity, Elevating Global Standards”

SPNHC and TDWG (Biodiversity Information Standards) invite you to participate in this golden opportunity to welcome Asia-Pacific members of natural history collections and biodiversity data communities. The Okinawa 2024 meeting will be an unparalleled opportunity for membership of SPNHC and TDWG to make new connections and encourage international collaboration with their counterparts in Asia.



Images © Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau

The meeting will be held at the Okinawa Convention Center adjoining a beautiful beach and affordable hotel accommodations. The content will be delivered in a hybrid mode, allowing for both synchronous and asynchronous participation by remote attendees. The conference programme will be developed in an integrated format as much as possible, including joint sessions, symposia and networking events. Excursion and field trip locations on and around the Okinawa Island are being actively explored, such as museums, field research stations, and World Heritage sites.



Okinawa 2024 will signify the second joint meeting with TDWG and SPNHC after the remarkable success of the first joint conference in Dunedin, New Zealand, in 2018. What is even more significant is that SPNHC will be coming to Asia for the first time in nearly 40 years of its history.

Calling all Educators Looking for Resources

(formal and informal, K-12, College)

Do you want to discover new ways to connect your students to nature and still meet learning objectives?
(Including K-12 standards or Vision & Change Recommendations)

Then join us for the ...

Natural History Education DemoCamp

Conference dates:
June 14 & 15, 2023
Registration now
open:
[https://spnhc.org/
education-democamp/](https://spnhc.org/education-democamp/)

No cost to participate!



Visit the [website](#) to register and learn more!

If you have resources to share see the [website](#) and sign up to be a presenter.



Natural History Education DemoCamp



Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
9 June 2022 17:15 BST (UTC +1)
Lecture 1, Appleton Tower, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, + zoom

Members Present: 78 (58 online, 20 in person)

1. Call to Order: 5:21 BST

Paul Mayer noted that several conference attendees have tested positive for COVID, so the ABM was moved to a virtual format, and encouraged everyone to take care of themselves and follow the guidelines. PM welcomed new members of Council: President-elect Greg Watkins-Colwell, Secretary Tiffany Adrain, Incoming MaLs Irene Finkelde and Jennifer Trimble; new committee chairs Breda Zimkus (Legs & Regs), Meghann Toner (Idea); new organizational reps: Christina Byrd (AMMP rep), Jutta Buschbom (CBD and CETAF rep), Jean-Marc Gagnon (ANHMC rep). PM noted that we need a new chair or co-chairs for the Membership Committee. PM encouraged people to volunteer to help in all the committees.

2. Agenda

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

Moved: Cindy Opitz

Seconded: Christina Byrd

Vote: All in favor: yes

Opposed: 0

passed

unanimously

3. Minutes

Motion: To accept the minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting, held on 27 May 2021, online, via Zoom (found on page 7 of the ABM packet).

Moved: Cindy Opitz

Seconded: Dirk Neumann

Vote: All in favor: yes

Opposed: 0

passed

unanimously

4. President's Report

PM referred to the written report starting on page 10 of the ABM packet.

5. Treasurer's Report

Theresa Reilly referred to the written report beginning on page 11 of the ABM packet.

PM asked anyone delinquent in paying their dues to pay them as soon as possible.

Motion: To accept SPNHC new members for 2021 and 2022, as listed on pp. 15 of the ABM packet.

Moved: Theresa Reilly

Seconded: Paul Mayer

Vote: All in favor: yes

Opposed: 0

passed unanimously

Motion: To accept the report of the Treasurer and 2022 budget as listed on page 14 of the ABM packet.

Moved: Christina Byrd

Seconded: Paul Mayer

Vote: All in favor: yes

Opposed: 0

passed unanimously

6. Reports of Standing Committees

- a. Archives – Carol Kelloff referred to the written report.
- b. Best Practices – Emily Braker referred to the written report.
- c. Bylaws – Barbara Thiers was absent; CO referred to the written report.
- d. Collections and the Biodiversity Crisis – Libby Elwood referred to the written report.
- e. Conference – Julian Carter referred to the written report.
- f. Conservation – Fran Ritchie referred to the written report. [two other members sharing online link[]]
- g. Education – co-chairs silent; CO referred to the written report.
- h. Elections – Bethany Palumbo referred to the written report and thanked Jean-Marc Gagnon for putting the 2022 election report together. PM opened the floor for nominees

for two members-at-large for the upcoming elections; send nominations to bethanypalumbo@gmail.com and clarified that people can nominate themselves.

- i. Emerging Professionals – Kevin Krajcir referred to the written report and noted that the EP Committee is interested in taking on the natural history collections club network and encouraged anyone interested in fostering the program and working with undergraduate and graduate students at universities to get in touch.
- j. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility – Vanessa Delnavaz referred to the written report. PM noted that the name had changed from Access to Accessibility.
- k. Legislation and Regulations – Stephanie Carson referred to the written report. Dirk Neumann thanked Stephanie Carson for serving 6 years as committee co-chair, as she steps down from that role. PM thanked SC also.
- l. Long-Range Planning – Julian Carter referred to the written report.
- m. Membership – Tiffany Adrain referred to the written report and announced that she is stepping down to take on the role of secretary, thanking everyone who has helped with Membership work, booth travel, and especially Ann Pinzel & Elana Benamy. PM thanked TA and acknowledged that she did a lot of work as Membership chair, including hauling the booth around.
- n. Professional Development – No chairs present. CO referred to the written report.
- o. Publications – Mariel Campbell referred to the written report and welcomed Scott Rufolo as Publications Committee co-chair.
- p. Recognition and Grants – Barbara Thiers was absent. PM referred to the written report.
- q. Web & Social Media – Liath Appleton referred to the written report.

7. Reports of Sessional Committees

- a. Collection Theft & Security Monitoring in Collections—Paul Mayer referred to the written report.
- c. International Relations – Sue Ryder referred to the written report and noted that the IR Committee had met its mandate and will merge with the Membership Committee and she has agreed to take on the Membership chair.
- d. US Federal Collections – Janaki Krishna was new to the role as chair and did not submit a written report; JK noted that she had established that there was enough interest in continuing to meet and will report next year; contact JK if interested in joining the committee.

8. Representative Reports (27)

For expediency, PM referred to the representatives' written reports in ABM package.

9. New Business

a. Awards:

Because Past-President Barbara Thiers was absent, PM read from her notes on who won awards.

1. The Vendor Recognition Award recognizes longtime, repeated, and substantial acts of support of the Society and the Society's annual meetings by a commercial organization; this year the Vendor Recognition Award goes to University Products, for their longtime support of the museum community, the Society, and the SPNHC annual meeting. PM noted they did not have a physical presence in Scotland, so he will make sure the award is mailed to them.
2. The Early Career Award is presented to a member at an early stage in their career or at an early stage in their involvement with SPNHC and who has demonstrated great potential for leadership through innovative and energetic services that strengthen and broaden the impact of SPNHC. The inaugural award was given to Elizabeth "Libby" Elwood, who has demonstrated great initiative and energy in her leadership of the Biodiversity Crisis Committee. PM noted that he can't think of anyone better to receive that. Under Libby's leadership, the SPNHC Biodiversity Crisis Committee has done an amazing amount of work in a very short time, building momentum in several important areas. Some of these activities include the community survey and actions to the Conserve Biodiversity panel discussions, have engaged the collections community in reflections on its role in countering the biodiversity crisis, and others—

for example, as SPNHC representative to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the roundtable discussion at the national Nature Serve conference, which have elevated our organization's presence in the conservation community. The panel discussion alone drew over 250 participants from around the world. The response to the Biodiversity Crisis Committee's work is due, of course, to the importance of the topic but also very much to Libby's sophisticated, inclusive, and generous approach to supporting groups with a common objective.

3. The SPNHC Special Award recognizes individuals and sister organizations for any noteworthy effort leading to the success of an important event or activity or objective of the Society. This year BT was delighted to present the award to Local Organizers of this year's conference: The National Museums of Scotland and the Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh. Organizing a SPNHC conference is always a challenge, but this conference, with its long delay from its original date in 2020, and organizing during the time of COVID, brought all kinds of special challenges. PM expressed that he could not imagine postponing the meeting after all that work was done for 2020, and that everyone he's talked to has raved about the field trips, and he's seen many images of the fossil lungfish embedded in the museum walls posted on Facebook, the cruise was excellent, the presentations and lectures went seamlessly, the social activities have provided a lot of entertainment and fun, and the organizers have done a wonderful job, and everyone has fallen in love with Edinburgh, the NMS, and the RBGE, which have been great venues, so thank you very much. Sankurie Pye, representing the Local Organizing Committee, thanked everyone and said the LOC was greatly honored and had a great time too.
- b. **Upcoming Meetings: Julian Carter**
- 2023 Cal Academy, San Francisco: Moe Flannery, a co-chair from the 2023 meeting LOC, expressed that they hope everyone will join them in San Francisco CA, May 28 through June 2, 2023, that it has been really great to be here in person this year and talk with everyone and share this space in Edinburgh, and she hopes they'll bring together lots of people from around the world again next year. MF introduced co-chair Laura Eckland, who was also on the call, and summarized their plans: hybrid meeting to the best extent possible; the venue will be the San Francisco Hilton Union Square, where they've reserved a block of rooms; MF encouraged people to stay there, as it will support the cost of the meeting, is easily accessible to the rest of downtown San Francisco, and it will be convenient to simply go downstairs from the hotel rooms to the conference halls and visit the rooftop bar with a swimming pool; most of the conference will happen at the Union Square Hilton, and the ice breaker and collection tours will be at the Cal Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park; they are having conversations about collection tours at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley; there will be field trips to places like wine country, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Muir Woods National Monument, and let them know of other places you'd like to go; there will be lots of workshops and amazing talks, a banquet, trivia night—everything you'd expect from SPNHC, plus San Francisco as well. MF presented a video and made comments about what San Francisco has to offer: baseball stadium Pier 39; sealions; sail on the bay; Alcatraz; might be foggy, so bring warm clothes, like Edinburgh; culinary delights; Golden Gate Bridge; different cultural areas; other museums, such as the Asian Art Museum; trolley and cable cars; shopping; travel in the countryside, with Muir Woods just 1 hour north of the city; wine country; Monterey Bay Aquarium; sea otters; Hilton, with its rooftop view—the highest sky bar in San Francisco and heated pool—and great views from the rooms as well; Golden Gate Park with the Cal Academy and its living roof; the icebreaker will be at museum on first evening, where you can visit Claude, the alligator with albinism and 40,000 other live animals, including our favorite penguins. MF thanked the Edinburgh LOC for all they did and invited everyone to view the San Francisco website that just went live: calacademy.org/spnhc-2023. MF invited suggestions for symposia or additional emerging professional activities, which can be sent to spnhc2023questions@calacademy.org; the call for symposia and workshop ideas will

be sometime in the next few months, and registration will begin in early January, with abstracts due around then as well. MF encouraged people to book their hotel rooms soon and will circulate the block code to membership. MF and LE look forward to welcoming everyone in San Francisco next year.

- 2024—possibly Okinawa, Japan: JC noted that SPNHC is working with TDWG to organize a meeting in Okinawa, Japan, and that the committee is still exploring whether it will be possible without a host LOC on the ground there. Normally we would have a letter of invitation now for approval at the ABM, but we don't have that yet, as we are still looking into costs and will decide within the next few months. Without a host LOC, SPNH will have to put money up front to support the conference, which includes risks. The conference might be expensive for some participants, but it will enable connection with Asian and Australian areas as well. JC noted that SPNHC worked well with TDWG in Dunedin for the 2018 meeting. Deb Paul noted that SPNHC would be cost sharing with TDWG, so not assuming all the risk. JC noted that SPNHC will have to take on more responsibility for organizing our annual conferences in future, due to the increasing burden on LOCs, and that the Conference Committee will make a decision on whether Okinawa 2024 is feasible, followed by an online vote of membership. JC reported that Mariko Kageyama has been making and coordinating contacts in Japan, and that Daisuke Sakama is willing to serve as co-chair, along with a TDWG rep. The exploratory committee is also in talks with a local conference-organizing vendor who would provide logistical support and liaise with hotel(s). MK expressed thanks for serious consideration of holding a conference in Asia, which would be the first and a huge opportunity to engage with Asia. JC noted that it definitely would be in line with SPNHC goals to expand its international reach, as well as a great opportunity for collaboration.

- 2025 Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. JC noted that SPNHC is returning to Yale to celebrate SPNHC's 40th anniversary and the Yale Peabody Museum's new building.

Beyond that, JC noted that the committee is exploring further options, potentially with a consortium in South Africa, and possibly returning to London in 2027 or 2028. PM expressed that things are changing and that conferences cost 100s of thousands of dollars up front and rely on registrations and vendor support to break even; SPNHC will have to reconsider how we hold and fund our meetings.

- c. **Treasurer situation?** PM stated that another area in which we need to look at changing the way SPNHC operates is in its financial administration. Everyone involved with treasury, membership, and publications agrees that we need to hire someone to take on some of these duties. The Society is getting too big as an organization, making a lot of work for a handful of people to handle, and it would be in the best interest of SPNHC to hire a professional to take on the financial aspects of our finances, publications, and membership, to free up those committees to do other committee work, instead of the daily transactions. It's a tremendous amount of work done by 2 or 3 people, and we've been lucky to have people to do that work for a long time, but it's getting to the point now where something's going to give; we've looked at a few people and have some rough ideas of cost; it might eventually lead to an increase in dues, but we'll be looking at ways to increase benefits to members. CO noted that a Finance Committee has formed to look at options to present to membership. PM alerted membership to two big changes in the way SPNHC conducts business in the near future, so watch for news—on funding the Japanese meeting (Okinawa 2024) and hiring a professional to do the accounting work for SPNHC. DP cited a question in the chat about whether meetings will be hybrid and live in future, and answered, "Yes," noting that it gives us the opportunity to increase the Society's diversity as we aspire to do.

10. Old Business

- None

12. Announcements

- PM thanked our two outgoing Members-at-Large for their hard work, whose terms ended with this meeting – Anna Monfils (2019-2022), who started up the new IDEA Committee, and Breda Zimkus (2020-2022), who worked with PM on the Security & Collection Monitoring Committee. PM thanked outgoing past-president Barbara Thiers, who was a constant source of information for PM and helped him in all kinds of ways. PM also offered a very big thank you to Secretary Cindy Opitz, who is stepping down after six years in the role and has been absolutely wonderful to work with—he couldn't have done his job without her. CO confirmed that she is now co-chair of the Conference Committee and continue attending Council meetings.
- PM welcomed our two new Members-at-Large—Irene Finkelde and Jennifer Trimble (2022–2025), whose 3-year terms are now beginning—and welcomed incoming President Julian Carter, President-elect Greg Watkins-Colwell, and Secretary Tiffany Adrain, whose two-year terms begins at the end of this meeting and who he thanked for her long-time work chairing the Membership Committee.
- CO announced that Andy Haycock is the new Geological Curators Group representative. PM thanked AH and noted that we've been trying to fill that position for a long time.
- Thanks, serving as president has been true honor, lot of change and challenges coming; we're in good hands with JC, GWC, TA; need more input from membership, more diversity, consider joining committees and making your voices heard.
- PM thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the president, which was a true honor he really enjoyed. He expressed confidence that Julian Carter, Greg Watkins-Colwell, Tiffany Adrain and the entire SPNHC Council will do a great job handling the challenges and changes to come in the next couple of years. PM noted that they'll need help and encouraged everyone to volunteer to work on committees, as we'll need more hands, more input, and more diversity.
- Andy Bentley thanked everyone involved with providing the online portion of the Edinburgh conference, for those who couldn't attend in person, and hoped that there will be opportunities to attend committee meetings and the banquet and other social events online in some form in the future. AB wished safe travels to all returning to their native lands from Edinburgh.

13. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the Annual Business Meeting.

Moved: Cindy Opitz

Seconded: Christina Byrd

PM said so long from Edinburgh and see you in San Francisco, before adjourning the meeting at 6:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Opitz, outgoing Secretary

Report of the President

At the 2022 meet in Edinburgh it was an honour to officially take over the role of the SPNHC President from Paul Mayer, and on behalf of the Society thank Paul for his hard work and dedication as President, and particularly in guiding the society through the challenges of the Covid pandemic during his tenure. This year sees the ABM return to North America hosted by the wonderful California Academy of Sciences. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has been working exceptionally hard to bring this meeting together, which will once again be a hybrid conference with virtual options to attend. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank the whole team, who under the leadership Laura Eklund and Moe Flannery, have undertaken the major task to bring this superb conference and our community together to share knowledge, skills, and experiences.

Council Changes

For this coming year we have some changes on the Council as two of our members at large finish

their terms, and we extend our sincere thanks to Shelley James and Randy Singer for their valuable support for the work of the Society and the Council. In return we extend a warm welcome to the Council for our two new incoming MaLs Dirk Neumann and Stéphanie Tessier. We have also enacted on the proposal at the 2022 ABM to employ additional support for the membership and business administration of the Society to improve the efficiency of how the Society operates. This has resulted in the hiring of Christy Classi and her team to manage the SPNHC memberships and business office website. The appointment is already proving a positive move and showing benefits in the administration of the Society and its work. As a result, we are now proposing to bring the role of the Membership Committee chair formerly onto the Council to further facilitate and improve communication and management of the governance of SPNHC as this role interlinks strongly with other key roles such as the Treasurer and Secretary.

Future Planning

Prior to the Covid pandemic the Society, via the Long-Range Planning Committee, had begun the process to review the strategy and aims of the organization and the previous 10 year plan which had come to an end. Unfortunately, the ongoing challenges of this period had understandably caused this project to stall. This has now been picked up again by the LRP with the initiation of a membership survey, the initial results of which should be with us for the 2023 ABM. The feedback from the survey will then form the basis to review and develop a new 10-year strategy for the Society over the coming year. This work will also be linking to the need to review the financial security of SPNHC in response to both the increased costs we are now incurring, and to better support the membership and work of the Society in the future. As a result, we have now also reinitiated the Finance Committee to lead on a financial review for SPNHC.

Standing Committees

The backbone to the Society is very much in the work and outputs of the various Committees and liaison groups, and a big thank you goes to all the chairs and members of all the various committees and groups, both past and present. At the time of writing, it is not possible to list all the changes but a special mention goes to Mariel Campbell who has had to step down from her role as Managing Editor of the Publications Committee and we very much thank Mariel for her work and commitment to this key role for the Society.

The work of our committees is more fully reported upon in the reports in this ABM package and represents a key part of the strength of the organization. The scope and diversity of these reports fully illustrate the wide range of activities that SPNHC members undertake supporting our collections and community, providing our membership a valuable voice across the sector. We thus actively encourage you to join in the work of these committees as they can be a great opportunity to meet new people, share expertise and skills, and make your voice heard.

The Council and associated Committees have also been aiming to meet quarterly via Zoom to help improve communications and support moving Society business forward throughout the year. In addition, the Society has upgraded its Slack account and many of the channels on that account are open to all members to join and use. SPNHC also has both the Zoom and You-tube channel accounts which are there to support the society and its membership, so please do get in contact if you would like to use these accounts to host a relevant meeting, event, or activity.

Future ABMs

Another area undergoing review is considering how we can better support the annual meeting. The challenges and expense of hosting this meeting have grown considerably over the years, more so following the Covid pandemic where factors such as offering a virtual attendance are now considered a required part of the conference. This brings additional organizational challenges and costs that now need to be factored into the meeting guidelines. The joint meeting currently being developed with TDWG in Okinawa for 2024 is an important example of the increased agility now required to deliver the annual meeting as it does not have a local hosting venue with an associated local organizing committee to rely on. It is hence being developed by a mixed committee being formed from the societies involved working with a conference organizer in

the region. The experiences from this, and our other recent annual meetings will all support how we support and guide future annual meetings.

Thankyou

The society is very much run by the community it is a part of, driven by an immense amount of enthusiasm and passion from its members, and it continues to support numerous initiatives both with our kindred societies and from the wider associated community. There are regular requests for support and collaboration such as letters of support for NSF and other grant proposals. Many of these requests are around improving and sharing access to the collections and their data, reflecting the ongoing drive in these areas in response to wider societal challenges. We are currently in a period of great change with the effects of climate change, along with the ongoing impacts of the current world situation, and the value of our work and collections to society has never been greater. Responding to this, SPNHC is looking to evolve and move forward, and we will endeavor to be involved in a positive way as fully as possible. So please do get involved in some way if you can via engaging with the activities of the committees and associated groups, sharing our work on social media, supporting our advertisers, or using the strength of the Society to develop new initiatives and activities. In the meantime, I look forward to hopefully seeing many of you in San Francisco in May at the annual meeting, and I thank all the whole team for their inspirational support and guidance over this past year to both me in the presidential role and to the Society.

Julian Carter, President

Report of the Treasurer

In 2022, the Society's total net assets increased to \$492,663 from a total of \$486,496 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2022 totaled \$477,877. Operating income was generated from three sources: membership dues, publication sales, and advertising in the Newsletter. A total of \$23,669 in membership dues was received.

Sales of our seven publications plus royalty payments brought in \$18,012. A total of \$1,209 in donations were received.

The first part of 2023 has seen steady income activity and by April 30, \$20,735 has been received from membership dues.

Of the 330 SPNHC members in 2022, 50 joined for the first time. Membership renewals included 38 students, 216 individuals, 21 library/subscriptions, 53 institutional, and 2 corporate memberships.

As of April 30, 103 new members have joined for 2023, of which 41 are student memberships, 12 are institutional, and the remainder are individuals.

By April 30th, 630 members had yet to renew for 2022. Renewals for this year were sent to current and former members from 2020 through 2022.

As a reminder, we ask that all members please pay your dues on time.

The Treasurer's Office incurred \$27,412 in expenses which included \$3,360 for insurance, \$2,604 for Zoom, \$6,000 for Tax Preparation Services and 2022 taxes, and \$588 for the annual fee for QuickBooks.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments saw a slight

market value loss of \$10, while the money market account earned \$12,883 in dividends and interest. The CD account earned \$20 in interest.

Major expenses for the Society in 2022 included \$3,500 for tax preparation expenses. Additional expenses included \$99 for the 2022 election, \$295 for annual fees to CrossRef/PILA, \$315 for Oxford Abstracts, \$600 for Vimeo, \$2,052 for Wild Apricot Memberships Services, and \$6,750 contract agreement with Christy Classi.

The Society anticipates expenses related to publications, insurance premiums, online elections, and AIBS membership and continued contract payments for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Reilly, Treasurer

The 2022 financial review is still being prepared by the auditor and will be attached when completed.

**FY2022 Donations
Since April 30, 2022**

Anonymous
Allen Press
PayPal Giving Fund

Thank You!

**FY2023 Donations
As of April 30, 2023**

Anonymous
Martin Kalfatovic
PayPal giving Fund

Thank You!

FY 2022 SPNHC Operating Budget

01 January –31 December 2022

Final

INCOME	Projected	Realized	Variance
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$32,000	\$23,669	(\$8,331)
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$500	\$51	(\$449)
(3) Publication Sales	\$17,038	\$18,012	\$974
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$500	\$1,130	\$630
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$150	\$0	(\$150)
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$1,500	\$0	(\$1,500)
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$2,500	\$804	(\$1,696)
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$2,000	\$1,790	(\$210)
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	(\$14,219)	\$0	\$14,219
TOTAL INCOME	\$41,969	\$45,455	\$3,486
EXPENSES	Projected	Realized	Variance
(10) Annual Meeting Loan	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
(11) Education Committee	\$500	\$0	\$500
(12) Election Committee	\$400	\$99	\$301
(13) Executive Contingency Fund	\$999	\$599	\$400
(14) Membership Committee	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
(15) Publication Committee	\$15,230	\$25,598	(\$10,368)
(16) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$5,000	\$5,053	(\$53)
(17) Treasurer's Office	\$11,000	\$27,412	(\$16,412)
(18) Web Committee	\$150	\$817	(\$667)
(19) Professional Development	\$200	\$0	\$200
(20) President's Contingency Fund	\$2,690	\$3,000	(\$310)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$43,669	\$65,078	(\$21,409)

FY 2023 SPNHC Operating Budget**01 January –31 December 2023**

As of April 30, 2023 (Updated 5 9 23)

INCOME	Projected	Realized	Variance
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$ 32,000	\$ 20,735	\$ (11,265)
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
(3) Publication Sales	\$ 17,038	\$ 5,214	\$ (11,824)
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ (500)
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ (150)
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$ 500	\$ 45	\$ (455)
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ (300)
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$ 23,181	\$ -	\$ (23,181)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 73,669	\$ 25,994	\$ (47,675)
EXPENSES	Projected	Realized	Variance
(10) Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ (3,000)
(11) Education Committee	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ (500)
(12) Election Committee	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ (400)
(13) Executive Contingency Fund	\$ 999	\$ -	\$ (999)
(14) Long Range Planning Committee	\$ 13,000	\$ -	\$ (13,000)
(14) Membership Committee	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ (2,500)
(15) Publication Committee	\$ 15,230	\$ 106	\$ (15,124)
(16) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000	\$ (2,000)
(17) Treasurer's Office	\$ 30,000	\$ 12,480	\$ (17,520)
(18) Web Committee	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ (150)
(19) Professional Development	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ (200)
(20) President's Contingency Fund	\$ 2,690	\$ -	\$ (2,690)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 73,669	\$ 15,586	\$ (58,083)

New Memberships Received in 2022, after April 03, 2022

Corporate Members

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Institutional Members

Andrews University, Department of Biology, USA
Colorado School of Mines, Mines Museum of Earth Science, USA
Frederick County Division of Parks & Recreation, Museum & Nature Centers, USA
National Museum of Natural Science, Taiwan
Otago Museum, New Zealand
Stony Brook University, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, USA

Regular Members

Erika Anderson	Terry Kensler	Leslie Ochoa
Marion Billot	Nikolas Lamarre	Kari Prassack
Robyn Crowther	James Lendemer	Robert Rocha Jr.
Jonathan Dunnum	Greg Liggett	Ingrid Romero
Simon Engelberger	Gordon Magenheim	Adam Rountrey
Rhea Ewing	Alan McDonald	Chelsea Smith
Alfheidur Gudmundsdottir	Esha Munshi	Paige Wilson Deibel
Linda Jennings	Greyson Nackid	
Roberto Keller	Tanya Nakamoto	

Student Members

Maricela Abarca	Kristin Jayd	Daniel Sinopoli
Karla Alvarado	Christine Jean	Khanh To
Caitlin Bloomer	Castor LaPack	Allee Wasiak
Briggithe Castro	Danielle Parsons	Megan Wetherington
Marjorie Cox	Dianne Peterson	Toivo Ylinampa
Daisy Greenwell	Cameron Pittman	
Jordan Griffin	Rhonda Ridley	

New Memberships Received in 2023, as of May 09, 2023

Corporate Members

--

Institutional Members

Biodiversity Heritage Library, USA
College of Idaho, USA
Fundación Charles Darwin, Ecuador
Harvard University Herbaria, USA
Kaunas Tadas Ianauskas, Lithuania

National University of Singapore, Singapore
Noyo Center for Marine Science, USA
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, USA
Royal Ontario Museum, Canada
San Diego Natural History Museum, USA
The University of Alabama, USA
University of Navarra, Spain

Regular Members

Rafael E. Arevalo B.
Dylan Bergersen
Julia Betz
Roberta Brett
Kelcie Brown
Emilie Bryant
Sara Dave
Jennifer Donato
Kelsie Ebeling-Whited
Meta Friese
Lisa Geiger
Daniel Gluesenkamp
Alexandria Gour
Devorah Hale
Christina Hardman
Alex Hastings
Juliet Hook

Rebecca Johnson
Rachunliu Kamei
Hilary Ketchum
Martin Kiriinya Muthuri
Michelle Koo
Elizabeth Kools
Ricardo Kriebel
Erin Kuprewicz
Allison Lewis
Mirielle Lopez-Guzman
Josh Mata
Amanda Mazza
Alysha McNeil
Brigitthe Melchor-Castro
Kelsey Minatra
Jennifer Morris
Edward Myers

Shalina Peterson
Diana Phan
Sinlan Poo
Angela Robb
Carolina Romero
Margaret Rubin
Mike Rutherford
Jacob Saucier
Matthew Schmidt
Emily Sessa
Young Ha Suh
Michelle Tang
Vera Ting
Irene Vasquez
Luca Voß
Margo Yousse

Student Members

Meghan Abercrombie
Tegan Alberts
Hannah Bendull
Avi Berger
Gemma Bertain
Brett Butler
Katherine Cantrall
Hayley Crowell
Brenna Decker
Adan Deeb
Ann Evankow
Symcha Gillette
Stefan Graf
Anna-Colette Haynes

Kaitlyn Horisk
Emily G. Inman
Marissa Italiano
Kristin Jayd
Carly Kantor
Jasmine Keegan
Rin Krichilsky
Amalina Lambert-Mullen
Devon Lee
Sarah Lindsey
Katrina Luzon
Lauren Manzano
Brandon Mead
Raquel Moral

Marissa Perks
Meghan Phillips
Halina Piasecki
Traci Picard
Bakoliarisoa Rakotozafy
Daniela Sanchez
Alyssa Semerdjian
Elissa Sorojsrisom
Sadie Stone
Aidan Tydings
Emily Vicioso
Cynthia Wang-Claypool
Sarah Winkowski

MEMBER-AT-LARGE REPORTS

VANESSA DELNAVAZ (2021–2024)

The majority of my work as Member-At-Large has been in my role as co-chair of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee. I, along with IDEA co-chair Meghann Toner, represented SPNHC in a biodiversity career accessibility workshop at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History on April 21st and 22nd, 2023. Please see the IDEA Committee Report for more information on this workshop.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Delnavaz

IRENE FINKELDE (2022–2025)

Much of my work as a Member-at-Large of SPNHC has been working with the Web and Social Media Committee. I update the events calendar on the SPNHC website and create posts for the SPNHC social media platforms. My main role is to manage the SPNHC Instagram account and to post on the SPNHC Facebook account. Recent posts have been focussed on promoting the upcoming SPNHC 2023 annual meeting, however I am keen to utilise SPNHC social media channels to highlight the work of members of the organization. I have also been involved with the Conference Planning Committee, and the Conservation and Finance committees, please refer to these written reports for further details about these committees' activities over the last year. Whilst I cannot attend the SPNHC meeting in person this year in San Francisco, I am looking forward to participating virtually.

SHELLEY JAMES (2020–2023)

With only 6 weeks until the SPNHC 2023 conference, support activities for the Program and Organizing Committee are slowly winding to a close, and I am very much looking forward to attending in person in May/June in San Francisco, helping with sessions, conversing with colleagues, and (for a change) presenting. I continue to assist with the conference committee activities for the SPNHC 2024 meeting to be held jointly with Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) in Okinawa, helping to make it a cost effective, smoothly run, and successful meeting. While this is my last annual report SPNHC Member at Large, I will continue to support and contribute to the SPNHC membership, Council and Committees along with continuing to liaise between MAHC-CHAH, SPNHC, TDWG and the Australasian collections and biodiversity data communities.

*Respectfully submitted,
Shelley James, Member at Large*

RANDY SINGER (2020–2023)

As I am rounding out the 3rd year of my term I have been focusing on increasing participation from our museum colleagues in Asia. We are working hard to engage more members of the Asian museum community at our upcoming meetings in Okinawa, Japan. Additionally, I am continuing my commitment to increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the broader museum community. In addition to participating in the SPNHC IDEA committee, I am using topics from the conversations we've had in this committee to work diligently as a representative in increasing DEI in the museum(s) at my own institution and university. Beyond meetings, I am working with my peers to enact actionable changes in this realm.

MEGHANN TONER (2021–2024)

As I finish my second year as a Member-At-Large, my main focus remains on helping to further the ideas of diversity and inclusion in SPNHC and helping students from underrepresented groups learn about biodiversity careers. Since the last annual meeting, I have become the Co-Chair for the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Committee (IDEA) committee alongside Vanessa Delnavaz. The IDEA committee has met to review questions for the community-wide survey being led by the Long-Range Committee and include questions that help inform our committee. Another way that I have represented SPNHC is by being part of a group of SPNHC members that have partnered with the National Museum of Natural History-Smithsonian Institution (NMNH) to create and lead a Biodiversity Sciences Accessibility Workshop that took place April 21-22 2023. This workshop introduced students, including those from underrepresented groups, to potential careers in natural history museums and biodiversity jobs. In total, we have 50 participants for the Friday shadowing and 40 participants for the Saturday workshop. The IDEA committee is setting priorities for the coming year, including a Code of Conduct for the society. I also support the Archive committee chair, Carol Kelloff, and Lisa Palmer while we preserve the history of the society. As I enter the last year of my term as MAL, I plan to continue to support these two committees.

JENNIFER TRIMBLE (2022-2025)

Much of my work as Member-at-Large has included serving on the Best Practices Committee, and continuing to develop resources to push out to the wiki community regarding collections care. I have worked to develop globally applicable resources for museum professionals across several topics. I look forward to helping SPNHC reach a broader audience and continuing to promote the society's mission.

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 archive committee act as liaisons 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 Archive Committee. Where possible, any material sent to the participants such as the book of abstracts, committee reports, schedules, etc. were printed. Mariel Campbell and Cindy Ramotnik sent several boxes of historical material that have been processed and have been submitted to the SI Archives. To find other material deposited at SIA go to <https://siarchives.si.edu/collections/search?query=SPNHC>.

We are now gathering material, emails, and other documents pertaining to the 2023

meeting that will be held in San Francisco, California this year. Cindy Ortiz stepped down as Secretary last year and turned over paper and electronic documents that she inherited from previous Secretaries and material she generated during her tenure. This will be added to the next submission to SI Archives in the future.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carol Kelloff, Chair.

Meghann Toner

Lisa Palmer

BEST PRACTICES

The Best Practices Committee has made progress on building SPNHC resources this year. In addition to quarterly check-in meetings, we hosted two half-day virtual wiki working sessions (November 2022 and April 2023), with great attendance from committee members. Developments were made on landing pages, overall site organization, new content and linked web resources, as well as nine authorized Storage-At-A-Glance sections were uploaded from the *Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage* book (Elkin and Norris eds., 2020). New or heavily updated wiki pages this year include: Amber Ethics and Guidelines, Botany Specimen Preparation, Digital Imaging, Digitization, Fluid Collection Imaging, Numbering Natural History Collections, Persistent Identifiers, Shipping Collections, Shipping Large Fossils, and Microtomography (microCT). Thank you to all of our contributors.

At this year's annual meeting in San Francisco, the Best Practices Committee will host the symposium, "Back to Basics: Museum Techniques Skillshare" for the second year in a row. In this best practices-themed session, we look forward to author's sharing their practical knowledge with our community. Symposium talks will be made available on the SPNHC wiki following the conference to serve as a lasting community resource. Last year's presentations are now available online and can be accessed [here](#).

In collaboration with iDigBio, we will again co-host a workshop, "Capturing community expertise: A SPNHC wiki edit-a-thon" to expand wiki content on all themes, with special emphasis on digitization topics. We will provide a brief training on wiki editing, and invite any SPNHC attendee to join us to create content of their choosing or help us with specific pre-packaged tasks.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Braker and Genevieve Tocci, Best Practices Co-chairs

BIODIVERSITY CRISIS RESPONSE

Over the past year, since SPNHC's Annual Business Meeting in 2022 the Biodiversity Crisis Response Committee continued to meet regularly every month. Meetings are opportunities to exchange news about the diverse engagements and activities of members, and to discuss current developments within the intersection of natural science collections and biodiversity conservation.

An important joint activity of committee members last year was a presentation at Botany 2022 in Anchorage, Alaska in July 2022 titled "Finding common goals between conservation biology and

natural history collections". The submission was initiated by Dina Clark, its abstract submitted by Alina Freire-Fierro and the development of the presentation led by Austin Mast. Austin presented the talk at the special symposium "Biodiversity at the brink: leveraging herbaria for conservation!" of the Society for Herbarium Curators to a well attended session. Building on the outcomes of the committee's strategic planning workshop of early 2021, the talk reviewed where we stand now 1.5 years later, and provided reflections on collections' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for contributing to biodiversity conservation. It will be important to continue to keep these reflections in mind and to revisit them regularly to assess our work.

Since last fall, our work as a committee has focused on preparing a symposium and associated conversation café at SPNHC 2023 in San Francisco. Both events approach the intersection of collections and conservation from the perspective of connecting a network of networks. We have invited members of global, regional, and local professional societies from across the world to introduce us to the engagement of their organizations for biodiversity conservation and discuss how we might connect as networks and individuals, bring together our work and link up our efforts in response to the biodiversity crisis.

*Respectfully submitted,
Libby Ellwood and Jutta Buschbom, Co-chairs*

BYLAWS

The Bylaws committee is responsible for the continued development of the Society Bylaws, monitoring Society activities to ensure agreement with the bylaws, and to keep the SPNHC Leadership Manual updated. See: <https://spnhc.org/what-spnhc-does/governance/leadership-manual/>

The Bylaws committee will meet this year during the annual SPNHC meeting on Tuesday May 30 from 3 to 4pm. We are proposing three changes to our bylaws that will be circulated via NHCOLL-L and emails to members.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Mayer, Chair

CONFERENCE

The Conference Committee is co-chaired by Cindy Opitz and Greg Watkins-Colwell. The additional members of the Conference Committee are: Paul Mayer (Sponsor Liaison, North America), Sankurie Pye (Edinburgh 2022), Laura Eklund and Moe Flannery (San Francisco 2023), Shelley James (TDWG/Okinawa 2024), Mariana DiGiacomo (New Haven 2025), Tiffany Adrain, Elise LeCompte, and Irene Finkelde.

The committee thanks the 2022 Local Organizing Committee in Edinburgh for all their hard work, which resulted in an amazing conference and experience.

The committee meets via Zoom regularly. Meetings with the 2023 LOC started as monthly meetings but moved to twice per month in March 2023. Instead of a \$5,000 loan to the LOC, SPNHC purchased the license for Oxford Abstracts, which significantly helped the San Francisco LOC with much of the management issues involved in hosting a conference. The Committee suggests that this offer be made to any future LOC and/or we consider the \$5,000 to be a grant for hosting the conference rather than a loan.

Save the date! Plans for the 2 - 7 September 2024 joint meeting with TDWG in Okinawa, Japan, are progressing. Okinawa will be the Society's first meeting in Asia and should be an amazing

location! Meetings with the TDWG conference committee regarding the 2024 meeting in Okinawa, have been more frequent, often with multiple meetings within the same week. The Committee is working toward a contract with a conference-organizing company in Japan. Topics to be investigated in further detail are registration cost, administrative costs, account issues, and payment schedules.

The offer to host the 2025 conference at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, Connecticut, USA still stands. This would be to a wonderful opportunity to both celebrate the opening of the newly renovated Museum and the 40th anniversary of SPNHC.

There are ideas and rumors of meetings after 2025, but so far nothing solid has come to the Committee. We are also interested in discussing updates to how conferences run, what is expected from an LOC, and the frequency and format of meetings, given the rising costs and financial burden placed on LOCs.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Opitz and Greg Watkins-Colwell, Co-chairs

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee began regularly meeting during 2023 to create a more cohesive group, share tips and advice, and see projects. During the hour-long monthly(ish) zoom calls, there have been lab tours, brainstorming sessions, and treatment progress reports. There were no conservation-specific workshops offered at the 2023 meeting in San Francisco, but several sessions and talks were offered to help the Society at large with preservation concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,
Fran Ritchie, Chair

EDUCATION

We are continuing the DemoCamp tradition (previously called the Share Fair) and we are once again expanding the virtual format to include other partnering organizations. The event will take place on June 14-15, 2023, with no cost for registration. Details including participant, presenter registration, can be found here: <https://spnhc.org/education-democamp/>

The committee is also working on maintaining and updating the SPNHC Natural History Education Portal (<https://qubeshub.org/community/groups/collections>). Future work includes expanding the committee's new Wiki page (https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki/Education_Committee) including aggregating collections promotional materials and updating the "Why Collections Matter" webpage on the SPNHC website.

If you are interested in joining the Education Committee please contact the current committee members at: educationdemocamp@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

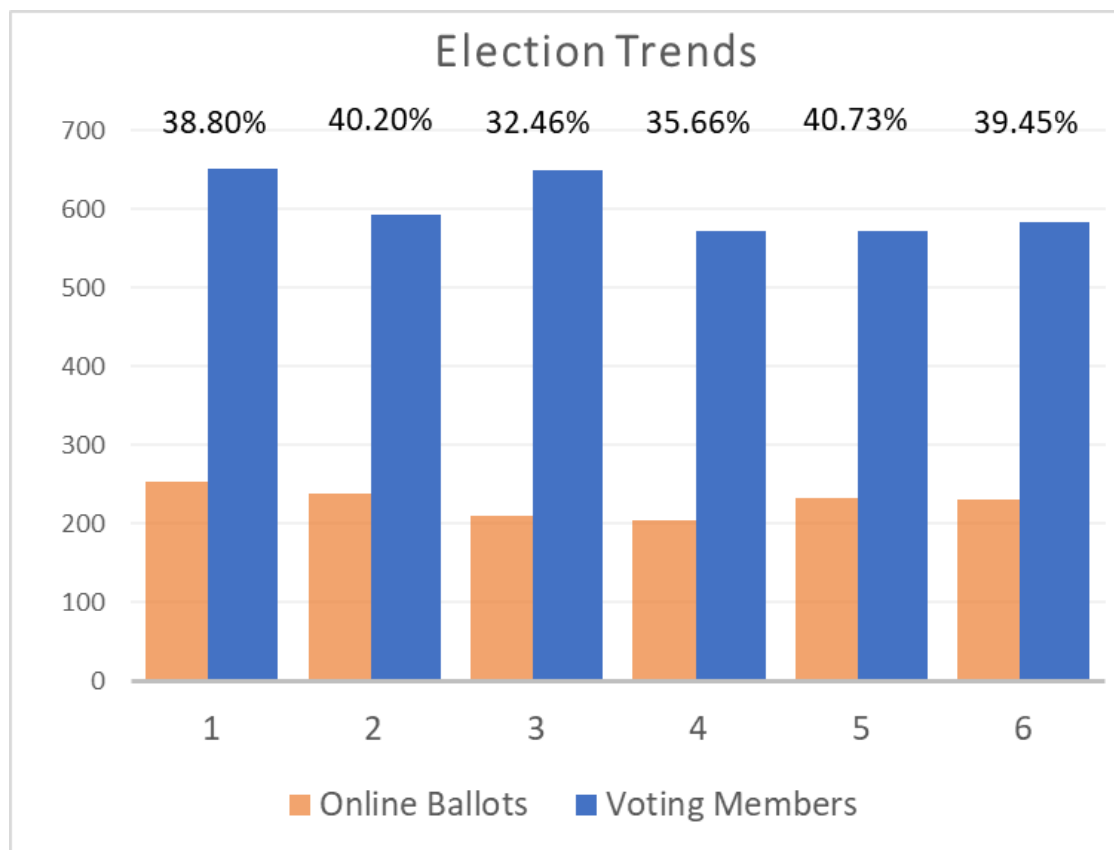
Molly Phillips, Liz Leith and Jen Bauer

ELECTIONS

This year, the elections were conducted successfully online on platform *ElectionBuddy.com* for second time. The call for nominations was sent via NHCOLL-L on September 22nd, 2022, for the positions of two Members-at-large. There were four candidates nominated for the two positions.

The election began on December 4th, 2022, with a close on January 27th, 2023. All voting members (as of November 2022) were emailed using the online system. At the close of the election, after January 27th, 2023, the total number of returned ballots was 230, or 39.45% of the 583 eligible members.

The bar chart below shows the voting trends over the past six years. With repeated email reminders throughout the election period, the voting turn-out was comparable to 2022.



The positions filled and successful candidates are:

Member-at-Large:

- Stéphanie Tessier, 161 votes (36.26% of total);
- Dirk Neumann, 128 votes (28.83% of total).

These results have been shared with the membership via NH-Coll-L and the *SPNHC Connection* newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean-Marc Gagnon, Co-Chair
Bethany Palumbo, Co-Chair

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

The Emerging Professionals Committee will host two events at the 38th Annual SPNHC Meeting in San Francisco, California, USA. First, our committee meeting will be during the afternoon on Tuesday May 30th. We invite everyone to join us as we discuss ways to make the Emerging Professionals Committee more effective for the society's emerging professionals. Second, we will convene from 12:00–1:30 PM PST on Wednesday May 31st for the SPNHC Networking Luncheon. We look forward to connecting emerging professionals, first-time attendees, and professionals at all stages of their careers over lunch and friendly conversation that afternoon!

To help first-time attendees of SPNHC and emerging professionals make the most of their time at the conference, the EPC has put together a short packet with information and tip for navigating a SPNHC conference. The packet can be viewed at [this link](#). Be aware, though, that this is a living document and will be edited with new information each year, especially as the hosting venue changes. Please contact Kevin or Jessie if you have any trouble viewing the document.

Please join our monthly committee meetings; we meet over Zoom every first Friday of the month at 12 PM EST. Contact Kevin or Jessie for the meeting information. Also, be sure to join the [Emerging Professionals Committee group](#) on Facebook and follow us on Twitter ([@SPNHCEPC](#))! Lastly, check out our blog ([Cracking the Collections](#)).

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Krajcir and Jessie Nakano, Co-chairs

FINANCE

The Finance Committee is being reconvened to undertake a financial review of the Society. We are currently in a period of notable change within SPNHC with the recent hiring of Christy Classi to support membership and administration of the Society, the upcoming review of the 10-year strategy plan, and an increased need to better support core activities such as the Annual Meeting and training. It has thus been deemed to be a good time to review the financial structure and risks of SPNHC to support the future sustainability of the Society, its members, and core work as we move forward.

[Submitted by Julian Carter and Theresa Reilly]

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee continues to focus on strengthening the Society's goals to create a safe, diverse, and welcoming virtual and physical spaces. Since the 2022 conference in Edinburgh, the IDEA committee worked to compile a handful of simple questions to include in the SPNHC member survey put together by the Long Range Planning Committee. These questions were focused on member funding sources for their positions, as well as open-ended questions that asked members and the general natural history collections community to describe perceived barriers to becoming a SPNHC member and how the Society can become more inclusive. We hope to work off of these responses to inform our next steps.

In October 2022, IDEA Committee members Genevieve Tocci and Ron Eng attended the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) IDEA Conference 2.0. We want to thank them for representing SPNHC at this meeting. The conference is the second year that AIBS has brought together various scientific Societies to build a movement surrounding diversity and inclusion

issues.

Anna Monfils and Molly Phillips worked with Meghann Toner and Vanessa Delnavaz of the IDEA Committee to have SPNHC representation within a biodiversity sciences career accessibility workshop at the National Museum of Natural History-Smithsonian Institution (NMNH) in April 2023. This workshop was a collaboration between the Smithsonian, Central Michigan University, Biodiversity Literacy in Undergraduate Education (BLUE), the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT), the Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC), the Botanical Society of America (BSA), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and SPNHC. The workshop took place on April 21st and 22nd, 2023 and provided meaningful networking, hands-on museum collections experiences, and presentations on careers and graduate school to over 80 students.

Moving through 2023, the committee plans to work on an official Code of Conduct for the Society in general and work towards suggestions that come in through the SPNHC member survey. We look forward to working with other SPNHC committees to make inclusion, diversity, equity, and access a foundation for the Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Vanessa Delnavaz (Co-Chair)
Meghann Toner (Co-Chair)

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The SPNHC Legislation & Regulations Committee organized a symposium for the 2023 annual meeting in San Francisco, entitled "Understanding the regulatory landscape for specimens and biomonitoring." The symposium focused on the complex and constantly changing regulatory landscape for research collections, which can lead to major issues for those collecting and managing biodiversity material. Twelve presentations were made on various topics, including the results of a survey conducted by the Legislation and Regulations committee to identify the issues that cause the most concern to our membership. Of special note is the participation of US Fish & Wildlife Inspector Catherine Yasuda who discussed the intricacies and requirements for the import and export of scientific specimens. Members of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection could not participate in the symposium, but important information about communication with this agency was presented by one of the committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Breda Zimkus and Dirk Neumann

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

The membership survey, which has been the principal focus of the committee this year, has been compiled and sent to past and present members as well as NHColl-I. The results of this survey will help us understand the views and requirements of the membership. The information gathered from the survey will form the basis of a review to establish the future direction of the society which will result in the revision of the SPNHC strategic plan. **Agreed actions for 2023:**

Strategic Plan & members survey

- Send the survey to all members to ask members to evaluate SPNHC'S current Strategic Plan and highlight necessary adjustments.
- Analyze the results of the survey.

- Form a small sub-group to work on the strategic planning.
- Organise a strategic planning meeting to develop and update the strategic plan for the society.
- Revise the strategic plan ready for approval at 2024 SPNHC AGM

Review the current support for local organizing committee hosting the annual SPNHC conference.

- Work with the SPNHC council to find a way to attract and support potential hosts for the conference. The current structure was set up more than 20 years ago and does not address the current needs and financial risks the LOC face when they organize this large event.

Support and collaborate with standing committees to achieve the goals set out in the new strategic plan.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact one of us or join us for the in-person committee meeting in San Francisco.

Current LRP Committee members

Co-Chair & President elect – Greg Watkins-Colwell
 Co-Chair – Suzanne Ryder
 Laura Abraczinskas
 Tiffany Adrain
 Annmarie Fearing
 Shelley James
 Anna Monfils
 Dirk Neumann
 Cindy Opitz
 Deb Paul
 Ann Pinzl
 Barbara Theirs

Respectfully submitted,
 Suzanne Ryder and Greg Watkins-Colwell, Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP

Since the launch of our new membership database and the employment of Christy Classi to take over much of the administration for the society and the establishment of a new membership and business office the membership committee receive monthly statistics regarding the membership to the society. This arrangement has already proved invaluable and the work of the Office@spnhc.org is much appreciated. The new platform allows us to collect and therefore measure more demographic information than has been possible before, which we hope will inform the society of membership needs and priorities.

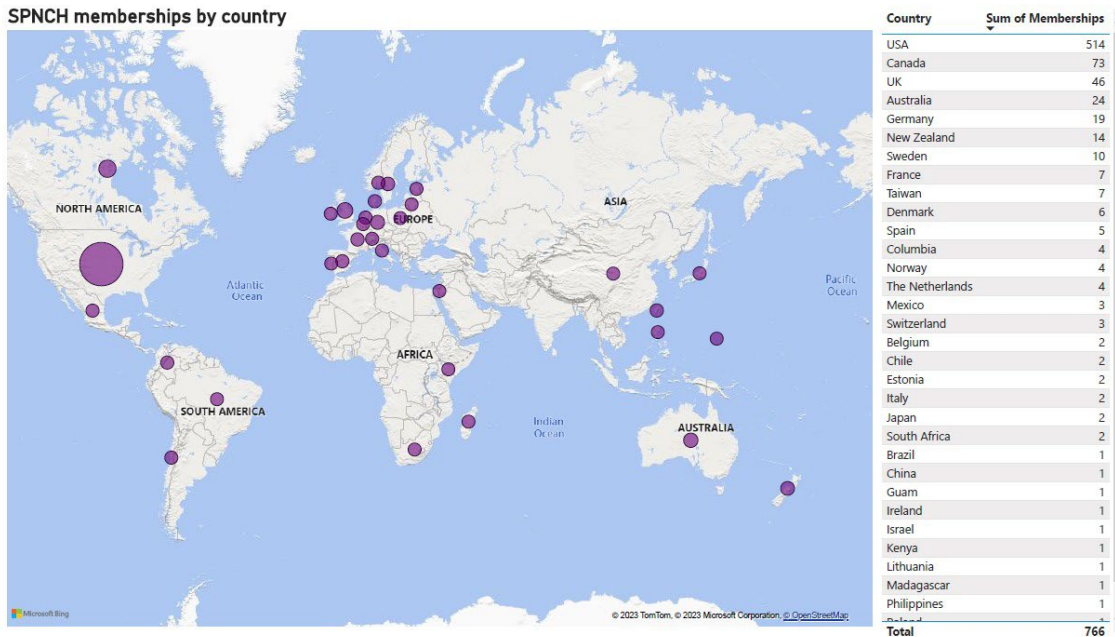
Please view the online membership directory, <https://spnhc.wildapricot.org> to renew your membership, update your contact information or make a donation.

If you haven't renewed your SPNHC membership now is the time, or you could encourage someone new to join for 2023! Annual memberships expire on December 31, with a renewal grace period through February 14.

[Memberships statistics](#)

The number of members currently has increased to **792** which is great news, this includes **77** new members we would like to welcome to the SPNHC.

The graph below shows the geographical range of this international society and the distribution of our membership. The highest concentration of members remains in North America with a growing membership in Europe and Australasia. SPNHC membership is currently represented in 33 countries.



Promotion

We continue to promote SPNHC at conferences by advertising in conference literature and exhibiting the Membership Booth. If you have a suggestion for exhibiting the in-person or virtual Membership Booth at upcoming conferences, please contact Suzanne Ryder (membership@spnhc.org). You may be eligible for full complimentary conference registration. The Committee is happy to hear from anyone with connections at future SPNHC Annual Meeting locations who can help us widen the membership reach of the Society.

Current Membership Committee members

- Suzanne Ryder – Chair
- Tiffany Adrain
- Elana Benamy
- Ann Pinzl
- Theresa Reilly
- Greg Watkins-Colwell

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Ryder, Chair

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Society is grateful to Jeff Stephenson for continuous work with the Professional Development Committee. SPNHC Council is exploring partnerships with other Committees to best serve the Society's Professional Development needs and services.

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

Recipients are required to contribute to SPNHC in one of the following ways:

- Recipients are required to contribute to SPNHC in some manner. Ways to contribute included, but are not limited to:
 - Presenting a paper or poster at the 2023 SPNHC conference in San Francisco.
 - Contributing a session/workshop review or report (e.g., a description of a collections management/conservation project or a description of your research) to the SPNHC newsletter.
 - Submitting an article for publication in *Collections Forum*.

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 twenty-six (26) applicants. We had a total of \$1800 for the Fitzgerald grants and \$900 to award for the Christine Allen grant. We awarded two (2) Fitzgerald grants and one (1) Christine Allen grant. We received applications from several underrepresented countries—Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

Meeting mentors will be assigned to those recipients that requested them.

My thanks to the SPNHC members who served as grant reviewers—Rose Basom, Alexandra Coconis, Ron Eng, Austin Hendy, and Cindy Opitz—and SPNHC Treasurer, Theresa Reilly.

2023 Recipients:

Fitzgerald Award:

Yu-Ling Huang
National Museum of Natural Science
Taiwan

Bakoliarisoa Rakotozafy
University of Antananarivo
Madagascar

Christine Allen Award:

Cataloina Merino Yunnissi
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural
Chile

Prepared by Elise V. LeCompte, Chair, SPNHC Travel Grants Subcommittee, May 9, 2023

PUBLICATIONS

TRANSITION PERIOD

After many years of dedicated service as the chair of the Publications Committee and the managing editor of the society's various publications, including the journal *Collection Forum*, Mariel Campbell (Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, USA) has—reluctantly and with regret—stepped down from these roles due to health issues and family commitments. We express our sincere gratitude to Mariel for all that she has accomplished during her time with the Publications Committee. Her professionalism, experience, and good nature will be missed.

Scott Rufolo (Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada) is currently serving as the acting chair of the Publications Committee. A permanent solution to filling the vacancy left by Mariel's departure will be discussed and finalized at the SPNHC 2023 Annual Meeting; an update on this situation will be provided in the October 2023 edition of the society's newsletter, *SPNHC Connection*.

COLLECTION FORUM

Volume 35 of *Collection Forum* (2021) is now published online at <https://meridian.allenpress.com/collection-forum>. This is the first issue to be compiled under our new model of accepting submissions year-round and encompasses manuscripts accepted for publication in the journal following the peer-review process over the years 2021 and 2022. Articles are made available in digital format as soon as final proofs are in place and individual volumes will be closed once a sufficient number of contributions have been published online (generally 6–10 articles), after which the print version will become available. Articles in the most recent issue of *Collection Forum* are available online only to current members, becoming openly available to all once superseded by a subsequent issue.

The current issue hosts five articles on various topics that are now available online with a sixth nearing online publication at the time of this writing, following which the volume will close. Two manuscripts are already in the review process to begin the next volume and will be joined by any new submissions in the near future to form Volume 36.

Immediate access to the online journal's full range of content— and for those members whose subscription level includes it, to periodic print issues—is provided through society membership. In addition to the change in publication mode described above, *Collection Forum* is also now accepting short communications and technical notes as well as certain book reviews and submissions for the *Leaflets* series. Publication as part of the society's official journal will make such material easier to cite, more readily accessible, and increase the content available for publication each year. Editorial review of such submissions and decisions concerning the most appropriate format for publication will be handled in collaboration with the leaflet, book review, and newsletter managers as detailed below.

A revised set of author guidelines for contributors to *Collection Forum* is in development. The new guidelines will cover a broader range of formatting issues, clearly establishing standards for such things as citing publications and outlining more fully the prescribed elements of style for use in journal content. The updated standards will serve to dispel confusion and uncertainty among authors as well as editors, with the hope of also reducing the amount of time spent by both

parties in assessing and finalizing formatting during the publication process.

Members who present at the SPNHC annual meeting are strongly encouraged to submit manuscripts for consideration, particularly those who receive travel awards and support from the society. For inquiries about new submissions, please email the editors at editor@spnhc.org.

Scott Rufolo (Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada) serves as acting managing editor of *Collection Forum*. Mariana di Giacomo (Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, USA), Shelley James (Western Australian Herbarium, Perth, Australia), and Genevieve Tocci (Harvard University Herbaria, Cambridge, USA) continue to volunteer their time as assistant editors.

For questions about online access to *Collection Forum* at the journal website at <https://meridian.allenpress.com/collection-forum>, please contact the managing editor. Address changes for print copies should be sent to membership@spnhc.org. Please confirm and update membership at <https://spnhc.wildapricot.org/join-us> or contact the SPNHC Treasurer at treasurer@spnhc.org.

SPNHC LEAFLETS

The *SPNHC Leaflets* are a series of single-topic, short papers on various technical aspects of collections care, management, preservation and conservation. Produced in the past as stand-alone references, a typical *SPNHC Leaflets* contribution describes and suggests practical means for solving a technical problem or issue. These “how-to” guides are designed to serve as training and education tools for natural history museum collection professionals and students in museum studies programs and will now be published as contributions to *Collection Forum*. If you are interested in publishing a *Leaflets* piece on natural history collections, please contact Breda Zimkus at bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu or the managing editor of *Collection Forum* at editor@spnhc.org.

BOOK REVIEWS

In-depth book reviews with extensive content critique will be considered for publication in *Collection Forum*. Shorter book reviews profiling recent publications that would be of interest to members may be submitted for publication in *SPNHC Connection*. For more information concerning these two book review formats, to suggest a title for review, or to submit a review, please contact Lisa Goldberg at lgoldberg@lgpreservation.com or the managing editor at editor@spnhc.org.

SPNHC CONNECTION

SPNHC Connection Editor Liath Appleton and Assistant Editor Lori Schlenker continue their hard work to publish the society newsletter. Liath also serves as the SPNHC webmaster. For any newsletter submissions or updates to the society webpage, please email Liath at newsletter@spnhc.org. To access *SPNHC Connection*, please go to the Publications tab at www.spnhc.org. The most recent issues require member login.

SPNHC BOOKS

Our newest book—*Best Practices for the Preservation of Wet Collections* by Dirk Neumann, Julian Carter, John E. Simmons, and Oliver Crimmen—was released in the fall of 2022. It is available for purchase through <https://www.universityproducts.com/> or through <https://archetype.co.uk/>. Other SPNHC book titles continue to be available through University Products at <https://www.universityproducts.com/>. The 2019 volume *Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage*, edited by Lisa Elkin and Christopher A. Norris, is being sold through University Products and through the AIC website at <https://store.culturalheritage.org>, where AIC members will receive a 15% discount off the \$95 purchase price. An eBook of this title is in progress. Please contact editor@spnhc.org for more information.

JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER ACCESS

A reminder that past issues of the newsletter and the journal are available online at 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.

SPNHC PUBLICATION ARCHIVES

Thanks to the hard work of Carol Kelloff (National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, USA)—the archives chair of the Publications Committee—the [spnhc.org website](http://spnhc.org) hosts complete scans of older issues of the journal. Carol has also assembled a reference library at the Smithsonian Institution 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 portal, and you would be willing to donate and/or provide scanned copies of these publications, please contact Carol at kelloffc@si.edu or at editor@spnhc.org.

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

Collection Forum (Scott Rufolo, Managing Editor): editor@spnhc.org
SPNHC Connection (Liath Appleton, Editor): newsletter@spnhc.org
SPNHC Leaflets (Breda Zimkus, Editor): bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu
Book Reviews: lgoldberg@lgpreservation.com

There are positions open for additional volunteers to serve as associate editors for *Collection Forum*.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Rufolo, Chair (acting)

RECOGNITION AND GRANTS

The Recognition and Grants Committee is charged with promoting and reviewing grants that the Society can confer to support conference travel, innovative projects, and awards that recognize individuals, groups and commercial entities, who through excellence promote or advance the aims of the Society. These include:

- THE CAROLYN ROSE AWARD
- THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD
- HONORARY MEMBERSHIP
- SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD
- THE VENDOR RECOGNITION AWARD
- THE EARLY CAREER AWARD
- THE FABER INNOVATION GRANT
- The FITZGERALD TRAVEL GRANT
- The CHRISTINE ALLEN TRAVEL GRANT
- The JEAN DEMOUTHE TRAVEL GRANT

The committee is currently deliberating this year's awards and they will be announced via NHCOLL-L and the next newsletter. Recognition and Grants Committee will meet this year during the annual SPNHC meeting on Tuesday May 30 from 4 to 5pm and will present The Carolyn

Rose Award, the President's Award, and Special Service Award at the ABM meeting. We encourage you to please join us at the conference. The committee is always looking for ways to encourage more applications for SPNHC awards and grants.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Mayer, Chair

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

The Web and Social Media Committee manages the spnhc.org society website; YouTube, Vimeo and Slack accounts; and all social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We welcome anyone interested in joining our social media team and we have a few projects in the works that could use people who specifically know WordPress and/or are familiar with managing DOIs. Contact us at webmaster@spnhc.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Liath Appleton, Chair

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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. Please feel free to examine and share your ideas in our best practice ideas google document that Brenda Zimkus created at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17TXSAiX4iSqlHr0-7WNU2t451ErLdngeZUk0OWAqNnQ/edit?usp=sharing>

During the 38th SPNHC Annual Meeting the committee will meet on Tuesday, 30th May 2023 from 2 to 3pm, but the planned symposium entitled Collection Theft and Security-Monitoring of Collections was cancelled due to no abstracts being submitted.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Mayer, Chair

US FEDERAL COLLECTIONS

Our first year reorganized has been fruitful. We have strong interest and participation among both repositories and federal agencies. Meeting quarterly, we have discussed ongoing concerns and continue to focus on the following priorities:

1. The nature of repository agreements with the different agencies:
Examples of current agreements have been shared both from non-federal repositories as well as from our federal partners. Additionally, the chairs have met with members of Department of the Interior (DOI), to understand the larger DOI perspective. (While not governing all agencies, many do fall under the Interior.) Discussions included possibilities of future DOI-wide agreements, task agreements, funding possibilities, and Army Corp. of Engineers survey results. We will continue with these discussions to assist as needed with the hope to facilitate beneficial changes for our collections management.

2. Potential sources of funding to support work on federal collections, and Jacob Van Veldhuizen (CUNMH) shared his experience as an example with federal funding for a project that financially supported repositories while meeting targets and goals of the agency.
3. Finding ways to make digitized federal collections more discoverable in online databases and data aggregators.
Adam Rountrey (UMMP) has been researching Darwin Core (DwC) fields best suited to indicating Federal ownership. Diving into inconsistencies in use patterns and alternatives, he has presented for discussion what might be the manner to best indicate ownership, and at what level, for both use by our federal partners to harvest collections data and researcher's usage to credit appropriately.

Additionally, the committee has allowed for collaboration opportunities to share at other professional societies that could highlight SPNHC's work in the care of Federal collections.

Respectfully submitted:

Carrie Eaton, Greg Liggett, and Janaki Krishna, Co-chairs

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

ALLIANCE OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS OF CANADA (ANHMC)

In October 2022, the Alliance of Natural History Museum awarded the Bruce Naylor Award to Dr. Reginald Webster in recognition of his significant achievements in the field of natural history in Canada. Dr. Reginald Webster is an entomologist. In more than 100 scientific papers, he has revealed the diversity of Canadian insects, particularly beetles, but also butterflies and mosquitoes. "Dr. Webster has been a New Brunswick Museum Research Associate since 2004, and there is probably no other individual who has contributed so much to our understanding of Maritime insect diversity, both in terms of published work and vouchers deposited in natural history collections," says Dr. Donald McAlpine, Head of the Department of Natural History at the New Brunswick Museum. Dr. Webster has personally documented more than a 1000 beetle species new to Atlantic Canada.

The Alliance's recently formed Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss Committee continues to meet regularly and explore how it can best help its members address these two major planetary challenges. One of the projects being considered is a light travelling exhibit in partnership with government institutions and NGOs where Canadian examples of positives actions towards mitigation of climate change and biodiversity loss (e.g., habitat restoration, nature-based solutions) are presented to our visitors, along with suggestions of actions that would encourage the public to take at home and in their community. More to come...

The Alliance has also joined the KiCulture initiative, a global organization dedicated to creating actionable steps to make culture heritage a leader towards a sustainable future. This provides our members an opportunity to learn from experts in the field the various aspects of sustainability as they relate to museums.

The Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC;) was created in 2002 from a common desire among directors and senior curatorial staff of Canada's key natural history museums to establish a network for the exchange of information on issues dealing with collections, research and education. The ANHMC seeks to identify issues of common concern, share resources, expertise and experience among its members, speak out with a single voice, and bring the necessary support to collaborative initiatives of the membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean-Marc Gagnon, SPNHC Representative to ANHMC

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

No report submitted. Thank you to Gretchen Anderson, SPNHC Representative to AIC, for reporting previously. A new Rep is required. Please contact secretary@spnhc.org if interested.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

No report submitted.
Anna Monfils, SPNHC Representative to AIBS

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS

The 2022 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists met from 27-31 July in Spokane, Washington at the Spokane Convention Center with lodging at the Davenport Grand Hotel. The meeting was held in person. The symposia were diverse including: Applied, Theoretical, and Technological Advances in Elasmobranch Ecology; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Ichthyology and Herpetology; Biogeography and Diversification of Amphibians and Reptiles of the Pacific Northwest and California Floristic Province; Exemplary Practices in Herpetological Education; The Biology of Whiptail Lizards (*Aspidoscelis*); and The Utility of Museum Collections for Long-term Ecological Studies and Stable Isotope Analysis. Also, a new, society-wide, effort to make the meetings more “green” (e.g. virtual programs and no conference bags) was implemented at this meeting with great success.

The Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee, co-chaired by Sarah Huber and Jessa Waters, was well attended and discussed many topics. Some of which included the current and future nominations for the Spiritus award, further development of a Google group for collection discussions (<https://groups.google.com/group/asih-coll>) and future endeavors for the IHCC to consider. Khalil Russell was nominated as the new student representative and he graciously accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Singer, SPNHC Representative to ASIH

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS (ASM)

Beginning in 1972, the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) has had a standing committee called the Systematic Collections Committee (SCC), originally 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 including tissue collections and managing a collection-accreditation program.

The committee has been very active since the Annual Meeting in 2022. The following is a summary of activities:

- Accreditation decisions were made for two collections. The SCC did not grant

accreditation to Arizona State University Natural History Collections, Tempe, AZ but provided recommendations for necessary improvements and suggested reapplication once completed. Secondly, the Committee did not grant accreditation to the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Biorepository at ASU based on status of the biorepository as a project as opposed to a permanent collection. SCC will revisit the application after a proposed update of the *Basic Curatorial Standards for Systematic Collections* (see below) is completed.

- Four collections are currently at various stages of the accreditation process. (1) Northern Michigan University provided self-assessment documents and a site visit was performed by Cody Thompson in September 2022. Final disposition of this accreditation is awaiting full committee discussion/decisions. (2) University of Oklahoma, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History provided self-assessment documents and is awaiting a site visit. (3) Colección Regional Durango (CRD), Durango, Mexico provided self-assessment documents and awaits a site visit (Sergio Ticul Alvarez has agreed to be the SCC rep). (4) Arizona Museum of Natural History, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ provided self-assessment documents and the site visit was performed by Committee members attending ASM meeting in 2022. Final accreditation awaits full committee discussion/decision.
- The *Basic Curatorial Standards for Systematic Collections* (Journal of Mammalogy, 85:180-181, 2004) is now 20 years old. The Committee will update the document to better reflect current best practices in curation and management and the evolution of NH specimen preservation and use. Specific areas identified as needing attention include: SCC conflict of interest in accreditations; Establishing clear guidelines for what types of collections SCC accredits and what constitutes collection permanence; enhanced definition of *professional mammalogist* regarding collection oversight; and ensuring guidelines are reflective of diversity, equity, and inclusion issues.
- The committee accepted the resignation of John Hanson and Carl Dick in 2022. We thank them for their many years of service. The committee welcomed two new members: Laura Steger and Rosie Liao, NEON Biorepository, Biodiversity Knowledge Integration Center, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University.
- Conversion of the *Survey and Directory of Mammal Collections of the Western Hemisphere* to a digital format hosted on the ASM website was proposed two years. No progress has been made but it remains a collaborative goal for the Systematic Collection Committee and the Informatics Committees.

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

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS (ASPT)

With the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Systematics Collections Committee of the ASPT contacted all herbaria in Ukraine to extend our support to the herbarium community and to their families. The Committee has been able to provide financial support to herbaria in Ukraine to either protect their collections in place (as Herbarium at the State Museum of Natural History [LWS] in Lviv) or to move their collections to safer locations [CWU]. In an effort to provide more awareness to the broader herbarium community, the Committee has also been working with the ASPT webmaster to add information about the Herbarium Emergency Fund to the ASPT website.

The annual meeting of the Society is scheduled for 22 – 26 July as part of the *Botany 2023 One World* meeting. Botany 2023 will take place in Boise, Idaho, United States. Similar to previous years, the conference will be a hybrid format, primarily as an in-person event but accompanied by

a virtual option. Symposia and Special Lectures will be presented in person. These presentations will be live-streamed for virtual attendees and recordings available through the online platform to all attendees. Colloquia and Contributed Paper sessions will be both in-person and virtual. Posters will also be presented in person, but presenters have the option to upload their poster to the online platform for the online version of the conference. Details of the conference can be found here: <https://2023.botanyconference.org/>.

Respectfully submitted,
Mare Nazaire

ASSOCIATION OF MATERIALS AND METHODS IN PALEONTOLOGY (AMMP)

AMMP just completed its 10th Annual Meeting hosted by the Burke Museum of Natural History in Seattle, Washington, April 4-8, 2023. This meeting featured hybrid participation with in-person and virtual accessibility (via GatherTown website). Platform presentations were pre-recorded and presented live. The poster session was also hybrid. The posters were made available on the virtual platform and physical posters were presented at the conference hotel. In-person poster presenters were able to engage with the virtual attendees during scheduled times on the virtual platform so virtual attendees could ask their questions live. All workshops were offered for in-person attendance with select workshops offered for virtual attendees.

Workshop topics included “Fossil Prep 101,” “Paleohistology,” “Illustrating Fossils,” 3D Scanning and Printing,” “GIS for Field Paleontology,” “Tribal Government to Government: Roundtable Discussion,” and more. Pre- and Post-meeting field trips included tours of the University of Washington Libraries Conservation Center, the Seattle Art Museum, and the Burke Museum of Natural History Paleontology Department. Other in-person festivities included the Opening Reception, a lively Silent Auction, an exciting Live Auction, and the Closing Banquet. More information about the annual meeting and AMMP can be found at:

<https://paleomethods.org/>

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Byrd, SPNHC representative to AMMP

ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS AND COLLECTIONS SPECIALISTS (ARCS)

The 2023 ARCS conference, *Momentum*, will take place 07-10 November 2023 in Montreal, Canada. For information on registration and housing at this international conference, see <https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/conference/2023-montreal-conference>.

ARCS has numerous openings for volunteers on committees and for those interested in serving on the Board of Directors. For information on these opportunities, see <https://www.arcsinfo.org/opportunities/getting-involved-with-arcs>.

Announcements about upcoming webinars and other events will be posted soon on the ARCS website, where you can also find links to previously recorded workshops and the ever-popular ARCSchat series (at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/arcschat> and on the ARCS YouTube Channel). The website also contains current information about job postings (on the Career Center), a Professional Development calendar, and a searchable listing of collections managers and registrars available for contract work (<https://www.arcsinfo.org/opportunities/on-contract>).

Registration and collections management questions can be posted by ARCS members to the ARCS Forum.

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

BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION STANDARDS (TDWG)

The 2022 annual meeting of Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) was hosted by Pensoft Publishers (pensoft.net) in Sofia, Bulgaria, from October 17-21, with both in-person and remote participation. The hybrid conference details can be found at: www.tdwg.org/conferences/2022/. The Interest and Task Group Working Sessions were held virtually November 7-10, focusing on standards development (www.tdwg.org/conferences/2022/working-sessions/). 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: biss.pensoft.net/collection/384/). You can also watch many of the presentations via the TDWG YouTube channel (search for TDWG). The virtual environment combined with a low registration fee 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 newly refreshed website featuring our new logo, which is 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 conference, and second, a forum for biodiversity informaticians to publish articles on biodiversity standards, methods, guidelines, models and applications. If you have content relevant to these topics please consider publishing in BISS. With specific relevance to SPNHC, members of the Natural Collections Descriptions Interest Group have submitted the new "Collections Description" data standard, now called the Latimer Core, for describing collections of natural history materials at the collection level (<https://www.tdwg.org/community/cd/>), which is now in the review process. Related to this, another task group is developing 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 2023, TDWG is again being realistic in its assessment of COVID-related travel impacts and will hold a hybrid conference with in-person attendance in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, October 9-13, 2023. For more information please see the conference website (<https://www.tdwg.org/conferences/2023/>) and consider joining us!

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

Respectfully submitted,
James Macklin, SPNHC Representative to TDWG

COLLECTIONS STEWARDSHIP PROFESSIONAL NETWORK (CSAAM)

The recently revised *Code of Ethics and Professional Practices for Collections Professionals*, a joint production of CSAAM and ARCS (Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists) is available for download at https://www.aam-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Code_Ethics_Collections_Professionals_2021_02_24.pdf. The document includes a glossary of terms as well as guidelines for professional practice.

Two blogs are now posted on the CSAAM website, *What Can Data Teach Us About Museum Collections?* by Diana Greenwald, and *What Does a Welcoming Online Collection Portal Look Like?* by Cassi Tucker.

Collection Stewardship questions and answers can be posted on the American Alliance of Museums *Museum Junction* site (https://community.aam-us.org/home?_ga=2.101423745.1475842526.1672850351-1543704782.1671472998).

Respectfully submitted,
John E. Simmons, SPNHC representative to the CSAAM

CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN TAXONOMIC FACILITIES

The collaboration between CETAF and SPNHC continued during the past year. As liaison I was in contact with the chairs of the CETAF ePublishing working group and the CETAF Collections working group.

Continuing previous interactions, members of several SPNHC committees partnered with colleagues of the CETAF ePublishing working group, specifically Laurence Bénichou, Isabelle Gerard and Donat Agosti. Connie Rinaldo from the Biodiversity Heritage Library was an essential and engaged member of the tripartite partnership between BHL, CETAF and SPNHC from the beginning. She passed away last fall and is leaving an empty space that continues to remind us of her. We miss her as individual, fellow traveler and knowledgeable colleague who believed in possibilities.

The spring newsletter already describes in more detail our joint work over the past twelve months. One outcome of our collaboration is the [recommendation](#) on best practices for the citation of authorities of scientific names that was published in RIO last September. A second recommendation on extracting data from copyrighted publications that arose from a workshop at TDWG 2022 last fall, organized by BHL, CETAF and SPNHC with expert statements from Willi Egloff (Plazi) and Mariko Kageyama (SPNHC) is in preparation.

In addition to these lines of collaboration, the CETAF ePublishing working group distributed a survey via Nhcoll-I to reach an international audience outside of Europe. Its aim is to understand the landscape of natural science institutions with publication exchange programmes. Its results will be presented at the upcoming CETAF board meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden in May 2023.

Furthermore, Luc Willemse from the CETAF Collections working group and I, together with colleagues from the German Society for Biological Systematics (GfBS) discussed if there is a need for a European convention for collection managers in addition to the existing meetings of SPNHC, NatSCA, ICOM and CETAF. The question is if local or regional opportunities for networking and exchange of expertise are missing specifically for managers, curators and staff involved in collection management, which might be a topic of interest to a wider group of SPNHC members.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jutta Buschbom, SPNHC Representative to CETAF*

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

The adoption of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF) and its monitoring strategy by 196 countries is an important milestone in humanity's response to the biodiversity crisis. Shifting the policy-making baseline and improving the legal context for biodiversity conservation, the GBF has the potential to enable far-reaching changes. SPNHC is an observer organization to the [UN Convention on Biological Diversity](#) since 2021 and a more detailed description of the society's involvement in the science-policy process over the past 12 months can be found in SPNHC's spring newsletter 2023.

After a couple of months of breathtaking following COP15 in December 2022, the many processes towards the implementation of the GBF and its monitoring framework are now in full swing. Efforts are led by the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD), the UN regional groups and the parties (i.e. countries), as well as stakeholders representing many societal groups and acting within a wide range of sectors.

On April 1, SPNHC submitted a [contribution](#) to a [call by the SCBD](#) for views by parties and stakeholders on issues for consideration by the *Ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Benefit-Sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources* (DSI). The submission was prepared by Dirk Neumann, co-chair of the Legislation and Regulations Committee and myself, and is closely aligned with the contribution by the [Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities](#) (CETAF).

Last week (April 18 to 21, 2023) the [World Conservation Monitoring Center of the UN Environment Program](#) (UNEP-WCMC) in collaboration with the SCBD organized a "[co-design workshop for a Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity](#)". In addition to representatives of parties and regional groups, as well as UN and CBD bodies, major biodiversity data and tool providers, e.g. GBIF, IUCN, GEO/GeoBon, SANBI, the Asean Center for Biodiversity, attended. Important topics were, among others, interoperability, scalability, linking (of existing resources), federation, (data) governance and mainstreaming – most of these keywords very familiar to us as collections community.

The coming months will be filled with activities as the implementation of the GBF and its monitoring framework is continuing to start up and picking up speed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jutta Buschbom, SPNHC Representative to CBD*

ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (ECN)

Background:

ECN formed an MOU with SPNHC in late 2016; this is our 8th 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 2022 (Hybrid meeting 12-13 November 2022):

ECN homepage: <https://ecnweb.net/>

The 2022 annual ECN meeting was held as an in-person and virtual hybrid program in Vancouver, BC Canada in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Entomological Society of America, The Entomological Society of Canada, and The Entomological Society of British Columbia. The in person venue was the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, 900 Canada Pl, in the Waterfront ballroom. Presentations were a mix of in-person and pre-recorded, with all sessions shared via Zoom to keep the meeting as accessible as possible. We began roughly at 08:30 PST/16:30 UTC. Our program co-chairs were Oliver Keller and Jennifer Girón.

The final count was 203 (in person) and 87 (virtual) registrants. There were 24 talks and two symposia (*Collections of the World* (13 represented collections featured) and Latin American Collections Online (7 presentations)). There were also 10 posters presented. Participants from at least 17 countries.

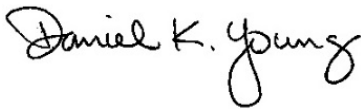
Here is a link to the program:

<https://ecnweb.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ECN-Program-2022.pdf>

Recordings of the program content may be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@entcollnet>

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel K. Young, SPNHC-ECN Liaison

GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP (GCG)

GCG is a membership organisation and registered charity, founded in 1974 and affiliated to the Geological Society of London. Membership is open to anyone interested in geology, particularly individuals and organisations working with and caring for geological collections.

To see the benefits of GCG membership, view our Blog, News, details of our journal *Geological Curator* and newsletter *Coprolite*, visit us at: <https://www.geocurator.org/>

EVENTS: The SPPC 2022 (Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation) took place in September 2022 at the Natural History Museum, London, in conjunction with the Symposium on Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy (SVPCA). Abstracts and posters from this and previous years can be viewed [here](#)
[SPPC 2023 will take place on September 6th 2023 at the University of Lincoln, UK. Further details can be found here](#)

On December 1st 2022, GCG held a joint online symposium with [SMMP](#) (The Society of Mineral Museum Professionals) and the 49th GCG annual meeting. The theme '*Uniting Earth Science Collections – the continued importance of collections, and what we can learn from them*' attracted a wide range of interest and was a great opportunity to share experience and knowledge within the sector. The schedule of talks and posters can be found [here](#)

At our AGM, Dr Sarah King, outgoing chair of the group, announced the recipient of [The Brighton Medal](#), for outstanding service to Geology in Museums. Sarah chose to award the medal posthumously to [Matthew Parkes](#), who sadly passed away in 2020. A number of people present at the AGM spoke fondly about their memories of working with Matthew.

Our GCG chair for the next three years will be [Dr Emma Nicholls FGS](#)

JOURNAL: The [Geological Curator](#) is the official journal of GCG, published once a year, the most

recent content (last two years) is only available to members, but older issues are freely available to browse. We welcome contributions to the journal from non GCG members.

GET INVOLVED!

We always want to talk to people who are interesting in helping out GCG, visit www.geocurator.org/getinvolved for more details.

Respectfully submitted.

Andrew Haycock, SPNHC Representative to GCG

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)

No report submitted.

Chris Tacker, SPNHC Representative to GSA.

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY (GBIF)

SPNHC is an organizational Associate Participant in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). James Macklin is the current GBIF “Head of Delegation” for SPNHC and also serves as the Canadian Node Manager. The 29th Annual GBIF Board Meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium, October 2-6, 2022. There were many valuable updates presented on the core work in which GBIF is currently focused (<https://docs.gbif.org/2023-work-programme/en/>), including the approval of their next Strategic Framework covering 2023-2027 (<https://www.gbif.org/document/50117Bxn2p1vRqpbs7aXaT/gbif-strategic-framework-2023-2027>).

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.

Of note, GBIF continues to actively investigate ways to diversify its current data model to support richer, more complex types of biodiversity data (<https://www.gbif.org/fr/composition/HjiTr705BctcnaZkcjRjQ/data-model-principal-composition>). They have run several webinars explaining the proposed model, including one on implications for collection management systems. GBIF is currently very interested in feedback on the model based on the use cases they have considered as well as being interested in testing additional ones. To encourage this they had an open call offering small grants to a diversity of groups interested in attempting to model components of their data. If you are interested in having a custom site to showcase your data, you might consider a GBIF-hosted data portal. Several pilots based on regions and themes were generated as part of a set of pilot projects with some now in production (<https://dev.gbif.org/hosted-portals.html>). Work also continues on the Global Registry of Scientific Collections or GRSciColl (<https://www.gbif.org/grscicoll>). The main goals are to “improve access to information about scientific collections, their host institutions as well as contacts for key collections and curatorial staff” and “improve interoperability among databases by providing unique codes and machine-readable identifiers for institutions and collections.”

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 continues to be discussed more broadly through the formation of “[An Alliance for Biodiversity Knowledge](#)”. I

encourage everyone to go to the website and learn more about the concept of this new initiative and consider signing on as an individual or organizational/institutional participant: “Join us in the next phase—help us in aligning resources and investments in biodiversity informatics to improve knowledge of the world’s species and understanding of the dynamics of natural systems in support of a sustainable future for science and society.” Finally, please let me know if you have ideas for future collaborations between SPNHC and GBIF.

Respectfully submitted,
James Macklin, SPNHC Representative to GBIF

HERITAGE EMERGENCY NATIONAL TASK FORCE (HENTF)

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) is a cooperative venture between the Smithsonian Institution Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) and the United States 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

In 2022, the United States had 18 natural disaster events with losses that exceeded more than one billion dollars each. Flooding posed the most significant threat causing 100’s of human deaths and extensive damage to cultural heritage sites. HENTF, working in tandem with SCRI, strove to protect cultural and historic resources in our nation’s states, tribes, territories, and local communities from the damaging effects of disasters. In addition to assisting museums and other cultural institutions when their collections were damaged by an event, HENTF and SCRI helped reduce disaster suffering by sending personnel to assist the public in salvaging family treasures and heirlooms. Follow this link for additional information: <https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/heritage-emergency-national-task-force-hentf>

Additionally, SCRI helped to monitor over 28,500 cultural heritage sites in the Ukraine using remote sensing and satellite imagery. For more information click: <https://hub.conflictobservatory.org/portal/apps/sites/#/home/>

This past year, a large focus of HENTF was to work with the United States Department of Health and Human Services on the US Federal Plan on Equitable Long-Term Recovery and Resilience (ELTRR): https://thriving.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ELTRR_Federal_Plan_Overview_032222.pdf. The Plan aims to “align federal actions, outline recommendations to improve vital conditions through a complement of federal resources, support community and individual recovery, and improve health and well-being”.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Palmer
20 January 2023

INTEGRATED DIGITIZED BIOCOLLECTIONS (iDigBio)

Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio) serves as the coordinating center for the U.S. national digitization effort funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF [2027654](#)). As of 2021, iDigBio also includes the Symbiota Support Hub, a service team and infrastructure resource for Symbiota portal users and contributors (<https://symbiota.org/>). Katie Pearson, the project manager for the Symbiota Support Hub, is the new iDigBio liaison for SPNHC.

iDigBio has been hard at work in 2022 to serve the biodiversity collections community by fostering partnerships and innovations, facilitating development and sharing of digitization practices and workflows, and promoting the uses of biodiversity collections data by stakeholders. We work to help collections communities get digitization done efficiently and collaboratively and to make the data available according to [FAIR principles](#).

We have added 3 staff members (Shyla Davison, EODI Coordinator; Jesse Grosso & Lauren Cohen, Deputy Project Managers) to enhance our services to the collections community. iDigBio staff and PIs have provided leadership for the SPNHC Biodiversity Crisis Response Committee, including hosting internationally-attended workshops and symposia at the SPNHC conference. Last September's virtual BioDigiCon conference, which focused on digitization activities and practices, attracted more than 1100 participants from 68 countries. We have worked closely with the SPNHC Best Practices committee to improve digitization and data management documentation on the SPNHC Best Practices wiki. We have coordinated numerous online events and webinars including monthly [Symbiota Support Group](#) meetings, biweekly [Paleo Data Happy Hours](#), [Symbiota Portal Campaign](#) trainings and community meetings, data quality webinars, and more.

Along with several co-sponsors, including SPNHC, iDigBio is organizing and planning the development of several webinars, workshops, and online community consultations focused on envisioning the Biological Collections Action Center as proposed in the [NASEM report](#). Several iDigBio staff and PIs have been collaborating closely with the Biological Collections Network (BCoN) and its International Partners Group on conceptualizing the implementation of the Digital Extended Specimen, an important recommendation from the recent BCoN report.

SPNHC membership may also benefit from these public resources and events organized by iDigBio

- the iDigBio data portal (<https://www.idigbio.org/portal/search>) of digitized specimen data from U.S. institutions
- the iDigBio newsletter (<https://www.idigbio.org/newsletter-subscribe>), which includes collections-related announcements and news applicable to an international audience
- the iDigBio community Slack space (https://join.slack.com/t/idigbiocommunity/shared_invite/zt-1mylg2ks2-0MYI~kj4qIUjxJzS5pPOCQ)
- iDigBio-led events (<https://www.idigbio.org/calendar>), including the upcoming [Digital Data in Biodiversity Conference](#) (June 5-7, 2023), [Digitization Academy](#), [Strategic Planning Course](#), [Paleo Data Happy Hour](#), and [Symbiota Support Group](#) meetings, [WeDigBio](#), and more!
- iDigBio-sponsored symposia at the upcoming SPNHC meeting: SYM 6, Collections and conservation work within professional societies and organizations; SYM 15, Tips and tools for managing digital biodiversity specimens (featuring Symbiota)

Respectfully,
Katie Pearson

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

No report submitted. Thank you to Gretchen Anderson, SPNHC Representative to ICOM-NATHIST, for reporting previously. A new Rep is required. Please contact secretary@sphnc.org if interested.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPOSITORIES (ISBER)

The ISBER annual meeting was held in Seattle, Washington, USA from May 3-6, 2023 with a virtual meeting June 6-7, 2023. In-person attendees were automatically registered for the virtual event as well. ISBER serves four distinct regions (America, EMEA, Indo-Pacific, China; see <https://www.isber.org/page/about>), and the ISBER 2023 Regional Meeting will be held in Granada, Spain in partnership with Biobanco del Sistema Sanitario Público de Andalucía.

Respectfully submitted,

Breda Zimkus

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

With CHAH (Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria), the [Australasian Systematic Botany Society](#) (ASBS), and the [Australian Biological Resources Study](#) (ABRS) turning 50 this year, the Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections (MAHC) are helping to organize training sessions to be held in conjunction with conferences later in the year. Members are also working on several standard document templates for accessioning and acquisition, information for visitors, and material transfer agreements, to complement the documents already available on the [CHAH website](#) for use by Australasian herbaria – and freely available for modification and use by others. MAHC members were involved in User Acceptance Testing (UAT) for the Restricted Access Species Data Service being developed, which will ultimately be used to provide secure access to sensitive species data in Australia. Members were also involved in a 2-day workshop to help explore and define the key components needed to shape a National Approach to Collections as part of the Australian [National Research Infrastructure Roadmap](#).

Preliminary discussions have taken place to consider the feasibility and appetite for hosting a SPNHC conference in Australia in the future.

Herbaria in Australia have recently been experiencing issues with the entry of parcels into Australia. The quarantining of parcels by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry results in an extra cost to herbaria, incurring a quarantine entry fee. We remind our SPNHC colleagues to please contact Australasian herbaria directly before shipping parcels to ensure that you have the latest shipping instructions and documentation. Please also email all documents to the receiving institutions before shipping to streamline any quarantine issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley James, SPNHC representative to MAHC-CHAH

NATURAL SCIENCES COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION (NatSCA)

The NatSCA annual conference for 2023 was held at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent, UK, on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th April 2023. The theme was 'So how do we actually do all this? Hopeful futures and turning theory into practice for big issues in natural history collections'. The conference included presentations and poster sessions as well as collections tours and the annual AGM, which was also streamed online to all the membership. NatSCA also provided 5 bursaries of up to £250 for members to attend in-person and 5 free online places for virtual attendance. Follow the hashtag #NatSCA2023 on Twitter to see posts and action from the conference.

The NatSCA journal volume 11 was published and shared with the membership in an online format in also in April 2023. It contains 10 papers, each peer-reviewed, discussing various projects from conservation, 3D scanning and herbaria collections.

The have also relaunched our NatSCA Lunchtime Chats, a membership only feature of NatSCA to connect, inspire, comfort, and distract all of our lovely community. These monthly chats are informal 10-20 minutes and hosted through Zoom with no fixed format. Any member can volunteer to host. The idea is to create a space to chat, peak into one another's workspace and present any fascinating projects or ideas.

NatSCA membership is open to anyone and only £20 a year for personal membership! We encourage you to join us you are interested in the natural history collection community in the UK and building your network: <https://natsca.org/membership>

Report from Bethany Palumbo, SPNHC representative of the Natural Science Collections Association (NatSCA)

NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE (NSC Alliance)

No report submitted.

John Bates, SPNHC Representative to NSC Alliance

PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PS)

The next meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) will be held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania October 15–18, 2023.

The PS Collections Subcommittee organized a topical session, "From Field to Repository: Addressing Theoretical and Practical Issues in Paleontological Collecting and Collections," as part of the technical program during GSA 2022 in Denver. The session focused on successes and outstanding issues associated with fossil collections and collecting on private, federal, and tribal lands by professionals and amateur paleontologists; preserving physical and digital fossil data post-collection; and consistent, effective stewardship of fossils and repositories. The session was very well received, and the Subcommittee hopes to follow this with a more in-depth short course on collecting and collections at a future GSA meeting.

The PS Collections Subcommittee also created a survey that was rolled out at GSA 2022. The purpose of the survey was to better understand professional and avocational paleontologists' views on fossil collecting and collections. The responses to the survey will be used to inform and guide the activities of the Subcommittee going forward. We hope to better meet the needs of the broad community of invertebrate and vertebrate paleontologists and micropaleontologists and paleobotanists.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Cundiff, SPNHC representative to PS

SMALL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (SCNet)

No report submitted.

Anna Monfils, SPNHC Representative to SCNet

SOCIETY OF HERBARIUM CURATORS (SHC)

Thank you to Rich Rabeler for reporting previously. A new Rep is required. Please contact secretary@spnhc.org if interested.

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (SVP)

No report submitted.

Matt Brown, SPNHC Representative to SVP.

Appendix 1

Accountant's Review Report and Financial Statements

The 2022 financial review is still being prepared by the auditor and will be attached when completed.