

THE
39th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE
**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

SPNHC & TDWG Joint Conference

**“Enhancing Local Capacity,
Elevating Global Standards”**

**Okinawa Convention Centre
Okinawa, Japan
September 6, 2024**

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Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

Friday 6th September 2024, 09.00 - 10.30 (JST, UTC+9)
Okinawa Convention Centre, Room B1
Okinawa, Japan

1. Call to order
2. Agenda
3. Minutes of the 2023 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. Finance
 - j. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility
 - k. Legislation and Regulations
 - l. Long-Range Planning
 - m. Membership
 - n. Networking and Career Development
 - o. Publications
 - p. Recognition and Grants
 - q. Web and Social Media
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
 - c. Strategic Plan
10. Old Business
11. Announcements
12. Adjournment

2023–2024 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	Scott Rufolo	
Treasurer	Theresa Reilly	
Membership	Suzanne Ryder	

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Vanessa Delnavaz	2021–2024
Meghann Toner	2021–2024
Irene Finkelde	2022–2025
Jennifer Trimble	2022–2025
Dirk Neumann	2023–2026
Stéphanie Tessier	2023–2026

STANDING COMMITTEES

Archives		Biodiversity Crisis Response contd.	
Carol Kelloff	Chair	Martin Alvarez	Austin Mast
Lisa F. Palmer	Meghann Toner	Arturo H.Arino	Anna Monfils
Best Practices		Usman Atique	Emma Murphy
Emily Braker	Co-chair	Jutta Buschbom	Gil Nelson
Genevieve Tocci	Co-chair	Jason Comer	Adelaide Sallema
Miora C.	Stevie Kennedy-Gold	Elizabeth Downey	Emily Sessa
Andriambelomanana	Adam Kowalczyk	Libby Ellwood	Barbara Thiers
Andy Bentley	Erica Krimmel	Jean-Marc Gagnon	Andrea Thomer
Eva Biedron	Janaki Krishna	Rachel Hackett	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Matthew Brown	Margaret Landis	Sara Hansen	Erica Wheeler
Christina Byrd	Carrie Levitt-Bussian	Brigitte Howarth	Martin Weimers
Julian Carter	Meredith Mahoney	Rachunliu Kamei	rzaabi
Julia Colby	Katherine Mallalieu	Andrew Kitchener	smarzoqi
Michelle Coyne	Mariana Marques	Bylaws	
Jessica D. Cundiff	Paul S. Mayer	Paul Mayer	Chair (Past President)
Raharisoanarindra	Tommy McElrath	Tiffany Adrain	(Secretary)
Dianah	William Moser	Laura Abraczinskas	Andy Bentley
Carrie Eaton	Dirk Neumann	Conference	
Leanne Elder	Katie Pearson	Greg Watkins-Colwell	Chair (President-Elect)
Nicole Fisher	Ann Pinzl	Cindy Opitz	Co-chair
Marilyn Fox	Nicole Seiden	Paul Mayer	Sponsor Liaison (N. America)
Anya Friedrichs	Randy Singer	Clare Valentine	Sponsor Liaison (Europe)
Magdalena Grenda-Kurmanow	Hayley Singleton	Sankurie Pye	Edinburgh, 2022
Shelley James	Jennifer Trimble	Moe Flannery	San Francisco 2023
Mariko Kageyama	Cynthia Wang-Claypool	Laura Eklund	San Francisco 2023
Carol Kelloff	Greg Watkins-Colwell	Shelley James	TDWG 2024
	Dan Young	Irene Finkelde	
	Breda Zimkus	Elise LeCompte	
		Tim White	
<i>Citations subcommittee</i>		Conservation	
Margaret Landis	Chair	Fran Ritchie	Chair
Mariko Kageyama	Ann Pinzl	Meghan Abercrombie	Becky Kaczkowski
Biodiversity Crisis Response		Suzanne Ryder	(Membership Co-Chair)
Alina Friere Fierro	Co-chair	Gretchen Anderson	Geneviève Kulis
Mike Rutherford	Co-chair		

Conservation contd.

Rachel Arenstein	Katey Leard
Lori Benson	Devon Lee
Stephanie Black	Dani Measday
Christina Byrd	Armando Mendez
Julian Carter	Eugenie Milroy
Sophie Cersoy	Rebecca Newberry
Lucie Ciperá	Cindy Opitz
Katy Corneli	Bethany Palumbo
Mariana Di Giacomo	Sophie Phillips
Liatte Dotan	Halina Piasecki
Lisa Elkin	Erika Range
Nicole Feldman	Veronique Rouchon
Irene Finkelde	Dee Stubbs-Lee
Alice Gimat	Julia Sybalsky
Lisa Goldberg	Sheldon Teare
Alexandria Gour	Anastasia van Gaver
Catharine Hawks	Rob Waller
Shanna Hillard	

Education

Molly Phillips	Chair
Liz Leith	Co-secretary
Jennifer Bauer	Co-secretary
Maria Armour	Stephanie Killingsworth
Anthony Baniaga	Adam Kowalczyk
Lori Benson	Linda Lassiter
Vicky Chan	Gastón A., Martini
Christina Chandler	Anna Monfils
Jason Comer	Darin Penneys
Annmarie Fearing	Julia Robinson
Anja Friederichs	Chris Tacker
Corinne Fuchs	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Jessa Watters
Rachel Hackett	Luc Willemse
Kari Harris	

Elections

Bethany Palumbo	Co-chair
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Co-chair

Finance

Julian Carter	Chair (President)
Theresa Reilly	(Treasurer)
Tiffany Adrain	(Secretary)
Scott Rufolo	(Managing Editor)
Suzanne Ryder	(Membership Chair)
Irene Finkelde	Suzanne B. McLaren
Carol Kelloff	Cindy Opitz

Finance contd.

Barbara Thiers	Greg Watkins-Colwell
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IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access)

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

Legislation and Regulations

Dirk Neumann	Co-chair
Breda Zimkus	Co-chair
Mariel Campbell	Diane Pitassy
Adam Ferguson	Lori Schlenker
Geoff Keel	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Bill Moser	
Transport of Dangerous Goods	Andy Bentley
Fire Code Subcommittee	Paul Morris
John E. Simmons	Robert Waller

Long-Range Planning

Suzanne Ryder	Co-chair
Greg Watkins-Colwell	Co-chair (President-elect)
Laura Abraczinskas	Dirk Neumann
Tiffany Adrain	Cindy Opitz
Julian Carter	Deborah Paul
Annmarie Fearing	Ann Pinzl
Shelley James	Hayley Singleton
Anna Monfils	Barbara Thiers

Membership

Suzanne Ryder	Chair
Theresa Reilly	(SPNHC Secretary)
Tiffany Adrain	Ann Pinzl
Elana Benamy	Greg Watkins-Colwell

Networking and Career Development <i>Formerly Emerging Professionals/ Professional Development</i>		Web and Social Media	
Kevin Krajcir	Co-chair	Liath Appleton	Chair
Jessie Nakano	Co-chair	Jessica Utrup	Jobs Board Manager
Megan King	Co-chair	James Macklin	Consultant
Christina Byrd	Steve Sullivan	Mariana Di Giacomo	Social Media Team (X)
Elise LeCompte	Chair, Travel Grants subcmte	Aditi Jayarajan	Social Media Team (X)
Meghann Toner	Co-chair, Mentorship subcmte	Liath Appleton	Social Media Team (Instagram, Facebook)
OPEN POSITION	Co-chair, Mentorship subcmte	Laura Abraczinskas (Bylaws)	Website Editor
Publications		Tiffany Adrain (Secretary)	Website Editor
Scott Rufolo	Chair, Managing Editor	Suzanne Ryder (Membership)	Website Editor
Mariana Di Giacomo	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum	Theresa Reilly (Treasurer)	Website Editor
Shelley James	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum	Shelley James	Website Editor
Genevieve Tocci	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum	Anna Monfils	Website Editor
Liath Appleton	Editor, SPNHC Connection	Molly Phillips	Website Editor
Lori Schlenker	Asst. Ed. SPNHC Connect.	Lori Schlenker	SPNHC Connection
OPEN POSITION	Advert'ing, SPNHC Connect.	Emily Braker	YouTube Manager, Best Practices
Lisa Goldberg	Assoc. Ed., Book Reviews	Genevieve Tocci	YouTube Manager, Best Practices
Breda Zimkus	Editor, Technical Leaflets	Andy Bentley	YouTube manager
Carol Kelloff	Archives Chair	Paul Mayer	YouTube manager
Recognition and Grants		Mariana Di Giacomo	Slack administration
Paul Mayer	Chair (Past President)	Deb Paul	Slack administration
Andy Bentley	Suzanne B. McLaren	Genevieve Tocci	Slack administration
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Tim White	Greg Watkins-Colwell	Slack administration

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Collection Theft & Security Monitoring of Collections (dissolved 2024)			
Paul Mayer	Co-chair		
Rob Zschernitz	Co-chair		
US Federal Collections			
Janaki Krishna	Co-Chair	Liz Leith	Adam Rountrey
Carrie A. Eaton	Co-Chair	Carrie Levitt Bussian	Margaret Rubin
Greg Liggett	Co-Chair	Kirsten MacKenzie	Kara Schneiderman
Rochelle Bennett	John Harwick	Paul Mayer	Bruce Schumacher
Bernd Bock	Jasmine Heckman	William Moser	Steven Sullivan
Stephanie Carson	Kathy A. Hollis	Jessica Nakano	Harlan Svoboda
Fernando A. Cervantes	Kelly Hood	Conni O'Connor	Meghan Truckey
Lauren Cohen	Juliet Hook	Kari Alyssa Prassack	Jacob Van Veldhuizen
Katy Corneli	Mariko Kageyama	Tiana F. Rehman	Nicole Volden
Rachel Delovio	Anya Kitterman	Marcia Revelez	Lindsay Walker
Katrina Derieg	Laura Knutson Murray	L. Catherine Riddle	Miriam Watson
Julia Grasso	Erica Krimmel	Fran E Ritchie	Justin Wilkins
	Jennifer Leasor	Shannen Robson	Young Ha Suh
			Miranda Zwingelberg

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): OPEN POSITION
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH): Randy Singer
American Society of Mammalogists (ASM): Suzanne McLaren
American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT): Harlan Svoboda
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 (group ended 2024)
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): OPEN POSITION
Geological Society of America (GSA): Talia Karim
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): OPEN POSITION
International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER): Cynthia Y. Wang-Claypool
Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections—Councils of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (MAHC-CHAH): Alison Vaughan
Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA): John Bates
Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA): Bethany Palumbo
Paleontological Society (PaleoSoc): Jessica D. Cundiff
Small Collections Network (SCNet): Anna Monfils
Society of Herbarium Curators (SCH): Harlan Svoboda
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP): Matthew Brown
U. S. Federal Paleontological Collections: Greg Liggett

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
2 June 2023, 10.00am PST (UTC-8)
Hilton San Francisco Union Square,
San Francisco, California, USA

Members present: 156 (139 in person; 17 online).

1. Call to order: 10.13am

JC welcomed everyone and gave a massive thank you to the conference LOC ably led by Moe Flannery and Laura Ecklund and the whole team for bringing this fantastic conference together. Thanked California Academy for hosting and supporting – a huge undertaking. Huge thanks to sponsors whose support makes the conference viable, and big thanks to SPNHC members for coming together and supporting the Society.

JC welcomed new members of Council: incoming Members at Large Dirk Neumann and Stéphanie Tessier, new Managing Editor, Scott Rufolo, new committee chairs (Sue Ryder, Membership Committee; Carrie Eaton and Greg Liggett, Federal Collections Sessional Committee Co-Chairs) and new organizational Reps (Katie Pearson, iDigBio; and Greg Liggett as the new US Federal Paleontology Collections rep). JC encouraged everyone to explore the work of the various committees and think about getting involved, especially where there are gaps and opportunities.

Nominations are now open for the following Executive Offices:

- Two Members-At-Large
- Secretary
- President-Elect

2. Agenda

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

Moved: Cindy Opitz
Vote: Yes: all in favor

Seconded: Randy Singer
Opposed: 0 **Passed unanimously**

3. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Business Meeting

Motion: To accept the minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting, held on 9 June 2022, online, via Zoom (found on page 11 of the ABM packet).

Moved: Cindy Opitz
Vote: Yes: all in favor

Seconded: Shelley James
Opposed: 0 **Passed unanimously**

4. Report of the President

See written report starting on page 15 of the ABM packet.

5. Report of the Treasurer

TR referred to written report, beginning on page 17 of the ABM packet. TR encouraged members to pay their dues on time and send potential new members to the SPNHC website to join.

Motion: To accept SPNHC new members for 2022 and 2023, as listed on p. 21-22 of the ABM packet.

Moved: Elise Le Compte
Vote: Yes: all in favor

Seconded: Elana Benamy
Opposed: 0 **Passed unanimously**

Motion: To accept the report of the Treasurer and 2023 budget.

Moved: Elise Le Compte
Vote: Yes: all in favor

Seconded: Suzanne Ryder
Opposed: 0

Passed unanimously

6. Reports of Standing Committees

JC asked members to refer to the written reports in the ABM packet and invited committee chairs to speak if desired.

- a. Archives
- b. Best Practices
- c. Bylaws – Paul Mayer

Motion: to accept the proposed Bylaws amendments circulated on May 5, 2023, and accessible through links on p. 8 of the ABM packet.

Moved: Paul Mayer
Vote: Yes: all in favor

Seconded: Suzanne Ryder
Opposed: 0

Passed unanimously

- 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 – Sue Ryder asked members to complete the Membership Survey. JC reminded all that this is an important survey, the answers from which will inform the direction of the Society in the future.
- n. Membership
- o. Professional Development
- p. Publications
- q. Recognition and Grants
- r. Web and Social Media

7. Reports of Sessional Committees – please refer to the written reports.

- a. Collection Theft & Security Monitoring in Collections
- b. US Federal Collections

8. Reports of Representatives

Due to time constraints, please refer to the printed reports.

9. New Business

- a. **Awards & Recognition.** JC applauded the response to the call for nominations and encouraged nominations for next year.
- i. Elise Le Compte congratulated the **Travel Grant Awards** Recipients. Thanked applicants (32 this year) and encouraged emerging and mid-career professionals to apply. This year Yu-Ling Huang of the Taiwan National Museum of Natural Science, and Bakoliarisoa Rakotozafy from Madagascar were both awarded a Fitzgerald Travel Grant, and Cataloina Merino Yunnissi, from the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Chile, received the Christine Allen Award (donated by Gaylord Products).
- ii. Paul Mayer announced the 2023 Awards:
 - The **Special Services Recognition Award** recognizes individuals or organizations for noteworthy efforts leading to the success of an important event, activity or

objective of the Society. The award is a statement of appreciation by the Society.

PM presented a Special Services Recognition Award to the co-chairs of the California Academy LOC, Laura Eckland and Moe Flannery, for their wonderful job of organizing, planning, and executing the meeting. It was a great success and they dealt with all the normal problems as well as Covid cancellations and having to add hybrid to this truly wonderful and memorable meeting. Received standing ovation. MF invited other LOC members to stand and be recognized.

PM invited Dirk Neumann to present a Special Services Recognition Award to Véronique Rouchon and Sophie Cersoy for research on fluid-preserved collections. Following on from the workshop presented by DN and JC at the 2016 SPNHC conference in Berlin, VR and SC conducted research on the conservation of fluid-preserved collections at the Paris Museum of Natural History, leading to the organization of the first symposium on fluid-preserved collections with over 100 attendees. A second symposium is being organized. DN played a video message from VR and SC.

- PM invited Sue Ryder to present the **President's Award** to Chris Norris. This award, last presented in 2015, is for exceptional committee work, prolonged officer roles, or promotion of activities of the Society. SR spoke to CN's outstanding mentorship, support, and encouragement for getting involved in the work of SPNHC. Talia Karim accepted the award on CN's behalf and read a response from Chris who thanked, especially, the late Barbara Brown.
 - PM invited Tim White to present the **Carolyn L. Rose Award**, the highest honor from the Society given to a practitioner whose work and efforts have promoted the values and objectives of the Society, posthumously to Jean DeMouthe, presented to Jean's siblings, Peggy and Scott DeMouthe. PM played a video memorial. TW gave a moving tribute to JDM and described her as a driving force for best practices in the mineral community as well as SPNHC, and mentor of many students, also highlighting her dry sense of humor, and her obsession with glass and marbles. TW introduced Peggy and Scott DeMouthe, who accepted the award for their sister and presented a \$5,000 donation to the SPNHC Travel Grant program in JDM's memory and in honor of her legacy. PM thanked Peggy and Scott.
- iii. PM presented awards that were unable to be given out at the SPNHC 2022 ABM due to a Covid outbreak:
- **Early Career Award:** presented to a member at an early stage in their career, or at an early stage in their involvement with SPNHC, who has demonstrated great potential for leadership through innovative and energetic service that strengthens and broadens the impact of SPNHC. PM made the inaugural presentation of this award to Libby Ellwood for her work, energy, innovation, inclusiveness, and organization with and of the Biodiversity Crisis Response Committee which, in a short amount of time, has carried out a community survey, and panel discussions drawing over 250 attendees, considering how the biological collections community can most effectively contribute to protecting biodiversity.
 - PM announced the recipient of the **Vendor Recognition Award** (2022) as John Dunphy of University Products Inc. This award recognizes long-term repeated and substantial acts of support of the Society and the Society's annual meetings by a commercial organization.

PM encouraged everyone to submit nominations for awards.

MF stood up to recognize Aurice Guyton and her team for all they did for the meeting organization and its smooth running.

b. Upcoming Meetings

- SPNHC/TDWG 2024, Okinawa, Japan. Greg Watkins-Colwell presented videos on the natural attractions of Okinawa and explained the organization process for the first meeting that SPNHC has organized itself (without a LOC) and the second joint meeting with TDWG (Biodiversity Information Standards). Shelley James explained the benefits of interacting with TDWG.
- 2025 Meeting: GWC explained that Yale Peabody Museum is still under renovation so another venue will be explored for SPNHC's 40th Anniversary Meeting.

10. Old Business - none

11. Announcements

- JC thanked outgoing Members-at-Large, Shelley James and Randy Singer for all their work and Shelley's attendance at meetings at very early or late times. JC thanked outgoing Managing Editor, Mariel Campbell (2019-2023), and SPNHC Office Manager Christy Classi for her efficient support of the running of the Society.
- JC welcomed incoming Members-at-Large Dirk Neumann and Stéphanie Tessier, and Managing Editor, Scott Rufolo, whose terms begin at the end of this meeting, and reminded everyone about the upcoming call for nominations (self-nominations welcome). RS described the role of Member-at-Large.
- Membership Committee Chair (SR) distributed door-prize books.
- Adania Flemming, PhD Candidate, University of Florida, described the work of her non-profit organization, Black in Natural History Museums which has a vision for a future where Black people's voices, opinions, and stories are heard, reflected and respected in natural history museums and where every Black individual is aware of opportunities within museums, does not feel like an imposter applying for a position and strives to occupy the highest-ranking positions museums have to offer. BlackInNHMs aims to provide community, group support, research opportunities and networking for Black folks interested in working in Natural History Museums, and to expose Black communities across the globe to natural history museums and their complex connections with them. Urged SPNHC members to look around the room and to think about how they can collaborate, and how their own goals and missions can be aligned. Reminded everyone of BlackInNHMs poster presentation.

12. Adjournment

JC thanked everyone for attending, wished everyone good luck, and encouraged people to get involved in SPNHC by submitting nominations for officers and awards and joining committees.

Motion: to adjourn the 2023 Annual Business Meeting.

Moved: Randy Singer
Vote: Yes: all in favor

Seconded: Mariana Di Giacomo
Opposed: 0 **passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 11.10am PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Adrain, outgoing Secretary

Report of the President

The Society's ABM is always a major undertaking, and this year's conference is no exception, and made especially more challenging by having no hosting institution with its associated Local Organising Committee to drive the planning and delivery. The 2024 Okinawa meeting has thus seen a joint team from TDWG and SPNHC meeting regularly and working very hard putting together the conference together with colleagues in Japan, and a huge thank you goes to the extensive team who have been involved in the planning and organising of this year's conference.

We also welcome to Council some new members from the recent elections. Shelley James returns to the Council, this time in the role of secretary and we are joined by new Members-At-Large Adania Flemming and Laura Rincón. Our thanks go to all who took part in and supported the elections. Unfortunately we had no nominees for the role President Elect despite additional callouts. In such situations under the Society's bylaws, Council can nominate an interim President Elect and we welcome Suzanne Ryder into the role which will go to a formal election vote to the membership very shortly. I'd also like to thank our outgoing Council members for their support and work for the Society, namely outgoing secretary Tiffany Adrain and Members-at-Large Meghann Toner and Vanessa Delnavaz. A big thank you to you all.

As ever the backbone to SPNHC is the work of the various Committees and liaison groups, and again a big thank you goes to all the chairs and members of the Society's committees and groups. The work of the various committees and liaison and partnership groups is more fully reported upon in the reports in the ABM packet, the scope and diversity of which fully illustrates the wide range of activities that SPNHC members undertake supporting our wider collections community. One area of note is the merger of two of the committees into a single new body to better reflect the way the work of these committees has evolved over recent years. The Emerging Professionals (EPC) and Professional Development (PDC) Committees have now merged into the Networking and Career Development Committee and we thank the team who have led this merger.

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

The Council has continued to move forward with ways to improve the workings of SPNHC and to reduce the administrative role of running the Society, particularly the handling of the membership and business systems. This resulted in 2022 with the hiring of Christy Classi and her team to manage the SPNHC memberships and business office website which has significantly reduced the administrative burden on key officer roles. As demands on our time continue to spiral, this is an area SPNHC will endeavor to keep developing in a pragmatic and practical way. However, this does come at additional cost, and thus we have begun to properly review our finances. We need to consider the impacts from the additional costs and risks we are now incurring to ensure a sustainable future for SPNHC as well as better support our activities e.g. supporting the ABM, developing new meetings and workshops, further enabling the work of the committees, improving collaborations with kindred societies and greater grant support. This work will need to be carefully considered so that we remain an affordable Society and will be closely linked with the results of the recent members survey and review of the SPNHC Strategic Plan which the Long-Range Planning Committee is currently coordinating.

SPNHC 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 look to support numerous initiatives both with our kindred societies and from the wider associated community. As a result,

SPNHC is continually looking to evolve and move forward to give our community a wider voice in supporting the diversity of work around the remarkable collections we are custodians of. 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.

I now complete my term as President, and formally had the reigns into the very capable hands of Greg Watkins-Colwell. It has been a great honour to have supported the work of SPNHC in the Presidential role, and I look forward to continuing that support in other ways as the new Past President. Thank you to all for the support

Julian Carter

Report of the Treasurer

In 2023, the Society's total net assets decreased to \$439,283 from a total \$492,663 of the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2023 totaled \$385,903. Operating income was generated from two sources: membership dues and publication sales.

A total of \$34,900 membership dues was received. Sales of our eight publications plus royalty payments brought in \$17,698. A total of \$5,095 in donations were received.

The first part of 2024 has seen steady income activity and by July 31st \$15,930 has been received from membership dues. Of the 460 SPNHC members in 2023, 133 joined for the first time.

Membership renewals included 38 students, 216 individuals, 21 library/subscriptions, 53 institutional, and 2 corporate memberships. As of July 31st, 178 new members have joined for 2024, of which 37 are student memberships, 88 are institutional, and the remainder are individuals. By July 31st, 630 members had yet to renew for 2023. As a reminder, we ask that all members please pay your dues on time.

The Treasurer's Office incurred expenses which included \$3,360 for insurance, \$2,604 for Zoom, \$6,000 for Tax Preparation Services and 2023 taxes, \$2780 for Oxford Abstracts, and \$644 for the annual fee for QuickBooks.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments saw a market value gain of \$1,980 while the money market account earned \$10,056 in dividends and interest. The CD account earned \$4 in interest.

Major expenses for the Society in 2023 included \$6,000 for tax preparation expenses, \$2700 for Oxford Abstracts \$ 4,500 Installment for Japan Conference in 2024 and \$2,600 for Wild Apricot (membership platform)

Additional expenses included \$99 for the 2023 election and \$295 for annual fees to CrossRef/PILA. The Society anticipates expenses related to publications, insurance premiums, 2023 online elections, and AIBS membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Reilly, Treasurer

The 2023 financial review is still being prepared by the auditor and will be attached when completed.

FY 2023 Donations

Anonymous
DeMouthe Family
Jan Martin Kalfatovic

**FY 2024 Donations
As of July 31, 2024**

Fred Langford Edwards
Noelia Galan
Tammy Horton
Julie McBain
Emilie Pearson

Thank you!

FY 2023 SPNHC Operating Budget			
01 January –31 December 2023			
INCOME	Projected	Realized	Variance
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$ 32,000	\$ 34,900	\$ (2,900)
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
(3) Publication Sales	\$ 17,038	\$ 17,698	\$ (660)
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$ 500	\$ 45	\$ 455
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$ 300	\$ 5,500	\$ (5,200)
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 50,488	\$ 58,143	\$ (7,655)
EXPENSES	Projected	Realized	Variance
(10) Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,591	\$ (2,591)
(11) Education Committee	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
(12) Election Committee	\$ 400	\$ 99	\$ 301
(13) Executive Contingency Fund	\$ 999	\$ -	\$ 999
(14) Long Range Planning Committee	\$ 13,000	\$ -	\$ 13,000
(14) Membership Committee	\$ 2,500	\$ 963	\$ 1,537
(15) Publication Committee	\$ 15,230	\$ 7,429	\$ 7,801
(16) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,465	\$ 1,535
(17) Treasurer's Office	\$ 30,000	\$ 37,652	\$ (7,652)
(18) Web Committee	\$ 150	\$ 750	\$ (600)
(19) Professional Development	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
(20) President's Contingency Fund	\$ 2,690	\$ 106	\$ 2,584
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 73,669	\$ 56,054	\$ 17,615

FY 2024 SPNHC Operating Budget			
01 January –31 December 2024			
as of July 31, 2024			
INCOME	Projected	Realized	Variance
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$ 32,000	\$ 15,930	\$ 16,070
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$ -		\$ -
(3) Publication Sales	\$ 20,000	\$ 4,126	\$ (15,874)
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$ 500		\$ (500)
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$ 150		\$ (150)
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$ 500		\$ (500)
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$ 300		\$ (300)
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$ -		\$ -
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$ 23,181		\$ (23,181)
(10) Annual Meeting Revenue (registration and sponsorship)	\$ -	\$ 231,569	\$ 231,569
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 76,631	\$ 251,625	\$ (24,435)
EXPENSES	Projected	Realized	Variance
(11) Annual Meeting Expenses (estimated for Okinawa)	\$ 146,494	\$ 5,780	\$ 140,714
(12) Education Committee	\$ 500		\$ (500)
(13) Election Committee	\$ 400		\$ (400)
(14) Executive Contingency Fund	\$ 1,000		\$ (1,000)
(15) Long Range Planning Committee	\$ 13,000	\$ 10,793	\$ (2,207)
(16) Membership Committee	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,367	\$ (1,133)
(17) Publication Committee	\$ 15,230		\$ (15,230)
(18) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,889	\$ (111)
(18) Treasurer's Office	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,196	\$ (14,804)
(19) Web Committee	\$ 350	\$ 313	\$ (38)
(20) Professional Development	\$ 200		\$ (200)
(21) President's Contingency Fund	\$ 2,690		\$ (2,690)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 218,364	\$ 39,338	\$ 102,402

New Membership received as of July, 2023

Regular Members

John Abbott	Sandy Cui	Simon Tipene Adlam
Kendra Abbott	John Demboski	Emma Toms
Lisa Amati	Allyce Farino	Sz-Yi Tsai
Bradley Bishop	Christine Fernance	Mao-Ning Tuanmu
Rachel Bridgens	Amy Gillaspie	Danielle Vernon
Cynthia Carr	Johnny Gordon	Helen Vonow
Annaka Clement	Ellie Graves	Zoe Warner
Charles Davis	Katie Grim	Ashleigh Whittaker
Sarah Davis	Erika Heacock	Rick Wicker
Makayla Dean	Yu-Hsiang Ho	Ian Wright
Emmy Delekta	Daphne Z Hoh	Chia-Chi Wu
Kelli DeLeon	Laura Jackson	Mei Yang
Mikkel Ege Bartholdy	Ming-Luen Jeng	T.-Y. Aleck Yang
Anais Ellis	Jhu-Jyun Jhang	Chen Yao
Nicole Feldman	NK Kapuscinski-Evans	David Yuan
Victoria Feliz	Katy Kaspari	Joy Barfoot
Cossi Jean Ganglo	Sydney Kaye	Anna Dunne-Hussey
Carlos Garcia-Robledo	Jonathan Kennedy	Brennen Dyer
Jude-frances Gasparro- Brewer	Michele Koons	Darren Ivany
Mariah Green	Jana Kostalikova	Heather Lerner
Kimberly Hansen	Elizabeth Kreibel	Abbie Mullins
Alison Harrington	Cecilia Larsson	Leah Robichaud
Laura Homewood	Szu-Hsien Lee	Erynn Johnson
Anna Jerve	Jin-Ying Lee	Daniel Kaping
Yiru Cheng	Tsuo-ting Li	Sayaka Kobayashi
Tom Harrington	Melissa Jean-Yi Liu	Thornton Larson
Masahiro Ohara	Casey Mallinckrodt	Kristi Liu
Paul Sweet	Kat Martin	Stephanie Luckasevic
Zachary Bailey	Robert McCord	Nicole Mack
Maddy Bakker	Gavin McCullough	Rosaura Mayén-Estrada
Hope Barajas	Pat O'Connor	James Mickley
Laura Benedict	Corinna Paeper	Nickson E Otieno
Renata Borosova	Laura Rocha Prado	Ashley Poust
Kyle Boyd	Sachit Rajbhandari	Claudia Rocha
Luca Bruck	Megan Ramirez	Amanda Rossillo
Mitchell Bryan	Diane Rielinger	Joe Russack
Merinda Campbell	Chris Robson	Matthew Sheik
Julieth Cárdenas	Jackson Rockwell	Monique Slipher
Danielle Castronovo	Laura Rooney	Lena Struwe
Chun-I Chang	Maggie Rubin	Atsuko Takano
Che-Chih Chen	Megan Salas	Takumi Tsutaya
Nicole Childs	Ismael Sanchez Morales	Toshiki Uchifune
Shaheenara Chowdhury	Kiley Smith	Anastasia van Gaver
Kuo-Fang Chung	Garth Spellman	Madelaine Verbeek
Amelia Connell	Alison Stoltman	Luca Voß
Lauren Conrad	Sierra Swenson	Brenda Wichmann
	Miwa Takahashi	

Student Memberships

Maricela Abarca
Antonia Androski
Tayler Blee
Chelsea Bouslog
Katherine Crawford
Catherine Dhority
Elizabeth Downey
Alexandra Fernandes
Emma Forsythe
Destiny Frey-Gonzalez
E.D. Harrison
Sophie Henry
Elizabeth Hernandez
Hsuan Hung
Skylar Johnston
Lydia Joukowsky
Jason Karakehian
Taylor Kinchen
April Lebaron

Livia Marini
Kirby Martino
Summer Mengarelli
Lindsay Nottingham
Nathan Ong
R Ruben
Piper Stepule
Kathryn Sullivan
Colleen Sullivan
Keelie Taylor
Kieran Taylor
Patricia Torres
Jesse Wallace
Sophie White
Maree Yard
Toivo Ylinampa
Shuhan Zhang
Yuanhao Zhang

MEMBER-AT-LARGE REPORTS

IRENE FINKELDE (2022–2025)

Over the past year my work and family commitments have meant I have not been able to be as involved on the SPNHC Council as I would have hoped.

I plan to reinstate the use of the SPNHC Social Media platforms, including the Instagram account to highlight the upcoming meeting and work of other SPNHC members.

I am looking forward to attending the annual meeting in Okinawa, connecting with other SPNHC members and learning about the work being undertaken to preserve natural history collections around the world.

MEGHANN TONER (2021–2024)

For the second part of this year, I am continuing my role as Co-Chair of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Committee (IDEA) and as a member of the Archives Committee. We are finalizing a Code of Conduct for the IDEA committee and I have been involved in reviewing the Code of Conduct for the SPNHC-TDWG 2024 joint conference. My co-chair and I have started discussions about forming subcommittees to assist in achieving our goals for the upcoming year.

Additionally, I have been part of the planning for the SPNHC-TDWG Conference 2024- Broadening Access, Community Science, Inclusion, Education, Outreach Symposium, where I've been helping to review talks and learn how this symposium works so it can become part of the IDEA committee roles. As a member of the Archives committee, I am pleased to assist Carol Kelloff with any tasks she needs help completing. As I conclude my tenure as a MAL, I am amazed at the executive team that keeps the Society running and all the hard work that goes into maintaining the Society.

JENNIFER TRIMBLE (2022-2025)

As Member-at-Large, I have actively worked on establishing and strengthening connections with other societies to build membership in anticipation of next year's World Congress of Malacology for UNITAS Malacologica (UM). I continue to serve on the Best Practices Committee, where I contributed to the planning committee for SPNHC 2024. This included working on the development of joint code of conduct documents for TDWG/SPNHC. I look forward to building on the progress made this year as we prepare for future conferences.

Thanks to Members-at-large Vanessa Delnavaz (2021-2024), Dirk Neumann (2023-2026) and Stéphanie Tessier (2023-2026), for their support of and work for the Society.

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

Material, documentation, images, and publications continue to be collected by the 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 San Francisco, California meeting as well as the 2024 meeting to be held in Okinawa, Japan 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 and Suzanne McLaren sent files from her office. These 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 focused its efforts on identifying a solution to resurrect SPNHC Wiki content following a ransomware attack on the Biowikifarm servers (host) last fall. While it is still uncertain whether the wiki content was compromised, we are hopeful that some if not all wiki data will be recovered given that other content on this platform appears to be preserved. Additionally, Internet Archive has captured more than 60 pages of wiki content, as well as a comprehensive site map listing of all wiki pages so that we may track what pages are missing and need to be recreated.

In strategizing next steps, chairs have worked closely with Liath Appleton of the SPNHC Web Committee to discuss establishing wiki content directly on the SPNHC.org website. Doing so would make this resource directly accessible from the society webpage rather than hosted on a separate website. With this migration, wiki information would also better integrate with SPNHC.org content and be more centrally managed. The Executive Committee has authorized funds to hire a web developer to migrate wiki pages from Internet Archive to the SPNHC Wordpress site, including formatting pages in a wiki-like style. Chairs have identified a web developer who has experience working with the collections community and who is able to complete the scope of work. Currently a test site is being built to house and format the salvaged wiki content, which will eventually be remounted to SPNHC.org. Although the loss of the SPNHC wiki has been a disappointing experience, we are hopeful that the new version will be more accessible and connect two valuable SPNHC resources (SPNHC.org and the SPNHC wiki). An available plug-in will streamline wiki content creation, enabling users to submit wiki articles using a basic web form and generate content without having to learn a programming language, lowering an existing barrier to member contributions, and allowing Best Practices members to queue and review submissions prior to them going “live” online.

The Best Practices Committee also started a new virtual coffee/happy hour series to discuss desired topics. These sessions are open to Best Practices members in order to keep sessions small and encouraging of discussion. So far, we held two virtual gatherings to learn from one another about loan policies and practices, as well as approaches to destructive sampling at different institutions/within different disciplines. Both sessions were well-attended, and there will be more to come this year.

Finally, at this year’s annual meeting in Okinawa, the Best Practices Committee will host the symposium, “Back to Basics: Museum Techniques Skillshare” for the third year in a row. In this best practices-themed session, we look forward to author’s sharing their practical knowledge with our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Braker and Genevieve Tocci

BIODIVERSITY CRISIS RESPONSE

Since March 2024 and the last report the committee has been focused largely on preparation for the SPNHC-TDWG 2024 conference. After internal discussion two symposium ideas were submitted in February titled “Bioblitzes and Museums: Natural Partners” and “IUCN Red List Assessments: How can and do museums contribute?”.

The first suggestion combines hosting bioblitz events for both in-person and virtual conference attendees using the iNaturalist platform and running a symposium session discussing how

museums have used bioblitzes, including topics such as: did you make partnerships with other organisations, have bioblitzes contributed to wider research, what was the value of the information gained and what are the lessons learned? We welcomed talks on any bioblitz related topics.

The second symposium suggestion was based around the IUCN Red List and the intention was to provide an overview of the process and would encourage members to become contributors to the IUCN Red List. We were soliciting talks from those who have experience in working with the Red List, telling us about the process and any problems they encountered as well as presenters who have used Red List data for exhibitions, displays, research and (sub-)national reporting.

These were both accepted and then we spent time soliciting potential speakers. We ended up with six presentations for the Bioblitz symposium and three presentations for the IUCN Red List symposium. We also partnered with TDWG member Vijay Barve in setting up the iNaturalist project pages for the conference.

We hosted a presentation by BCRC committee member Dr. Brigitte Howarth, Curator of Entomology at the Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi, who talked about the IUCN Green List workshop that she had attended and how sites can apply for addition to the Green List.

Other topics discussed during our monthly meetings were looking at ways that the BCRC could encourage more participation from members and how to help collections in the global south get on to or add information to GRSciCol.

An updated BCRC Leadership Manual was submitted for addition to the SPNHC website.

With thanks to Libby Ellwood and Jutta Buschbom for their continued support of the BCRC.

Mike G. Rutherford and Alina Freire-Fierro

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/>.

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, Tiffany Adrain, Shelley James (TDWG/Okinawa 2024), and Theresa Reilly, Elise LeCompte, Irene Finkelde, and past-LOC reps Sankyrie Pie, Laura Ecklund, and Moe Flannery.

The committee thanks the 2023 Local Organizing Committee in San Francisco for all their hard work, which resulted in an amazing conference and experience.

The committee has been meeting via Zoom regularly with TDWG representatives to plan the

2024 conference in Okinawa, assisted by Mariko Kageyama, Daisuke Sakuma, and Takeru Nakazato. As of August 14, 2024, there were 509 people registered for the conference. including 140 virtual attendees and 13 day-by-day registrants. For the 2024 conference, the standard model of lending/granting the local committee \$5,000 was set aside and a new model employed in which fees for the conference are paid “up-front” or as needed and will be reimbursed from registration fees. Given that the conference is jointly held with TDWG, the costs are split equally between TDWG and SPNHC, as is the income from registration fees and sponsorships. The Committee suggests that prior to any future joint meetings with other organizations, an MOU between the organizations should be developed to outline expectations and responsibilities during the planning process. The committee also strongly recommends hiring a third party to organize SPNHC conferences year after year.

At the 2023 conference, the Yale Peabody Museum had to withdraw its initial bid to host the 2025 conference. Fortunately, the University of Kansas offered to host. An emergency Council vote held 11 July 2024 provided affirmation that the Society will accept the invitation to meet in Kansas in 2025. This enabled the University of Kansas Local Organizing Committee to proceed with drafting a proposal and budget to be presented at the 2024 meeting in Okinawa.

To date, no official proposals for 2026 meeting have been received. However, the committee is communicating with interested parties in South Africa and hopeful that SPNHC 2026 will be on a continent where the Society has not yet met.

The Committee is interested in discussing updates to how conferences run, what is expected from LOCs, alternative financial models for conferences, and the frequency and format of meetings, given the rising costs and financial burden currently placed on LOCs.

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

CONSERVATION

The Conservation Committee invites conservators, collections managers, and any others concerned with the physical preservation of specimens and holistic preventive care of collections. We work on projects on an as-needed basis, such as the survey and subsequent writing of a best practice for managing food in collection-holding institutions. Several of our members are involved in the Materials Working Group, a community of collection care, conservation, natural and applied scientists, as well as allied professionals united in developing guidelines and best practices for selecting, evaluating, and disseminating materials used in collection care. In recent years we have focused on providing conservation workshops and content at annual meetings to help train the larger SPNHC community. If you would like to join the committee and find your conservation community, email Chair Fran Ritchie at franritchie@gmail.com

The Committee began meeting on a monthly-ish basis in 2023 to create a more cohesive group, share tips and advice, and see projects. During the hour-long causal zoom calls, there have been lab tours, brainstorming sessions, and treatment progress reports. We plan to continue these sessions into 2025.

There are no conservation-specific workshops offered at the 2024 meeting in Japan, but several sessions and talks presented to help the Society at large with preservation concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,
Fran Ritchie, Chair

EDUCATION

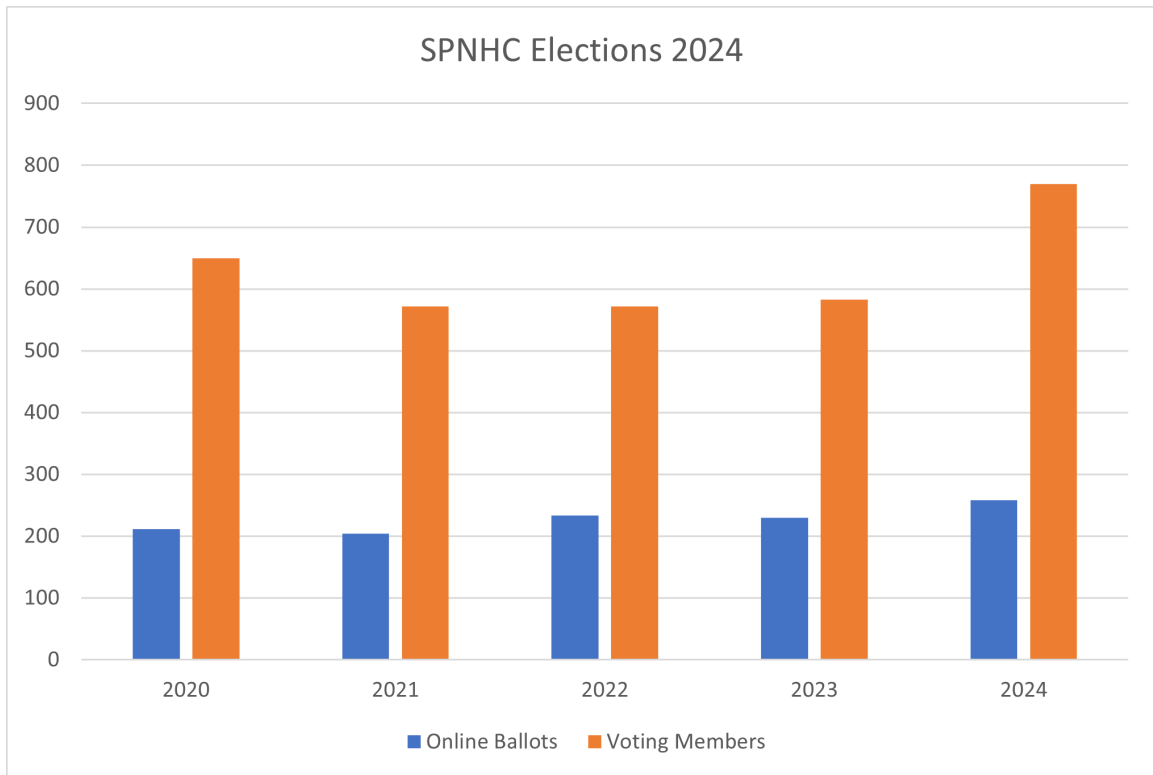
No Report received.

ELECTIONS

This year, the elections were conducted successfully online on platform *ElectionBuddy.com*. The call for nominations was sent to members via email, for the positions of Secretary and two Members-at-large. There were six candidates nominated for the three positions.

The election began on December 8th, 2023, with a close on January 12th, 2024. All voting members (as of November 2023) were emailed using the online system. At the close of the election, the total number of returned ballots was 258, or 34% of the 770 eligible members.

The bar chart below shows the voting trends over the past five years.



The positions filled and successful candidates are:

Members-at-Large:

Laura Rincón votes, 139, 27.47%

Adania Flemming, 155 votes, 30.63%

Secretary:

Dr Shelley James, 133 votes, 53.20%

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

Unfortunately, there were no willing nominees for the role of President- Elect in this election cycle. According to the SPNHC [Bylaws \(Article VI, Sec 8\)](#): "Should the office of President-Elect become vacant, Council shall by majority vote elect a Council Member to serve in an interim capacity until a replacement can be elected by the general membership, thus the following election may include candidates for the office of President-Elect and President."

Member Suzanne Ryder volunteered to fill this position while we run another election cycle, so thank you Sue.

In the next election cycle therefore, we will be voting on a new President-Elect and 2 Members-At-Large.

Respectfully submitted,

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

FINANCE

The Finance Committee has been reestablished in order to review the organization's current and future financial stability. The committee discussed three main topics at their initial meeting: future financial assistance for conference local organizing committees, increasing revenue streams, and assistance for the position of treasurer.

The 2024 conference is a joint conference with TDWG and SPNHC and there is no host institution; revenue generated from this conference will be used for all payments. SPNHC will take the lead as the financial institution paying invoices and accepting conference revenue. Any surplus funds/additional costs will be split by both institutions.

Membership fees and publication sales are currently the only forms of income for the organization. As we grow, the expenses to support our membership have increased. The Treasurer provided a plan for potential membership fee increases for all membership levels which was shared with the Membership Committee. The membership fee has not changed in over 15 years. It was also suggested that additional forms of revenue, like ads on the SPNHC website, could be utilized in the future.

The position of the Treasurer is a single position that does not have a backup person to have access to the organization's funds or step in if the Treasurer is unable to perform their duties. A second signatory should be designated to have access to the SPNHC account should someone else be needed to step in and make payments or access information. Additional support is still needed for the position. Christy Classi, who handles our membership now, will be utilized in assisting with the creation of the 2025 budget and can also handle billing for the institution; a review of her contract will indicate what other duties can be passed along to her as a backup. The President or other council members covered by the insurance could be a secondary for the Treasurer.

The SPNHC financial assets were reviewed and the CD for the organization which matured in February was renewed at the same interest rate. The next renewal date will be in October of 2025 when the committee will discuss if the funds should be switched to a better interest rate for the next 18 months.

Submitted by Theresa Reilly, Treasurer

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee has primarily worked with the SPNHC-TWDG Conference organizers to review the Code of Conduct and with the Broadening Access, Community Science, Inclusion, Education, and Outreach symposium organizers.

Jeanette Pirlo, Carmi Thompson, and Shamindri Tennakoon organized the Broadening Access, Community Science, Inclusion, Education, Outreach symposium, which has been very successful at previous conferences. This symposium aligns well with the committee's central goal of diversity, and we hope to integrate the symposium organization into the committee's work. The model would be that different committee members will act as the organizers of this symposium every year. Vanessa Delnavaz and Meghann Toner helped to review the submissions this year and learn more about this symposium.

This year, at the general conference, there were no SPNHC committee meetings. For the IDEA committee, moving forward, the hope is to have regular meetings. These regular meetings will start in 2025 once the co-chairs work out a meeting schedule. In the new year, the committee's goal is to decide on a reporting system for violations of the Code of Conduct before we submit it to the exclusive council for a vote. We also hope to form a subcommittee to move forward with an MOU with the Black in Natural History Museums (BlackinNHMs).

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

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The SPNHC Legislation & Regulations Committee is currently preparing an Expert Opinion on 'Bona Fide' Research and deposition of biological material at Natural History Collections and Biodiversity Repositories to help advocate for marine mammal specimens being deposited in recognized scientific institutions in North America. Recently, permit applications for walruses, manatees, sea otters, and polar bears submitted by US-based natural history collections have been denied by US Fish and Wildlife Service because they believe that adding specimens to a natural history research collection does not constitute "bona fide research". Our goal is to show that natural history collections are bona fide research institutions that promote current and future research, and when specimens are discarded, it results in no future research, education, or conservation opportunities.

With the support of our member Trina Roberts, the SPNHC Legislation and Regulations committee commented on a proposed amendment by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to modify the duration of certain permits and letters of confirmation under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), so that NOAA permits last longer than five years. The modification would remove the 5-year regulatory limitation on the duration of section 104 permits and Letters of Confirmation. This would give the National Marine Fisheries Service the discretion to issue these permits for longer than five years where appropriate. This proposed rule would apply only to permits and authorizations issued under section 104 of the MMPA.

The committee is currently also revising the text elements of the SPNHC Wiki page on shipping international loans and transporting specimens in checked luggage when returning from fieldwork into North America or Europe. This revised and updated text will include a specific section on IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations and on hand-carrying imports into the US.

Respectfully submitted,
Dirk Neumann and Breda Zimkus

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Results of the membership survey were analyzed and used to help guide the updated strategic plan. In June, members of the Executive Council met with representatives of the Long-Range Planning Committee at the Field Museum of Natural History for a two-day working meeting to update the Strategic Plan. A draft of the revised Plan will be presented at the 2024 Council meeting in Okinawa.

Agreed actions for 2023 have been accomplished during the year:

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.
- Organize 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. This was discussed at length during the strategic planning meeting in June and action to address the issue has been incorporated in the new strategy, with guidelines for hosts is to be updated.

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

A review of the committees was undertaken at the strategic planning meeting in Chicago, proposed changes will be discussed with committee chairs and implemented with the new strategic plan to ensure the support is provided where needed.

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

Current LRP Committee members

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

The membership committee would like to thank Christy Classi and her administrative team for the great work they do for the Society managing the membership and supplying monthly reports and statistics, this has proved invaluable.

At the annual meeting in Okinawa, I will be stepping down as chair of the membership committee to take up my new role for the Society. I am very happy to introduce and welcome the new membership chair, Robyn Crowther. Robyn has been a member of SPNHC for a few years and worked with natural history collections for approximately seven years. I will continue as deputy chair for the next year to facilitate the transition.

Membership dues increase

To ensure the continued support to membership and continue the multiple initiatives and activities the Society are actively pursuing council have decided to increase membership fees for the first time since 2013. The proposed increases are listed below, and full details can be found in the 'Rationale for dues increase' document which can be found in the Annual business meeting packet.

- \$55 Regular (increase of \$10)
- \$375 Corporate (increase of \$25)

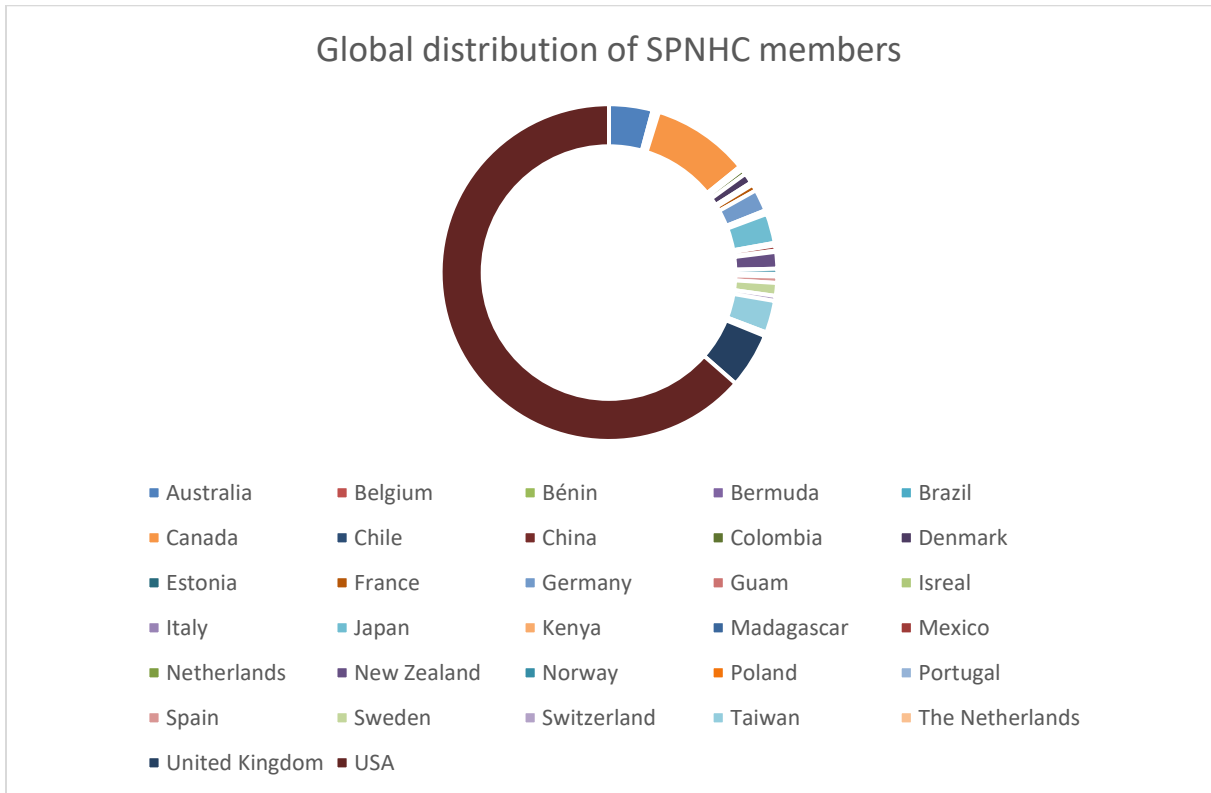
- \$20 Student (no increase)
- \$55 Library (no increase, few subscribers, Managing Editor will be discussing future options)
- \$1,125 Life (no increase, explore paying in smaller increments)
- \$25 Print Collection Forum (no increase as Managing Editor exploring print-on-demand option)

Membership Statistics

The number of members currently 813.

Membership level	Active
Collection Forum Print Only	5
Corporate/Commercial Online Only Member	1
Corporate/Commercial Print and Online Membe-	
Institutional / Associate Online Only Member	264
Institutional/Associate Print and Online Membe	39
Library/Subscription Online Only Service	11
Library/Subscription Print and Online Service	22
Lifetime Member - Paid in full	29
Regular Online Only Member	353
Regular Print and Online Member	16
Student Online Only Member	64
Student Print and Online Member	9
Total	813

This international society continues to expand its geographical distribution, currently with members represented in 32 countries. The majority of SPNHC members are based in North America but the number of European members has increased along with East Asian members ahead of our annual meeting in Okinawa. Notable regions that are underrepresented by SPNHC membership are Africa and South America.



We continue to promote SPNHC at conferences by advertising in conference literature and exhibiting the Membership Booth. This year the booth was exhibited at the NATSCA conference, Oxford UK, the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers (WSST) and the North American Paleontological Conventions (NAPC) held at the University of Michigan.



The SPNHC Booth attracted hundreds of attendees at NAPC 2024.



Pop-up banner and tablecloth are available in the UK and Australia or can be printed locally.

If you have a suggestion for exhibiting the in-person or virtual Membership Booth at upcoming conferences, please contact Robyn Crowther or 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.

Respectfully submitted.
Suzanne Ryder

NETWORKING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Networking and Career Development Committee (NCDC) was newly formed in early 2024 by merging the former Emerging Professionals (EPC) and Professional Development (PDC) Committees. The NCDC now oversees various aspects of promoting networking, mentoring, and career development through SPNHC programming and conferences. You can [read more about the NCDC](#) on the SPNHC website.

The NCDC is also looking for new co-chairs to join Megan in running the committee starting in January 2025. Kevin and Jessie will be stepping down at the end of 2024. Also, we are always open for new members and volunteers looking to get more involved in the SPNHC community.

At the 2024 SPNHC-TDWG Joint Conference in Okinawa, Japan, NCDC will host one event for all attendees. We will convene on Wednesday September 4th 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 TDWG conference and to help emerging professionals make the most of their time at the conference, the NCDC has collaborated with the SPNHC-TDWG Program Committee to revise the Conference Prep Packet intended for first-time attendees. This is a short packet with information and tips for navigating this joint conference in Japan. The packet can be viewed at this [link](#). It will also be available on the conference webpage. This is a living document and will be edited with new information each year, especially as the hosting venue changes. Please contact Kevin, Jessie, or Megan if you have any trouble viewing the document.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Krajcir and Jessie Nakano, (Co-chairs), and Megan King (newest Co-Chair)

NETWORKING AND CAREER 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 Networking and Career 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:

- Presenting a paper or poster at the 2024 SPNHC conference in Okinawa, Japan.
- 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 \$3000 for the Fitzgerald grants, \$2000 for the Christine Allen grant, and \$5000 for the Jean DeMouthe grant. We awarded three (3) Fitzgerald grants, five (5) Christine Allen grants, and six (6) Jean DeMouthe grants. In addition, one (1) grant was supported with combined funds from the Fitzgerald and Jean DeMouthe grants and one (1) with combined funds from the Christine Allen and Jean DeMouthe grants. We received applications from several underrepresented countries—Benin, Ecuador, Estonia, Japan, and Taiwan.

One recipient graciously turned down her grant as she had received funds from another organization before receiving the announcement from SPNHC of her award. One recipient graciously turned down half of her award, as she received additional funds. Three recipients informed the committee that they were no longer able to attend after receiving notice of their awards. We were able to award the money to two other applicants, but the third recipient informed us too late for us to award that money to one of the other applicants. Committee members unanimously agreed to leave that money (\$1000) in the budget for next year.

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

My thanks to the SPNHC members who served as grant reviewers—Greg Watkins-Colwell, Sue Ryder, Paul Mayer, Bill Moser. Many thanks also go to SPNHC Treasurer, Theresa Reilly, who contributes her time to coordinate the grant funds and make sure that the funds get distributed to the recipients.

2024 Recipients:

Fitzgerald Award:

Alina Freire-Fierro (reduced her grant by half; half awarded to Kathryn Leard)
Universidad Tecnica de Cotopaxi
Associate Curator, Herbarium, and Advisor to the Chancellor of Academics

Christine Allen Award:

Huanhao Zhang

Graduate School of Humanities and Human Science, Hokkaido University
PhD student specializing in museology

Emily Inman
California State University, Stanislaus
Science Teacher, CAL-Stanislaus

Kathryn (Katey) Leard
De Young Museum / Legion of Honor (Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco)
Collections Care Assistant

Nicole Feldman (turned down her grant; money awarded to Emily Inman)
Natural History Museum of Denmark
Conservator

Jean DeMouthe Award:

Lauren Phelan
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collections Manager

Kathryn (Katey) Sullivan
Milwaukee Public Museum/Marquette University
Ph.D. student, studying the role of community science in characterizing biodiversity for
conservation action

Maricela Abarca
California Academy of Sciences and the University of San Francisco
Intern, Academy's Scientific Computing department, and Data Scientist, USF

Tananya (Tokay) Alberts
UC Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and California Academy of Sciences
Collections Manager, mammals

Yu-Hsiang Ho
National Museum of Natural Science, Department of Biology. Taichung, Taiwan
Research Assistant

Yi-Ru Cheng
Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica, Nankang, Ornithology, Taipei
Postdoc

Combined Grants:

Lindsay Nottingham (Christine Allen and Jean DeMouthe)
Fort Hays State University
Master's student, re-housing, assessing, and curating a coal ball collection at the Sternberg
Museum of Natural History

Piper Stepule (Fitzgerald and Jean DeMouthe)
Yale University - Peabody Museum, Vertebrate Zoology Collection
Museum Assistant

Unable to Attend

Jean Cossi Ganglo (Fitzgerald)

University of Abomey-Calavi, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
Director of the Laboratory of Forest Sciences

Lennart Lennuk (Fitzgerald)
Estonian Museum of Natural History
Head of the Collections Department

Anais Ellis (Christine Allen)
Horniman Museum and Gardens, London, UK
Project Conservator

Prepared by Elise V. LeCompte, Chair, SPNHC Travel Grants Subcommittee, August 26, 2024

PUBLICATIONS

COLLECTION FORUM

Articles are now being published online in Volume 36 of *Collection Forum* (2022) at <https://meridian.allenpress.com/collection-forum>. This is the second 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 2022 to 2024. 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 one published article as of this report. Three manuscripts are already in the review process and one other is in preparation for submission. In order to catch up to the current year, Volume 36 will likely be closed with these five articles and tagged upon completion as the official publication for the year range 2022–2024. All subsequent submissions will be accepted for publication in Volume 37.

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 current membership in the society. *Collection Forum* accepts full-length manuscripts as well as short communications, technical notes, detailed book reviews, and submissions that traditionally would have gone to the *Leaflets* series. Peer evaluation and editorial review of most content is coordinated through the journal's team of associate editors; decisions concerning the most appropriate format for publication for certain submissions will be handled in collaboration with the leaflet, book review, and newsletter managers.

A revised set of author guidelines for contributors to *Collection Forum* has been developed. The draft guidelines cover a broader range of formatting issues than the previous version, clearly establishing standards for such things as citing publications and outlining more fully the prescribed elements of style for use in journal content. The authors of submissions to Volume 36 have been provided with the initial draft of the revised guidelines and asked to provide feedback. The updated standards will be finalized based on any suggestions and critiques received to serve as the official standard beginning in 2025, following a final review by all members of the Publications Committee.

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 managing editor of *Collection Forum*. Mariel Campbell (Museum of Southwestern Biology, Albuquerque, USA), 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 <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 goldberg@igpreservation.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’s newsletter. Liath also serves as the SPNHC webmaster. For any newsletter submissions or updates to the society’s website, please email Liath at newsletter@spnhc.org. To access *SPNHC Connection*, please go to the Publications tab at www.spnhc.org.

SPNHC BOOKS

Our most recent 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.

Preparations are underway to update *Health and Safety for Museum Professionals*, originally published in 2010. Please contact Lisa Goldberg (goldberg@igpreservation.com) for more information about this project.

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* (those published since 2014) are

provided as fully interactive online volumes accessed through <https://collectionforum.org/>, which requires a separate member login (see above for information on Meridian site access). Older issues are available at the same link but have been uploaded as PDF documents. If you or your institution require assistance with accessing the newsletter or the journal, please contact editor@spnhc.org.

SPNHC PUBLICATION ARCHIVES

Carol Kelloff, Archives Chair, maintains a reference library of all current and former SPNHC publications at the Smithsonian. 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 (Lisa Goldberg, Associate Editor): lgoldberg@lgpreservation.com

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Rufolo, Chair

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.

This year's winners are:

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:

This life-time achievement award is awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions to natural history collections. This year it is awarded to Olliver Crimmen,

The PRESIDENT'S AWARD:

Awarded for superior service to the Society this year it is presented to Laura Abraczinskas.

THE EARLY CAREER AWARD:

This award is presented to a member at an early stage in their career, or at an early stage in their involvement with SPNHC, who has demonstrated great potential for leadership through innovative and energetic service that strengthens and broadens the impact of SPNHC. This year's recipient is Mariana di Giacomo.

SPECIAL SERVICES RECOGNITION:

A statement of appreciation this award is given for a noteworthy effort leading to the success of an important event, activity or objective of the Society. This year awards go to Mariko Kageyama and to the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) our partners for this meeting.

The committee is always looking for ways to encourage more applications for SPNHC awards

and grants. Please take the time to review the current awards and grants and nominate a deserving member.

The awards and grants 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

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Mayer, Chair

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

The Web and Social Media Committee is working with Best Practices to bring the SPNHC wiki back online. We are very excited about this, and hope to have a fully functioning site soon.

The committee welcomes anyone interested in helping out with the SPNHC website, Facebook, Instagram, and X. In particular, we need someone to keep our WordPress event calendar up to date. You do not need to have any knowledge of web design or HTML to fill this role, and your help would be deeply appreciated. Please contact Liath Appleton at webmaster@sfnhc.org for details.

Respectfully submitted,
Liath Appleton, Chair

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLLECTION THEFT AND SECURITY MONITORING OF COLLECTIONS

This sessional committee term is completed. It was 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 examine the work of this committee in the best practice ideas google document that Brenda Zimkus created at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17TXSAiX4iSqiHr0-7WNU2t451ErLdngeZUK0OWAqNnQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Mayer, Chair

US FEDERAL COLLECTIONS

The US Federal Collections Committee continues to work towards bridging gaps between federal agencies and non-federal organizations and increasing both the accessibility to and ease of management of federal collections by non-federal repositories. A subset of committee members, in collaboration with federal partners, presented a poster at the 2023 Society of Vertebrate

Paleontology annual meeting titled “Case Studies in the Management of Federal Paleontological Collections and Recommendations for the Future”. Similarly, for the 12th North American Paleontological Conference, Adam Rountrey organized a symposium on “Managing and Engaging with Federal Paleontological Resources in the 21st Century”. Efforts like these serve to increase discussion and awareness between federal and non-federal partners, as well as promote SPNHC as a resource for those who manage US federal collections at their institution.

The committee is also continuing its efforts to make digitized federal collections more discoverable in online databases and data aggregators. Surveys sent to the NHCOLL listserv and the Paleo Data Working Group are moving us closer towards a standard vocabulary for federal ownership and committee meetings with staff from the USFS and DOI Museum Program have resulted in fruitful discussions on data standards. We plan to further our progress on this initiative next year as well.

With bi-monthly meetings, we have had a constructive and informative dialog on various topics relevant to the management of federal collections including the impact of new NAGPRA guidelines on museums, accepting federal specimens from outside sources, the different agreements available with federal agencies, and updates to the online permitting and reporting system with the BLM (RAPTOR). We encourage anyone interested in the management of US federal collections to join our committee and help foster these productive discussions!

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Eaton, Janaki Krishna, & Greg Liggett, Co-chairs

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

ALLIANCE OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS OF CANADA (ANHMC)

No report received.

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

Please email secretary@spnhc.org if you would like to represent AIC.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

No report received.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS

No report received.

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 2023. The following is a summary of activities:

- 1) Eight collections are currently at various stages of the accreditation review process:
 - a. A site visit was conducted at the University of Colorado Natural History Museum during the Annual ASM Meeting in June 2024.
 - b. Denver Museum of Nature & Science has requested site-visit.
 - c. Museo Javeriano de Historia Natural-MUJ, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Bogotá has made initial inquiry into accreditation and received self-assessment documents from chair (15 March 2024)
 - d. A site visit to Colección Regional Durango (CRD), Durango, Mexico was completed on 14 April 2024. Distribution of the site-visit report to full committee is pending.
 - e. A site visit to the Utah Museum Natural History, University of Utah (UMNH) was completed on 7 November 2023 by 12 committee members during an NSF-funded RANGES project meeting. Distribution of the site-visit report and full committee discussion is pending.
 - f. A site visit to Northern Michigan University was completed on 30 September 2022. Full committee discussion is pending.
 - g. University of Oklahoma, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History has provided self-assessment documents. The site visit is pending.
 - h. A site visit to the Museum of Natural History, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ occurred during the 2022 ASM meetings. Review of UA institutional support for the collections is pending.
- 2) A revision of the *Basic Curatorial Standards for Systematic Collections* (Journal of Mammalogy, 85:180-181, 2004) is in progress. A final document was to be made available to President and Board of Directors review following the SCC meeting at the 2024 annual meeting. The updated *Standards* document will be submitted to the *Journal of Mammalogy* for publication.
- 3) Conversion of the *Mammal collections of the Western Hemisphere: a survey and directory of collections* in a digital format hosted on the ASM website has been approved by President Smith. Development is underway by an SCC subcommittee and the Communications Committee.
- 4) A guideline document for performing accreditations is in development.

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)

The annual meeting of the Society was held June 15-19 in Grand Rapids, Michigan as part of the Botany 2024 conference. The theme was "Resilience in a Changing World." Some ASPT highlights from the conference include sponsoring 91 talks and 45 posters; Richard G. Olmstead received the Asa Gray Award; John T. Kartesz received the Peter Raven Award; Isabel Smalley

(University of Minnesota-Duluth) and Blair Young (Rutgers University) were awarded the Undergraduate Research Prize; and 21 members were awarded Graduate Research Grants.

Looking ahead, next year's Botany 2025 conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona. We hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,

Harlan Svoboda, SPNHC Representative to ASPT

ASSOCIATION OF MATERIALS AND METHODS IN PALEONTOLOGY (AMMP)

This year, AMMP's focus has been on revitalizing committee participation and improving resources and training opportunities for the membership. In particular, the Training Committee and Resources Committee took steps to increase community engagement and to learn more about what the membership wants and needs from AMMP. On April 3, 2024, these committees hosted a joint webinar titled "AMMP It Up" to discuss what AMMP can do to foster access to resources, training, and professional development in paleontology preparation and collections management. Christina Byrd, Chair of the Resources Committee, and Michelle Pinsdorf, Chair of the Training Committee hosted the discussion. The group discussed suggestions for specific programs, collaborating with other professional societies, and how they can get involved in the development of the AMMP community.

The results of the April 3rd webinar sparked the idea for a follow-up one. This year's second webinar was hosted by the Training Committee on August 16th for AMMP membership to share and discuss favored field gear for paleontology expeditions. This webinar provided the opportunity for attendees to learn about some useful new gear, or new tricks to use with familiar tools. AMMP webinars are recorded and shared with the membership later.

AMMP 2024 annual meeting was by the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden, Manitoba, Canada. The meeting was hybrid with in-person and virtual accessibility May 7-11, 2024. As an association focused on the methods of paleontological work, care is taken to ensure that work presented at meetings is done so with health and safety considerations at the forefront. Therefore, the abstracts and proposals were reviewed by the AMMP Health and Safety Committee in addition to the Abstract Committee. The topic for the symposium was "From near and abroad: global perspective on field techniques, challenges, and rationales." Workshops included topics ranging from adhesive films for gap fillers in fossils, creating stereophotos, review of the basic properties of consolidants and adhesives, and a rotocaster demonstration. More information about the annual meeting can be found at this website:
<https://paleomethods.org/Annual-Meeting>

During the annual meeting Resources Committee Chair Christina Byrd co-led a workshop with colleagues Amanda Millhouse (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History VP Collections Manager) and Vanessa Rhue (Yale Peabody Museum VP Collections Manager) titled "Centralizing Resources for Conservation-Grade Materials." During this workshop, participants had the opportunity to learn more about conservation-grade materials as well as provide input on the AMMP website Resources Page and what information to provide for a material focused webpage. This workshop had the additional goal of finding interested individuals who want to assist the Resources Committee in researching and compiling data about various materials used in paleontology conservation. With a list of volunteers from the workshop, the AMMP Resources Committee hosted a virtual working session on August 14th. At this session, the workshop leaders, volunteers from the workshop, and members of the Resources Committee joined forces

to test, improve, and utilize the data submission forms for the conservation materials. Future working sessions are being planned to continue build the dataset for future webpage development.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/148962468849>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@associationformaterialsmet4935>

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Byrd, SPNHC representative to AMMP

ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS AND COLLECTIONS SPECIALISTS (ARCS)

The 2024 ARCS virtual conference, *Synergy*, will be held over three days on December 2 (from 12 noon to 3:15 pm Eastern time), and on 4 and 6 December from 8:15 to 5:00 pm. The preliminary program and registration information are available on the ARCS website at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/conference/2024-virtual-conference>. Announced sessions will include "Improving Airflow: An Unexpected HVAC Renovation," "Museums Unite: Unionizing the Field Museum of Natural History," "DAMS and the Accession Archive Digitization Project at AMNH," and many other fascinating topics. There will also be several opportunities for small group meetings and virtual socializing during the meeting.

The ARCS website now has an updated section called "Emergency Help Now!" that provides links to emergency information and contact numbers for US and Canadian museums, organized by geographic region.

ARCS members are, as always, invited to post questions to the ARCS Forum at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/community/forum#type=q-and-a&page=1&post=&search=>. Recently questions included concerns about humidity, advice for moving large collections, finding contract registrars, and museum registration software.

The ARCS Resource Kit continues to be updated and can now be searched by subject area or type of resource, <https://www.arcsinfo.org/community/resources>. Jobs and internships are available at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/opportunities/career-center>. News in the Field can be found at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/community/news-in-the-field>.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Simmons, SPNHC representative to ARCS

BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION STANDARDS (TDWG)

The 2023 annual meeting of Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG), was hosted by the Atlas of Living Australia and National Research Collections Australia in Hobart, Tasmania from October 9th to 13th, with both in person and remote participation. The hybrid conference details can be found at:

<https://www.tdwg.org/conferences/2023/>. This year the Interest and Task Group Working Sessions will be held virtually from the 19th-22nd of February (2024) focusing on standards development. 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/408/). 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 website, 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 (biss.pensoft.net). With specific relevance to SPNHC, members of the Natural Collections Description 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/>). This new standard is now completing the review process and is expected to be ratified soon. 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 2024, TDWG is very excited to once again meet jointly with SPNHC and will hold a hybrid conference with in-person attendance in Okinawa, Japan from the 2nd-6th of September. The theme for the conference is "Enhancing Local Capacity, Elevating Global Standards." This is a great opportunity for our two communities to learn more about each other and continue our joint efforts to preserve and document biodiversity enabling research to address our urgent and grand challenges. For more information please see the conference website (<https://www.tdwg.org/conferences/2024/>) 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 by James Macklin

COLLECTIONS STEWARDSHIP PROFESSIONAL NETWORK (CSAAM)

Thanks to John Simmons for reporting previously. John reports that AAM made the decision last year to do away with the professional networks so there will be no further reports for CSAAM.

CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN TAXONOMIC FACILITIES (CETAF)

CETAF and SPNHC continue to be densely connected and interwoven by the many exchanges and activities of colleagues who are associated with both organizations.

Thereby the roles seem fluid., colleagues are often acting in a combination of being a SPNHC member, CETAF-partner representative, institutional employee, scientist, professional and engaged citizen. For example, a good fraction of chairs and members of SPNHC committees, as well as SPNHC members in general are employed at CETAF member institutions, as well as often active in CETAF working groups and/or research projects related to or led by CETAF. Moreover, colleagues engaged in several large EU projects with significant connections to CETAF are contributing a substantial number of symposia, presentations, activities and discussion topics to the SPNHC conferences, for example this year's SPNHC/TDWG conference in Okinawa.

Areas and topics of ongoing strong collaboration are manifold, they include collection care, management and development, legislation, data governance, organizational structure, and science-policy, biodiversity conservation, South-North partnering and networking with communities and organizations across scientific and applied fields, as well as cross-continental digital infrastructure development, publications and data linking. Please let me know about the areas that I am missing and should become more aware of.

In a globalized world, in which solutions need to be able to scale and be developed and implemented in ways that work for local to global environments, both SPNHC and CETAF as international organizations with strong local and grassroots foundations act as network hubs that foster communication and collaboration across the Atlantic, as well as globally.

Respectfully submitted,

Jutta Buschbom, SPNHC Representative to CETAF

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

Since COP-15 in 2022, the Secretariat, subsidiary bodies and working groups of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD](#)) together with the convention's parties (the countries) and engaged stakeholder groups are driving the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring ([The Biodiversity Plan](#)) forward. One of the processes that has engaged in intense intersessional work and negotiations is the "Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources" ([WGDSI](#)). Earlier this month, during the second meeting of the working group much lauded progress was achieved that resulted in the working group producing a recommendation for fine-tuning and adoption at COP-16 (see e.g. [CBD Press Release](#) and [Summary by ENB](#)). COP-16, the 16th Conference of the Parties will be held in Columbia this October as the next main CBD event.

During the past two years, I have not been able to attend the meetings of the CBD processes as representative of SPNHC due to time constraints. However, I aim to keep up to date by receiving the notifications from the CBD Secretariat and by following several newsletters reporting on CBD activities, global biodiversity conservation and the sustainable development goals. Among these are the newsletters of the International Institute for Sustainable Development ([IISD](#)) and its Earth Negotiation Bulletin (ENB) and of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the UN Environmental Programme ([UNEP-WCMC](#)).

A main focus of CBD-related activities in which SPNHC members are actively engaged continues to be data governance at the intersection to infrastructure development, DSI and/or publication. The importance of this work by SPNHC members and colleagues from partner organizations, as for example, iDigBio, CETAF, Plazi, BHL and the informal International Partners for the Digital Extended Specimen (IPDES) network, is highlighted by the recent reports on the outcomes of this month's WGDSI meeting. The reports point out that the WGDSI has identified data governance to be of key importance and as a core task for upcoming work on its agenda. Such work has the goal of enabling the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity and genetic resources. As SPNHC, we are well on the road and will continue to contribute to global discussions about the future of governing biodiversity, natural science collections and biodiversity data.

Respectfully submitted,

Jutta Buschbom, SPNHC Representative to the CBD

ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (ECN)

Background:

ECN formed an MOU with SPNHC in late 2016; this is our 9th 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 2023 (In-person and virtual meeting; In-person: 04-05 November 2023):

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

The annual ECN meeting was held as a blend of in-person and virtual modalities in 2023. The in-person venue was the conference facility at National Harbor, MD, USA. Here is a link to the meeting program:

<https://ecnweb.net/welcome/meeting/ecn-2023/2023-program/>

Meetings were held Saturday, 04 November and Sunday, 05 November, 2023. Once again, the “virtual” presentations provided a unique opportunity to hear from colleagues who usually might not otherwise be able to attend the meetings and to “virtually visit” several entomological collections from all over the globe.

The next meeting of ECN is planned for 09-10 November 2024, in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, in conjunction with the annual ESA meeting:

<https://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting>

Contributed talks: 24

Symposia included:

1) *The Everlasting Trace*

Moderator: Jennifer Girón, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, U.S.A./ Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, U.S.A. (10 talks presented)

2) *Collections of the World*

Moderators: Nicole Gunter, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, OH, U.S.A. & Oliver Keller, Keller Entomological Consulting LLC, Gainesville, FL, U.S.A. (12 collections highlighted from all over the world)

3) *The Power of People*

Moderator: Jennifer Girón, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, U.S.A./ Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, U.S.A. (7 talks presented)

2023 meeting organizers: Ainsley Seago, Christopher Grinter, Andrew Johnston, Christy Bills, Patrick Gorrington, Jennifer Girón, Ashleigh Whiffin, and Oliver Keller.

ECN Social Media Team: Ashleigh Whiffin

Program layout and design: Oliver Keller and Jennifer Girón

The ECN Executive Committee and Officers:

Oliver Keller, President (2023-2025)

Ainsley Seago, Past President (2023-2025); Co-communications Officer (2023-2025)

M. Andrew Johnston, Vice-President (2021-2025)

Jacki Whisenant, Secretary (2023-2025)

Patrick Gorrington, Treasurer (2016-2025)

Chris Wirth, Program Co-Chair (2023-2025)

Kristin Jayd, Program Co-Chair (2023-2025)

Ashleigh Whiffin, Co-communications Officer (2019-2025)

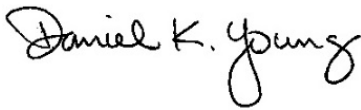
Next ECN Meeting:

ECN 2024 will be held in-person in Phoenix, AZ on 09-10 November

Registration is now open: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-ecn-phoenix-az-tickets-939582726227>. Early bird is \$80 for students and \$170 for regular members. A preliminary program will be posted online in mid-October.

Check the ECN website (<http://ecnweb.org/>) periodically for the most up-to-date information. Further announcements will come through the ECN listserv and via social media platforms: Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/148208995368404/>), Instagram (@entcollnet) and Twitter/X (@EntCollNtwrk).

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel K. Young, SPNHC-ECN Liaison

GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP (GCG)

Thanks to Andrew Haycock for liaising with GCG previously. For information about upcoming events please visit: <https://www.geocurator.org/>.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)

Thanks to Chris Tacker for liaising with GSA previously, and to Talia Karim who will be taking over this role.

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY (GBIF)

SPNHC is an organizational Associate Participant in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF: www.gbif.org). James Macklin is the current GBIF "Head of Delegation" for SPNHC and also serves as the Canadian Node Manager. The 30th Annual GBIF Governing Board Meeting took place in Canberra, Australia from the 18th-19th of October, 2023. There were many valuable updates presented on the core work GBIF is currently focused on (1) in support of their new Strategic Framework covering 2023-2027 (2).

GBIF continues to promote the digitization and mobilization of biodiversity occurrence 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 promote the diversification of its current data model to support richer, more complex types of biodiversity data (3). They have run several webinars explaining the proposed model including one on implications for collection management systems. GBIF are 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. Also, if you are interested in having a custom site to showcase your data, you might consider a GBIF-hosted data portal. There are now several portals that have been developed based on regions and themes (4). Work also continues on the Global Registry of Scientific Collections or GRSciColl (5). 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”(6). 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 by James Macklin

1: <https://docs.gbif.org/2024-work-programme/en/>

2: <https://www.gbif.org/document/50117Bxn2p1vRgpbs7aXaT/gbif-strategic-framework-2023-2027>

3: <https://www.gbif.org/new-data-model>

4: <https://www.gbif.org/hosted-portals>

5: <https://www.gbif.org/grscicoll>

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

HERITAGE EMERGENCY NATIONAL TASK FORCE (HENTF)

No report received. Thanks to Lisa Palmer for reporting previously. Please visit <https://culturalrescue.si.edu/who-we-are/hentf> for more updates.

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](#)). iDigBio includes the Symbiota Support Hub, a service team and infrastructure resource for data

portals that use the open source software Symbiota to manage and/or mobilize their data (<https://symbiota.org/>).

In 2024, iDigBio has continued its work to foster partnerships and innovations, facilitate development and sharing of digitization practices and workflows, and promote the use of biodiversity collections data by stakeholders through multiple initiatives, including:

- Enhancing and curating U.S. institution data in the Global Registry for Scientific Collections (<https://scientific-collections.gbif.org/>),
- Publishing workflows and protocols, such as AI recognition of anomaly descriptions in specimen records (<http://dx.doi.org/10.12685/bauhinia.1374>), 3D modeling of plant specimens at time of collection (<https://doi.org/10.1002/aps3.11547>), geographic and taxonomic occurrence R-based scrubbing (an R package, <https://doi.org/10.1002/aps3.11575>),
- Organizing online and in-person workshops, including the Advances in Digital Media workshop series, Immersive Media for Biodiversity Collections, Symbiota Support Group meetings, iDigBio Education and Outreach Meetings, and iDigBio Stakeholder Engagement Meetings,
- Offering courses through the Digitization Academy (<https://digitizationacademy.org/>), including Introduction to Biodiversity Digitization (in English and Spanish), Public Participation in Digitization of Biodiversity Collections, Introduction to Immersive Media for Biodiversity Collections, Digital Imaging for Biodiversity Collections, and Introduction to Photogrammetry for Biodiversity Specimen Collectors,
- Offering semiannual courses on Strategic Planning to the biodiversity collections community,
- Coordinating Worldwide Engagement for Digitizing Biocollections (WeDigBio; <https://wedigbio.org/>) events,
- Representing and promoting biodiversity collections at national and international conferences (Botanical Society of America, International Botanical Congress, Ecological Society of America, CitSci Africa Conference, European Citizen Science Association Conference),
- Coordinating the annual Digital Data in Biodiversity conference (Lawrence, KS), BioDigiCon (virtually), and iDigTRIO Biology Career Conference and Fair (<https://www.idigtrio.org/>),
- Improving the iDigBio data portal, including enhancing the support for extended specimen data and ensuring all data published to the iDigBio portal are additionally mobilized to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (<https://www.gbif.org/>) portal,
- Continuing to mobilize biodiversity specimen data to GBIF and the iDigBio portal, which now includes nearly 143M specimen records with 57M associated media records from 1,852 recordsets,
- Supporting and enhancing the management and mobilization of biodiversity specimen data through 54 Symbiota portals containing 94.5+M occurrences and 42.7M images from 1,970 collections. The Symbiota Support Hub provides portal maintenance, help desk services, community capacitation, and documentation to these communities.

We encourage the SPNHC membership to explore what iDigBio can do for you. SPNHC members may benefit from:

- the iDigBio data portal (<https://www.idigbio.org/portal/search>) of digitized specimen data from U.S. institutions

- the iDigBio listserv (IDIGBIO-L), which includes collections-related announcements and news applicable to an international audience. Send an email to listserv@lists.ufl.edu with the message “subscribe IDIGBIO-L YourFirstName YourLastName.”
- iDigBio-led events (<https://www.idigbio.org/calendar>), including courses offered through the Digitization Academy (e.g., Introduction to Biodiversity Specimen Digitization, Public Participation in Digitization of Biodiversity Collections), and Symbiota Support Group meetings, WeDigBio, and more!
- Symbiota Support Hub-hosted Symbiota portals, which can be used to manage, digitize, and share specimen data from biodiversity collections

Submitted by Katie Pearson

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

No representative. Please contact secretary@spnhc.org if you would like to report for ICOM-NATHIST.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPOSITORIES (ISBER)

ISBER celebrated its 25th anniversary this year at the 2024 Annual Meeting “Dreaming Beyond Barriers: The Future of Biobanking” in Melbourne, Australia, April 9-12, 2024, with a virtual meeting May 28-29, 2024. The meeting program highlighted global collective solutions to challenges in biobanking, emerging technologies, and environmentally conscious biobanking.

The ISBER 2024 Regional Symposium entitled “Biobanking for a Brighter Tomorrow” will be held in St. Petersburg, FL, USA from November 5-6, 2024. Registration is open until November 3, 2024. In addition to showcasing the benefits of biobanking networks for sample procurement, usage, and sharing, discussions will be held on early applications of AI technologies in biobanking. The ISBER 2025 Annual Meeting and Exhibit will be held in Montreal, Canada from May 13-16, 2025. Registrations and abstract submissions will be opening in mid-September. See www.isber.org for more information regarding meetings, workshops, and biobanking resources.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Y. Wang-Claypool, SPNHC representative to ISBER

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

Throughout 2024, the Australasian herbarium community has continued its program of online Curation Symposia, sharing ideas and experiences. This year’s presentations, which continue to be very well attended, included:

- Wey Yao Wong (Volunteer and Honorary Associate at MEL) presented their innovative work using automated image detection analysis to quantify deterioration of red algae specimens to better inform curation and monitoring protocols.

- Emma Toms (Assistant Curator) and Brendan Lepschi (Head Curator) at CANB outlined the procedures and processes they have adopted to attempt to eliminate backlogs of 'orphan' collections and donations, and in turn add valuable specimens to the collection and discard those that are not worth retaining.

In July, staff from the main state and territory herbaria joined the curation team at the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL) for an online workshop on managing fluid-preserved collections. The workshop, which was organised by Brad Bredehoff from Museum Study and delivered by John Simmons, comprised two sessions: the first focussed on the history of fluid preservation and reviewed the published recommendations for fluid-preservation of botanical specimens; and the second covered their management, including preservatives, containers, storage environment, monitoring, rehydration and safety considerations. It was an immensely valuable workshop, delivered with John's impressive depth of knowledge and characteristic wit. We will definitely consider commissioning other tailored workshops from Museum Study in future.

The Specify Collections Consortium is running a workshop hosted by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) in Perth on September 11-12, 2024. The workshop is open to anyone interested in using Specify to manage biological collections, but will focus on using Specify in herbaria, with several members of MAHC institutions attending. The Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections will hold their annual face-to-face meeting in late November at the National Herbarium of New South Wales's new facility at Mount Annan. The group has been reviewing documentation, including material transfer agreements, accession and acquisition documents, and documentation for visitors to herbaria.

Alison Vaughan, Manager Collections, National Herbarium of Victoria,
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

NATURAL SCIENCES COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION (NatSCA)

No report received. Please visit <https://www.natsca.org/> for updates.

NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE (NSC Alliance)

No report received.

PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PS)

SPNHC was well represented at the North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC) at the University of Michigan in June, with the SPNHC booth seeing lots of visitors and a number of paleontology collection managers presenting in the North American Paleontological Resources 2024 session. This session was packed with information on the history, holdings, and digital resources available for North America's major paleontology collections.

The next meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) will be held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in Anaheim, California September 22-25, 2024. The PS Collections Subcommittee of the Governmental Affairs Committee will be hosting the PS Short Course on Saturday, September 21 titled "From the earth to the repository and beyond: fossil collecting and collections issues at every level." We invite everyone to participate in this day-long educational/tutorial short course by listening to half-hour talks, engaging with panel discussions, and participating in group discussions on these important issues. Registration for GSA is NOT required to participate in the Short Course. The Short Course venue is not yet finalized but will be held either at the Anaheim Marriott or the Anaheim Convention Center. Please join us to discuss many interconnected topics on collecting and collections that are critically important to the vitality

of our community. For more information go to <https://www.paleosoc.org/short-courses>.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Cundiff, SPNHC representative to PS

SMALL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (SCNet)

No report received. Please visit <http://scnet.acis.ufl.edu/content/about-scnet> for resources.

SOCIETY OF HERBARIUM CURATORS (SHC)

The annual meeting of the Society was held June 15-19 in Grand Rapids, Michigan as part of the *Botany 2024* conference. SHC, in partnership with iDigBio, once again offered the “Strategic Planning for Herbaria” virtual course in 2024, which took place from March to May. Visit <https://www.herbariumcurators.org/newsletter/> to read *The Vasculum*, the Society’s biannual newsletter, to stay up to date with SHC’s latest activities and news.

Respectfully submitted,

Harlan Svoboda, SPNHC Representative to SHC

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (SVP)

The 83rd Annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology was hosted 14-17 October 2023 in Cincinnati Ohio and attended by numerous SPNHC members. The annual Preparators Session focuses on topics related to paleontological collections conservation and care. SPNHC is typically represented at the Preparators Committee, Government Affairs Committee, and SVP Business meetings. The 2024 SVP meeting is planned for 30 October- 2 November in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

SVP recently established a new committee on Collections and Repositories tasked with addressing policies and issues that arise related to the curation, conservation, and funding thereof, of vertebrate paleontological specimens. This committee is now fully appointed and has begun work. The membership consists of collections professionals, including collections managers, curators, and museum directors, and coordinates with the Preparators and Government Affairs Committees.

The SVP wishes to remind SPNHC members that it offers several awards and grants that might have relevance to those interested in paleontology. These include grants [<http://vertpaleo.org/the-Society/Awards.aspx>] to promote student research and fieldwork, like the Estes, Patterson, and Wood awards. The Jackson Student Travel Grant and Scientists from Economically Developing Nations grant both help support travel to the SVP annual meeting. The Hix Preparators Grant is awarded to advance fossil research, standards, and training in preparation and collections disciplines. Not all of these awards limit eligibility to current members of SVP, check the requirements carefully.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Brown, SPNHC representative to SVP

SPNHC Proposed Membership Dues Increase, August 2024

Background

Membership Committee, Finance Committee and Long-Range Planning Committee were charged with exploring rationale for increasing membership dues. The last dues increase, in 2013, raised Regular Membership from \$35 to \$45; Library subscriptions from \$45 to \$55; Institutional/Associate from \$65 to \$75; Corporate/Commercial from \$300 to \$350; and Life Membership from \$1,000 to \$1,125. Student membership rate remained at \$20. Thus, membership dues have remained static for over ten years.

Justification for raising dues

1) Benefits

- Improved member services
 - Hiring of professional service to manage member subscriptions payable by credit card, searchable online membership directory, easy renewals, accounting and financial reporting, all making various committee work less of a burden on individual members and ensuring continuity for members.
 - Interactive website with professional support and smooth integration with membership database.
 - Online membership voting services for officer nominations.
- Support of member programs
 - Support for the transfer of the SPNHC Wiki to the SPNHC website.
 - Availability of SPNHC Zoom account for committee meetings and Slack for member communications.
 - Grant and award programs (e.g., Faber and Fitzgerald).
- Publications
 - Collection Forum (<https://meridian.allenpress.com/collection-forum>) and SPNHC Connection Newsletter.
 - Special publications, e.g., —*Best Practices for the Preservation of Wet Collections* by Dirk Neumann, Julian Carter, John E. Simmons, and Oliver Crimmen, published 2022.
- Working on behalf of the community
 - Education Demo Camp.
 - Best Practices content.
 - Booth promoting SPNHC at meetings of other organizations, attracting members, recognition and collaboration.
- Support and organization of future meetings
 - Oxford Abstracts and funding support for meeting LOC (e.g., California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, 2023).
 - Up-front financing of meeting where there is no LOC (e.g., SPNHC-TDWG, Okinawa, 2024).
- Active collaborations
 - Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG), American Institute of Biological Sciences.

2) Increased costs

As the Society becomes increasingly active, collaborates on multiple initiatives and adapts to the hybrid in-person/on-line community, associated costs and the need to finance professional support services also increase to relieve volunteer committee members of unacceptable burdens.

The SPNHC-TDWG meeting, without an LOC, has taken a huge amount of effort and committee member time to organize and any financial loss must be borne by the organizing societies. The \$3000 conference loan previously given to the external LOC is woefully inadequate. Hybrid

meetings are almost twice as costly to run as in-person only. A new financial model for SPNHC-organized (without a LOC) conferences must be developed to protect the Society's financial stability while providing expected community activities. We must consider hiring a professional conference organizer along the lines of the online AIC-SPNHC meeting in 2021.

In the past the Society has cut expenses by moving to e-publication of the SPNHC Connection Newsletter and Collection Forum and is now considering print-on-demand for Collection Forum. However, there are very little savings that can be made now without additionally burdening members who already volunteer so much time and effort and reducing the scope of the work and opportunities of the Society.

How do SPNHC dues compare with other professional societies?

SPNHC Regular Membership is currently \$45/year. The examples of US Society dues listed below illustrate the exceptionally low cost of SPNHC dues, currently.

American Institute for Conservation	\$159
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists	\$100
American Society of Mammalogists	\$55
American Society of Plant Taxonomists	\$70
Paleontological Society, USA	\$75

Proposed new dues

Based on the need to better support SPNHC members and volunteer officers and develop a more robust financial model for the annual meeting, Finance, Membership and Long-Range Planning Committees recommend the following dues increases to take effect January 1, 2025. As was recommended in the previous Strategic Plan, dues should be reviewed every two years to assess whether an increase is required.

- \$55 Regular (increase of \$10)**
- \$375 Corporate (increase of \$25)**

- \$20 Student (no increase)
- \$55 Library (no increase, few subscribers, Managing Editor will be discussing future options)
- \$1,125 Life (no increase, explore paying in smaller increments)
- \$25 Print Collection Forum (no increase as Managing Editor exploring print-on-demand option)

Institutional Membership – for discussion at Council

As of 6/8/2024 there were 275 Institutional Members (70 institutions); \$12,375 worth of regular membership for \$5,250. If half of the members were students (\$8,950 worth), this would still be a saving (or loss to the Society) of \$3,700.

- Most (40) Institutional Members have a single representative for their membership, but it is optional for staff to add their details unless they want to be involved in the Society (receive emails directly, have personal access to the current CoFo). The benefit is discounted meeting registration, usually limited to 5 members.
- At the Okinawa meeting the \$75 Institutional Membership saved each institution \$500 on registration for 5 people.
- Six institutions have more than 15 members, the highest being 31 members for one institution (even if they were all students, that would still be a saving of \$545).
- Institutional membership is valuable to the Society for introducing museum professionals to SPNHC and communicating the work of SPNHC, as well as providing SPNHC with a means of encouraging involvement for museum professionals who might not otherwise join the Society.

A tiered Institutional Membership could be considered.

\$85 up to 4 members (a saving of \$135 for a smaller institution)

\$135 for 5 to 10 members

\$300 for more than 10 members

Council will discuss the breakdown and price of these tiers.

Compiled by Tiffany Adrain, Secretary.

Appendix 1

Accountant's Review Report and Financial Statements

The 2023 financial review is still being prepared by the auditor and will be attached when completed.