

THE  
**40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
OF THE  
**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION  
OF NATURAL HISTORY  
COLLECTIONS**



**SPNHC**

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

**Sustainable Futures:  
Challenges and Opportunities for Modern  
Collections**

**Lawrence, Kansas  
27-31 May 2025**

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## Agenda for the 40th Annual Business Meeting

### Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

Friday 30th May 2025, 12:30 - 15.30 (CST UTC+5)  
University of Kansas, Kansas Memorial Union, Parlors Room  
Lawrence, Kansas, USA

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82248445487?pwd=KekGaaylg9hzyEDYq58hPKcLylJUoa.1>  
Meeting ID: 822 4844 5487  
Passcode: 057137

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1. Call to order
  2. Agenda
  3. Minutes of the 2024 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. US Federal Collections
    - r. Web and Social Media
  7. Reports of Sessional Committees
    - a. California Collection Project Grants
  8. Reports of Representatives  
Due to time constraints, please refer to the printed reports, below.
  9. New Business
    - a. Awards & Recognition
    - b. Upcoming Meetings
  10. Old Business
  11. Announcements
  12. Adjournment

<b>SPNHC Members Serving on Council and Committees, 2024–2025</b>
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**COUNCIL****EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President	Greg Watkins-Colwell	2024–2026
President-Elect (Interim)	Suzanne Ryder	2024–2025
Past President	Julian Carter	2024–2026
Secretary	Shelley James	2024–2026
Managing Editor	Scott Rufolo	
Treasurer	Theresa Reilly	
(Assistant Treasurer)	Janaki Krishna)	
Membership	Robyn Crowther	

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Irene Finkelde	2022–2025
Jennifer Trimble	2022–2025
Dirk Neumann	2023–2026
Stéphanie Tessier	2023–2026
Laura Rincón	2024–2027
Adania Flemming	2024–2027

**STANDING COMMITTEES****Archives**

Carol Kelloff (Chair)	
Lisa F. Palmer	Meghann Toner

**Best Practices**

Emily Braker (Co-chair)	Stevie Kennedy-Gold
Genevieve Tocci (Co-chair)	Adam Kowalczyk
Miora Andriambelomanana	Erica Krimmel
Andy Bentley	Carrie Levitt-Bussian
Eva Biedron	Meredith Mahoney
Matthew Brown	Katherine Mallalieu
Christina Byrd	Tommy McElrath
Julian Carter	Paul Mayer
Julia Colby	Amanda Millhouse
Michelle Coyne	William Moser
Jessica Cundiff	Dirk Neumann
Raharisoanarindra Dianah	Katie Pearson
Carrie Eaton	Ann Pinzl
Leanne Elder	Nicole Seiden
Nicole Fisher	Randy Singer
Marilyn Fox	Hayley Singleton
Anya Friedrichs	Jennifer Trimble
Magalena Grenda-Kurmanow	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Shelley James	Dan Young
Carol Kelloff	Breda Zimkus

*Citations subcommittee*

Margaret Landis (Chair)
Mariko Kageyama
Ann Pinzl

**Biodiversity Crisis Response**

Alina Freire Fierro (Co-chair)	Sara Hansen
Mike Rutherford (Co-chair)	Brigitte Howarth
Martin Alvarez	Austin Mast
Arturo Arino	Anna Monfils
Usman Atique	Gil Nelson
Andy Bentley	Emily Sessa
Jutta Buschbom	Barbara Thiers
Jason Comer	Andrea Thomer
Libby Ellwood	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Aisling Farrell	Erica Wheeler
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Martin Weimers
Rachel Hackett	

**Bylaws**

Julian Carter (Chair)	Shelley James
Laura Abraczinskas	Andy Bentley

**Conference**

Suzanne Ryder (Co-chair)	
Cindy Opitz (Co-chair)	
Andy Bentley (LOC 2025)	
Wayne Florence (LOC 2026)	
Greg Watkins-Colwell	Elise LeCompte
Tiffany Adrain	Paul Mayer
Irene Finkelde	

**Conservation**

Fran Ritchie (Chair)  
 Gretchen Anderson  
 Lori Benson  
 Elena Best  
 Christina Byrd  
 Julian Carter  
 Luci Cipera  
 Katy Corneli  
 Mariana Di Giacomo  
 Kerry Etherington  
 Irene Finkelde  
 Lisa Goldberg  
 Catharine Hawks  
 Becky Kaczowski  
 Dan Kaping  
 Genevieve Kulis

Katey Lear  
 Devon Lee  
 Dani Measday  
 Armando Mendez  
 Eugenie Milroy  
 Rebecca Newberry  
 Cindy Opitz  
 Bethany Palumbo  
 Sophie Phillips  
 Erika Range  
 Peter Rosen  
 Veronique Rouchon  
 Dee Stubbs-Lee  
 Julia Sybalsky  
 Sheldon Teare  
 Robert Waller

**Education**

Molly Phillips (Chair)  
 Liz Leith (Co-secretary)  
 Jennifer Bauer (Co-secretary)  
 Maria Armour  
 Anthony Baniaga  
 Lori Benson  
 Vicky Chan  
 Christina Chandler  
 Jason Comer  
 Annmarie Fearing  
 Anja Friederichs  
 Corinne Fuchs  
 Jean-Marc Gagnon

Rachel Hackett  
 Kari Harris  
 Stephanie Killingsworth  
 Adam Kowalczyk  
 Linda Lassiter  
 Gastón Martini  
 Anna Monfils  
 Darin Penneys  
 Julia Robinson  
 Chris Tacker  
 Greg Watkins-Colwell  
 Jessa Watters  
 Luc Willemse

**Elections**

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

**Finance**

Greg Watkins-Colwell (Co-chair)  
 Barbara Thiers (Co-chair)  
 Shelley James  
 Janaki Krishna  
 Carol Kelloff  
 Suzanne McLaren  
 Theresa Reilly  
 Scott Rufolo

**IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access)**

Vanessa Delnavaz (Chair)  
 Molly Phillips (Co-secretary)  
 Hayley Singleton Hyde (Co-secretary)  
 Gretchen Anderson  
 Lyndell Bade  
 John Bates  
 Alnycea Blackwell  
 Laura Briscoe  
 Julian Carter  
 Amalia Diaz  
 Ron Eng  
 Adania Flemming  
 Lisa Goldberg  
 Talia Karim  
 Jennifer Lanman  
 Paul Mayer  
 Rebecca Newberry  
 Deborah Paul  
 Theresa Reilly  
 Marcy Revelez  
 Fran Ritchie  
 Laura Rincón  
 Randy Singer  
 Barbara Thiers  
 Genevieve Tocci  
 Richard Wittie  
 Breda Zimkus

**Legislation and Regulations**

Dirk Neumann (Co-chair)  
 Breda Zimkus (Co-chair)  
 Jutta Buschbom  
 Mariel Campbell  
 Stephanie Carson  
 Emily Conforto  
 Olwen Grace  
 Alaina Harmon  
 Benjamin Hess  
 Shelley James  
 William (Geoff) Keel  
 Jeremy Kisala  
 Adam Kowalczyk  
 Sarah Loudin  
 Mariana Marques  
 Jacqueline Miller  
 Bill Moser  
 Jessica Nakano  
 Trina Roberts  
 Lori Schlenker  
 Fiona Ware  
 Greg Watkins-Colwell

**Long-Range Planning**

Suzanne Ryder (Co-chair)  
 Cindy Opitz (Co-chair)  
 Laura Abraczinskas  
 Tiffany Adrain  
 Shelley James  
 Anna Monfils  
 Dirk Neumann  
 Deborah Paul  
 Ann Pinzl  
 Barbara Thiers

**Membership**

Robyn Crowther (Chair)  
 Suzanne Ryder  
 Elana Benamy  
 Talia Karim  
 Ann Pinzl  
 Suzanne Ryder  
 Greg Watkins-Colwell  
 Theresa Reilly

**Networking and Career Development**

Hannah Bendull (Co-chair)	Robyn Crowther
Megan King (Co-chair)	Kari Harris
Meg Phillips (Co-chair)	Kevin Krajcir
Marie Angel	Jessie Nakano
Elana Benamy	Gil Nelson
Christina Byrd	Rusty Russell

*Travel Grants subcommittee*

Elise LeCompte (Chair)

*Mentorship subcommittee*

Meghann Toner (Chair)

**Publications**

Scott Rufolo (Chair) Managing Editor  
 Lisa Goldberg (Assoc. Editor) Book Reviews  
 Breda Zimkus (Editor) Technical Leaflets  
 Carol Kelloff (Chair) Archives

*SPNHC Connection*

Liath Appleton (Editor)  
 Lori Schlenker (Assoc. Editor)

*Collection Forum*

Mariel Campbell (Assoc. Editor)  
 Mariana di Giacomo (Assoc. Editor)  
 Shelley James (Assoc. Editor)  
 Genevieve Tocci (Assoc. Editor)

**Recognition & Grants**

Julian Carter (Chair)  
 Andy Bentley  
 Jean-Marc Gagnon  
 Suzanne McLaren

**US Federal Collections**

Janaki Krishna (Co-chair)	Cailin Meyer
Carrie A. Eaton (Co-chair)	Laura Knutson Murray
Greg Liggett (Co-chair)	Jessica Nakano
Erin Bilyeu	Conni O'Connor
Rochelle Bennet	Caroline Palmer
Bernd Bock	Lindsay Palaima
Carrie Levitt Bussian	Kari Alyssa Prassack
Stephanie Carson	Tiana Rehman
Fernando Cervantes	Catherine Riddle
Katy Corneli	Fran Ritchie
Julia Grasso	Shannen Robson
Alaina Harmon	Adam Rountrey
John Harwick	Margaret Rubin
Jasmine Heckman	Kara Schneiderman
Kelly Hood	Bruce Schumacher
Juliette Hook	Steven Sullivan
Mariko Kageyama	Harlan Svoboda
Anya Kitterman	Meghan Truckey
Erica Krimmel	Jacob Van Veldhuizen
Jennifer Leasor	Nicole Volden
Liz Leith	Miriam Watson
Kirsten MacKenzie	Justin Wilkins
	Miranda Zwingelberg

**Web & Social Media**

Liath Appleton (Chair)  
 James Macklin  
 Jessica Utrup

*Social Media Team*

Mariana DiGiacomo  
 Aditi Jayarajan  
 Liath Appleton

*YouTube Managers*

Andy Bentley  
 Emily Braker  
 Paul Mayer  
 Genevieve Tocci

*Website Editors*

Laura Abraczinskas  
 Tiffany Adrain  
 Shelley James  
 Anna Monfils  
 Molly Phillips  
 Theresa Reilly  
 Suzanne Ryder  
 Lori Schlenker  
 Jessica Utrup

*Slack Administration*

Mariana DiGiacomo  
 Deborah Paul  
 Genevieve Tocci  
 Greg Watkins-Colwell

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## SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

### California Collection Project Grants

Irene Finkelde (Chair)	Laura Eklund
Greg Watkins-Colwell	Moe Flannery
Paul Mayer	Megan King
Theresa Reilly	Hannah Bendull

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## ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION

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

**American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC):** *open position*

**American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS):** Anna Monfils

**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 Simmons

**Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG):** James Macklin

**Collections Stewardship Professional Network, AAM (CS-AAM):** John Simmons

**Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF):** Jutta Buschbom

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** Jutta Buschbom

**Entomological Collections Network (ECN):** Dan Young

**Geological Curators' Group (GCG):** Andrew Haycock

**Geological Society of America (GSA):** Chris Tacker

**Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF):** James Macklin

**Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF):** Lisa Palmer

**Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio):** Katie Pearson

**International Council of Museums—Committee for Collections of Natural History (ICOM-NATHIST):** *open position*

**International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER):** Cynthia 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 Cundiff

**Small Collections Network (SCNet):** Anna Monfils

**Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC):** Harlan Svoboda

**Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP):** Matthew Brown

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## Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting 2024

### 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

**Members present:** 47 in person; 11 online.

**1. Call to order:** 9:02 am

Greg Watkins-Colwell (incoming President) and Shelley James (incoming Secretary) chaired the meeting in lieu of Julian Carter and Tiffany Adrain, who could not be present.

GWC welcomed everyone, and thanked the outgoing and new members of Council:

- Interim President-elect: Sue Ryder
- Incoming Members at Large: Laura Rincón and Adania Flemming
- Incoming Secretary: Shelley James
- New Membership Committee chair: Robyn Crowther.

Upcoming elections – GWC encouraged everyone to consider colleagues and submit nominations. As well as President-elect, also looking for two Members at Large to serve from 2025 to 2028.

- Two Members-At-Large
- President-Elect

**2. Agenda**

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

Moved: Paul Mayer

Seconded: Carol Kelloff

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: 0

**Passed unanimously**

**3. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Business Meeting**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting, held on 2 June 2023, 10.00am PST (UTC-8) at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square and online, via Zoom (found on page 8 of the ABM packet).

Moved: Paul Mayer

Seconded: Sue Ryder

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: 0

**Passed unanimously**

**4. Report of the President**

See written report starting on page 12 of the ABM packet.

**5. Report of the Treasurer**

TR referred to written report, beginning on page 13 of the ABM packet. TR encouraged members to pay their dues on time and send potential new members to the SPNHC website to join. Thankyou to our generous donors.

**Motion:** To accept SPNHC new members for 2023 and 2024, as listed on p. 17-18 of the ABM packet.

Moved: Paul Mayer

Seconded: Cindy Opitz

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: 0

**Passed unanimously**

**Motion:** To accept the report of the Treasurer and 2024 budget.

Moved: Meghann Toner

Seconded: Jessica Utrup

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: 0

**Passed unanimously**

## 6. Reports of Standing Committees

GCW 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
- d. Biodiversity Crisis Response
- e. Conference
- f. Conservation
- g. Education
- h. Elections
- i. Finance
- j. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA)
- k. Legislation and Regulations
- l. Long-Range Planning – Suzanne Ryder shared the Strategic Plan draft, requested membership feedback, and indicated this would be implemented in January 2025.
- m. Membership
- n. Networking and Career Development –Megan King is seeking a co-chair from membership with Jessie Nakano and Kevin Krajcir retiring from their positions.
- o. Publications
- p. Recognition and Grants
- q. Web and Social Media

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

- a. Collection Theft & Security Monitoring in Collections – Paul Mayer recommends interested members refer to the wiki page for reference; this committee has now completed its work.
- b. US Federal Collections

## 8. Reports of Representatives

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

## 9. New Business

### a. Awards & Recognition.

- i. GCW congratulated the **Travel Grant Awards** Recipients (see page \_30-31\_ of the ABM packet). 14 awards were granted (but not all were ultimately accepted).
- ii. Paul Mayer announced the 2024 Awards:
  - **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** (introduced by Tim White)  
Awarded for superior service to the Society this year it is presented to Laura Abraczinskas.
  - **THE EARLY CAREER AWARD** (introduced by Tim White)  
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 our partners for this meeting, Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) (accepted by David Bloom).

### b. Upcoming Meetings

- SPNHC 2025, University of Kansas. GWC invited Andy Bentley (online) to present a

video inviting the membership to join SPNHC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting.

**Motion:** To accept the invitation from the University of Kansas as host of the 2025 SPNHC meeting.

Moved: Meghann Toner

Seconded: Carol Kelloff

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: 0

**Passed unanimously**

10. **Old Business - none**

11. **Announcements**

- a. GWC thanked outgoing Members-at-Large: Vanessa Delnavaz, Meghann Toner; outgoing President and Past President: Julian Carter and Paul Mayer, and outgoing Secretary: Tiffany Adrain.
- b. GWC thanked SPNHC Office Manager (Christy Classi) for her service in 2025, and welcomed incoming Members-at-Large: Adania Flemming, Laura Rincón; Interim President-elect Sue Ryder, Secretary Shelley James.

**Motion:** To accept draft of strategic Plan with implementation in January.

Moved: Paul Mayer

Seconded: Jennifer Trimble

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: 0

**Passed unanimously**

**Motion:** To accept increase in dues for individual full members and institutions (tiered 1-4 'members' \$85, 5-10 'members' \$135, >10 'members' \$300) and reviewed annually.

Moved: Cindy Opitz

Seconded: Irene Finkelde

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: 0

**Passed unanimously**

12. **Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the 2024 Annual Business Meeting.

Moved: Laura Abraczinskas

Seconded: Paul Myer

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: 0

**Passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 9.55 am.

## Report of the President

Happy 40th birthday SPNHC!!! It feels like it has been a very busy year since our meeting in Okinawa. In reality, that was only about 8 months ago! We have been quite busy as a professional society doing our collective best to raise awareness of collections and their importance.

Last September we met with TDWG in Okinawa. This was our first meeting in Asia and only our second joint meeting with TDWG. The process was not easy, and I commend those who served SPNHC by helping organize an amazing meeting! In the end, the conference was very well attended and led to a lot of networking and collaborations with people that may be new to SPNHC. Well done!

In terms of elections, Sue Ryder was officially elected as President Elect and will serve in that role until next year's in-person meeting (in Cape Town, South Africa!!!!) where I will hand her the gavel. I thank Irene Finkelde and Jennifer Trimble for their service in the role of Member-at-Large as they rotate out of that position, and I would like to formally welcome Mariana DiGiacomo and Jessica Utrup as incoming Members-at-Large for 2025-2028.

The new Strategic Plan is complete and in operation. Thank you to Sue Ryder for wrangling that process and to the entire Long Range Planning Committee for input, wordsmithing, ideas and generally helping to move this important project forward.

One of the outcomes of the new Strategic Plan is the new Conference Guidelines and an update to the SPNHC Policies that relate to conferences. Changes were needed to address new budgetary and funding issues and to help streamline the entire process of conference planning. Significant effort was made to make things simpler and to give the local hosts more freedom and more assistance. Cindy Opitz put in many long hours on this project and the end result is already being used by future local organizing committees.

In response to new budget and funding activities, especially (but not only) those relating to conferences, the Finance Committee was reborn. Barbara Theirs agreed to chair the committee and major progress has been made looking at the Society's expenditures and subtle things like insurance! Thanks to Barbara and the entire Finance Committee for taking this on.

Following the meeting in Okinawa, we welcomed Janaki Krishna to the newly minted role of Deputy Treasurer. The plan is that the Deputy Treasurer will be able to take some of the workload off the Treasurer, while working with the Finance Committee, to make the Society's financial future more secure; and help share the responsibilities.

Additionally, this year we had a new sessional committee for the California Collections Improvement Grant. This was the result of a grant SPNHC received from The California Institute for Biodiversity to basically give out money to fund projects relating to California, either specimens from California, or collections in California. Irene Finkelde chaired that committee which reviewed a few dozen proposals for funds to curate and stabilize collections that relate to the state of California. The decisions were very difficult and quite competitive. But in the end, several worthy projects received funding, and several collections will receive much-needed care.

One thing that remains constant through time is that the Society relies heavily upon the dedicated help of members who give freely of their time. I cannot thank these volunteers enough for their hard work. This organization would quite literally not be able to do anything without it. Thank you!

Likewise, SPNHC would not exist without the members. Thanks to all our members for your continued support of the Society. We've done a lot in the past several months and the months ahead look equally challenging. Together, we will weather the challenges and continue to do

good things for the collections community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Watkins-Cowell

## Report of the Treasurer

See Appendix 1 (page 40).

## New Memberships Received in 2024-2025

### Corporate Members

--

### Institutional Members

Arkansas State University  
Ocean Institute  
University of California, Davis- Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology  
Museum of Texas Tech University  
Museum of Riverside  
The Children's Museum of Indianapolis  
University of California Santa Barbara  
The Royal Danish Academy  
UC Davis Bohart Museum of Entomology

### Lifetime Members

Kinsey Brock  
Quentin Cronk  
Nancy Stevens  
Christopher Stinson

### Regular Members

Andreas Abele-Rassuly  
Elizabeth Adams  
Melissa Anderson  
Gizelle Batomalaque  
Rachel Berglund  
Robin Bingham  
Amanda Bremner  
Veronica Bueno  
Bethany Burke Franklin  
Christine Chandler  
Stylianios Chatzimanolis  
Maria Coltharp  
Anamaria Dal Molin  
Sean Daly  
Charles Davis  
Sarah De Groot  
Barbara de Moura Neves  
Brenna Decker  
Emmy Delekta  
Andre DeLorme  
Melanie Edwards

Mariah Green  
Lázaro Guevara  
Alison Harrington  
Rebecca Hawkins  
Abigail Hines  
Patricia Holroyd  
Anna Jerve  
Ianto Jocks  
Erynn Johnson  
Garret Jolma  
Matthew Jones  
Daniel Kaping  
Jason Karakehian  
Rebecca Kartzinel  
Nicole Kearney  
Faith Kelly  
Marc Kibbey  
Andrew Kinziger  
Sayaka Kobayashi  
Brynn Kramer  
Gigi Kulis

Erin Messenger  
James Mickley  
Alison Miller  
NicksonE Otieno  
Pamela Owen  
Caroline Palmer  
Katie Pearson  
Claudia A. Reyes-Valdez  
Claudia Rocha  
Peter Rosen  
Matthew Sheik  
John Sime  
Rabern Simmons  
Michelle Simpson  
Elin Soderlund  
Laura Stapleton  
Lena Struwe  
Cody Thompson  
Efstratia Verveniotou  
Maria Vila i Casòliva  
Lindsay Walker

Mikkel Ege Bartholdy  
Anna Fowler  
Diego F. García-mendoza  
Kristina Gaugler  
Samantha Getty  
Edward Gilbert

Natalia Lopez Carranza  
Eric LoPresti  
Nicole Mack  
Alyssa McGurer  
Bryan McLean  
Ana Mendoza Maya

Rose Wilhoyt  
Basil Williams  
Andrew Wilson  
Robin Wu  
Vicky Zhuang

#### **Student Members**

Omotayo Agunbiade  
Emilie Barengien  
Elena Best  
Julia Boldrick  
Beatrice Bugos  
Brittany Burgard  
Alison Carranza  
Laila Cook  
Austin Cosner  
Sadie Crandall  
Katherine Crawford  
Davide Dal Pos  
Meig Dickson  
Elizabeth Downey  
Alexandra Eastman

Hannah Eichelberger  
Alexandra Fernandes  
Dominik Gietl  
Whitney Greaves  
Lily Hart  
Arden Hody  
Skylar Johnston  
Taylor Kinchen  
Victoria Makowski  
Patricia Marquez  
Nicole McGee  
Lindsay Nottingham  
Dianne Nyhof  
Giovanna Omura  
Austin Plagens

Logan Roberts  
Mariah Rogers  
Kris Romero  
Ryan Schmidt  
Shreya Mansingh Shinde  
Pascal Sibomana  
Colleen Sullivan  
Keelie Taylor  
Casey Thater  
Miranda Theriot  
Patricia Torres  
Aime Sandrine Uwase  
Kaiden Walton  
Yuanhao Zhang

## **MEMBER-AT-LARGE REPORTS**

### **IRENE FINKELDE (2022–2025)**

Over the past year I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with SPNHC and meeting so many new like-minded people through the organization. I attended the annual meeting in Okinawa in 2024, which was such an amazing opportunity to connect with other SPNHC members and make new professional networks.

In my role as Member-At-Large my main role has been to chair the sessional committee for 'California Collection Project Grants' to oversee the allocation of funding that SPNHC received from the California Institute for Biodiversity. It has been great to work with the sessional committee to review applications and select successful applicants.

Whilst this is my last year serving as a Member-At-Large on the SPNHC Council, I will continue to remain involved in the Society through my involvement with other committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Finkelde

### **ADANIA FLEMMING (2024–2027)**

No report received.

### **DIRK NEUMANN (2023 – 2026)**

No report received.

## **LAURA RINCÓN (2024–2027)**

One of the goals I'm working towards is getting more representation from colleagues who work in South America and Central America. I sent an invitation in April to have a listening session with a couple of questions that we will discuss during our session. These are the questions:

1. What drew you to become a member? Or if you're not a member, would you like to be interested in being involved with SPNHC?
2. What SPNHC resources have you used in the past and which were the most beneficial as well as the least beneficial?
3. What would ease your participation and use of SPNHC resources?
4. What are the barriers and benefits with being part of SPNHC?
5. Will it be helpful to have the SPNHC website available in Spanish? Is English a barrier or you?
6. When you need to get information about collections management, what are the resources you use to search for this information?

Shanna Hillard from IDEA committee kindly gave me feedback and advice about my questions.

I expect to meet with fellows from Chile, Paraguay, Colombia, Argentina and other countries at the end of May or starting June to discuss about SPNHC and how we can make it more accessible.

I have not had too much time for this project, but I expect to also get contact information from colleagues in Central America. This is a long-term project which I'm excited to work with, and see SPNHC expanding to more countries and languages.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Rincón

## **STÉPHANIE TESSIER (2023-2026)**

No report received.

## **JENNIFER TRIMBLE (2022-2025)**

No report received.

# **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **ARCHIVES**

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) houses the archives of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). SIA currently holds 16 deposits of SPNHC material totaling 23.5 cubic feet. Examples of this material include *Collection Forum*, SPNHC, newsletters, documentation of annual meetings, financial files, election ballots, member-at-large files, various committee files, videos, CDs, and photographs.

The members of the archive committee act as liaisons between SIA and SPNHC. In preparation for the transfer to SIA, the documentation and material related to the activity of the Society are organized in archival boxes and a “finding aid” typed for each box. The material is arranged in folders with year, type of documentation and a brief summary of the folder’s content. When

known, files received from individuals are noted. Although the Society has moved to electronic publications, these are printed and cataloged for deposit. The finding aid along with the boxes are transferred to SIA, where an accession number is assigned to the deposit and the finding aid uploaded to the SIA website.

Material, documentation, images, and publications continue to be collected by the Archive Committee. Where possible, any material sent to the participants such as the book of abstracts, committee reports, schedules, etc. were printed. 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 2024 Okinawa Japan meeting and the 2025 meeting that will be held in Lawrence, Kansas this year. All material gathered 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](mailto:osiaref@si.edu) to retrieve records.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Kelloff, Meghann Toner & Lisa Palmer

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## BEST PRACTICES

This year the Best Practices Committee focused on transferring SPNHC wiki content to the main SPNHC website. A little over a year after being attacked, the Biowikifarm server came back online with partial functionality. Committee chairs hired a web developer to harvest this content, as well as check against content versions on the Internet Archive, and remount it on the SPNHC.org server. In the process of capturing and restoring this information, the resource is now under the direct stewardship of the SPNHC organization. We are pleased to share that as of this month (May 2025), all wiki content has been successfully transferred to SPNHC.org, so please explore this resource! We would like to especially thank webmaster Liath Appleton for her collaboration in this intensive process and for improving navigation of the wiki within the SPNHC website, as well as the Executive Committee for approving funds for this project. In addition to perusing wiki content, site users can query the main search bar to find wiki topics, which are integrated with other SPNHC.org resources to increase discoverability. There is an improved mechanism for submitting wiki content by using a simple submission form available on the wiki home page. We are hopeful this will streamline both the submission and review process for new content. For any questions or comments, please contact [bpchairs@spnhc.org](mailto:bpchairs@spnhc.org).

The Committee continued our virtual coffee hour series with Best Practices members on special topics, including working with collections volunteers, students, and interns as well as discussing our experiences with NAGPRA in natural history collections. We look forward to continuing this on a quarterly basis with member suggested topics for discussion.

Once again, the Best Practices Committee will host the *Back to Basics: Museum Techniques Skillshare* symposium for its fourth year at the 2025 SPNHC Annual Meeting in Lawrence, Kansas. This session includes 14 talks on a diversity of collections management topics. Chairs will also participate in the committee fair to recruit new members, and look forward to connecting in person!

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Braker & Genevieve Tocci

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## BIODIVERSITY CRISIS RESPONSE

As it has only been a short time since the last report was submitted there has not been much activity in this committee. The main output was the symposium suggestion for the next SPNHC conference, titled “Standing Together for Biodiversity”. Although the symposium idea was accepted, only one talk was submitted for this session so the symposium was cancelled.

For the conference the BCRC suggested once again holding a bioblitz run on iNaturalist for the duration of the event and encouraging members to take part in a clean-up exercise. These ideas were developed by the conference organizers and are now part of the agenda.

Two meetings were held online between the February 2025 Report and the submission of this report. For more details see [Living meeting notes](#). The following topics were discussed:

- Finding potential speakers for the “Standing Together for Biodiversity” symposium
- General state of things in the USA and how that affects museums and collections
- Brief report back from the Latin American Botanical Congress and how we can collaborate with interested attendees
- How to collaborate more with other SPNHC committees
- Participation in the City Nature Challenge bioblitzes
- BCRC potentially making a list of funding sources for SPNHC members

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike G. Rutherford & Alina Freire-Fierro

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## BYLAWS

No activities to report.

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## CONFERENCE

Following the launch of the SPNHC Strategic plan at the beginning of the year it became apparent that guidelines for the local organizing committees (LOC) that agree to host SPNHC conferences needed updating. During strategic planning meetings, evidenced from the members’ survey and feedback from past LOC’s, it was clear that our model for hosting conferences was no longer attractive. The structure was set up more than 20 years ago and did not address the current needs and financial risks the LOC face when they organize this large event. With proposed changes agreed in the strategic plan the conference committee, led by Cindy Opitz, have updated the conference guidelines to make them more useful and hopefully more attractive to prospective hosts. SPNHC Council approved the updated guidelines earlier this year.

[https://spnhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2025\\_SPNHC\\_Meeting\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://spnhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2025_SPNHC_Meeting_Guidelines.pdf)

In conjunction with this work the conference committee met regularly with the chair of the LOC for this year’s generous host, the Biodiversity Institute at the University of Kansas. The committee have worked to support and advise where necessary, although Andy Bentley and LOC team have proved very efficient and organized and have pulled together the conference in an unusually short period without needing much support. We are very grateful to Andy and the team at the University of Kansas and very much look forward to the conference.

The final element of this year's effort has been to secure a host for the 2026 SPNHC conference. We were very excited to have accepted an offer to host the next conference in South Africa. More details will follow soon.

The objectives for the coming year are to:

- Provide support and advice to the South African LOC to ensure the first SPNHC conference to be hosted in Africa is a wonderful experience for all and a great opportunity for natural history collections networking.
- Secure a suitable host for the 2027 SPNHC conference and subsequent conferences.
- Work to implement the goals and objectives of the new strategy.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Ryder & Cindy Opitz

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## 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 specific projects on an as-needed basis, but mostly focus on continuing the presence of conservation research, interventive practice, and holistic preventive care within the SPNHC community. In recent years, when possible, 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](mailto: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 current 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 2026.

There are no conservation-specific workshops offered at the 2025 meeting, but there will be several sessions and talks presented to help the Society at large with preservation concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Ritchie

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## EDUCATION

No report received.

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## ELECTIONS

No report received.

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## FINANCE

The Finance Committee was revived in September 2024, and meetings in October 2024 and January 2025. The Committee reviewed the original 2020 charge for the committee and made minor revisions. The revised charge is as follows: *The Finance Committee acts solely in an advisory capacity to the Treasurer and Council. The committee consists of a chairperson or two co-chairpersons and three to five committee members. The function of the committee is to: 1) review the annual budget prepared by the Treasurer before it is submitted for the annual meeting and make recommendations as needed 2) review the financial policies of SPNHC and make recommendations to the Council as needed 3) recommend investment strategies for Council approval, and 4) oversee the responsible investment of SPNHC funds as directed by the* With the help of the Treasurer, the Committee became familiar with the budgets for 2024 and 2025, but was unable to gain a full understanding of the financial status of the organization because we were not given access to a full account of the assets and liabilities of the organization (e.g., the information provided to the IRS from the financial audit). The lack of this information has made it impossible to proceed with the activities of the Finance Committee, even the application for Directors and Officers insurance for the Society. At the time of submission of this report, the Finance Committee has not received any budgets for the 2025 Annual Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara M. Thiers

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## INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY (IDEA)

At the moment, the IDEA committee's leadership is open. If you are interested in becoming a Co-chair for this committee, please reach out to the Executive Council.

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## LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The Legislation and Regulations Committee is working with the American Society of Mammalogists, Society for Marine Mammalogy, and ZooMu Network to determine a strategy for engaging with USFWS to come to a common understanding on 'bona fide research'. The joint statement aims to demonstrate that natural history collections are bona fide research institutions that promote current and future research. The Committee previously contacted the Marine Mammal Commission regarding advice and support for this effort, but no response was received. Unfortunately, the Committee has recently learned that the federal government's budget proposal includes the elimination of the commission and its staff beginning Oct. 1, 2025.

The Committee collaborated on two joint submissions with the Alliance of University and Non-University Biodiversity Research in Germany and its European partners. The German Alliance represents all major Natural History Museums in the Consortium of German Natural History Research Collections (DNFS), the Leibniz Research Network Biodiversity, and the Association of Biology, Biosciences and Biomedicine in Germany (VBIO). The European partners include the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF), the Biological Resource Center of Institut Pasteur (CRBIP), the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO), the European Reference Genome Atlas (ERGA), and the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN). The two joint submissions include:

1) [Views on possible additional modalities](#) of the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund ("The Cali Fund"); for additional information, see [Notification 2024-114](#).

2) [Views on possible new tools and models](#), such as databases, for making digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available and accessible for the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund ("The Cali Fund"); for additional information, see [Notification 2024-115](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Dirk Neumann & Breda Zimkus

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## LONG-RANGE PLANNING

The focus of the committee this year has been to complete and launch the new SPNHC Strategic Plan. The committee has worked hard to shape the strategy and incorporate all the helpful comments and suggestions from the other SPNHC committees and wider membership. The strategy was accepted by voting members and implemented at the end of January 2025. The LRP Committee would like to thank all those who contributed to this project, we hope the strategic plan will help give the Society direction and focus going forward.

[https://spnhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](https://spnhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025_Strategic_Plan.pdf)

The objectives for the coming year are to:

- Produce a report for Council after reviewing current partnerships SPNHC has in place and their mandate, role, and relationships to make sure they are up to date and continue to be beneficial to both parties.
- Work with the standing committees to implement the goals and objectives of the new strategy.
- The new strategic plan proposes some changes to the financial model of SPNHC, so the LRP initially needs to work with the finance and conference committee to enable the other standing committees to achieve the goals of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Ryder & Cindy Opitz

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## MEMBERSHIP

The membership committee would like to thank Christy Classi and her administrative team for the invaluable work they continue to do for the Society and this committee in particular. I would also like to thank Suzanne Ryder for her ongoing support as deputy chair this year.

### Membership dues increase

At last year's ABM, Council agreed to increase membership fees for the first time since 2013. The affected membership levels are Regular Online Only Membership and Corporate/Commercial Online Only Membership with an increase of \$10 and \$25 respectively. No other levels of

membership were affected by increases.

\$55 Regular (increase of \$10)

\$375 Corporate (increase of \$25)

\$20 Student (no increase)

\$55 Library (no increase)

\$1,125 Life (no increase)

\$25 Print *Collection Forum* (no increase)

The increased rates came into effect in October 2024 for new members only. Anyone that received a renewal notice in 2024 was charged at the old rate. From October 2025, all members, existing and new, will pay the increased rate.

An auto renew option has also been introduced for the following membership types:

- *Collection Forum* Print Only
- Regular Online Only Member
- Regular Print and Online Membership
- Student Online Only Member
- Student Print and Online Member

☐ **Student Online Only Member - \$20.00 (USD)**  
Subscription period: 1 year, on: January 1st  
No automatically recurring payments

☒ **Student Online Only Member - Auto Renew - \$20.00 (USD)**  
Subscription period: 1 year, on: January 1st  
Automatic renewal (recurring payments)

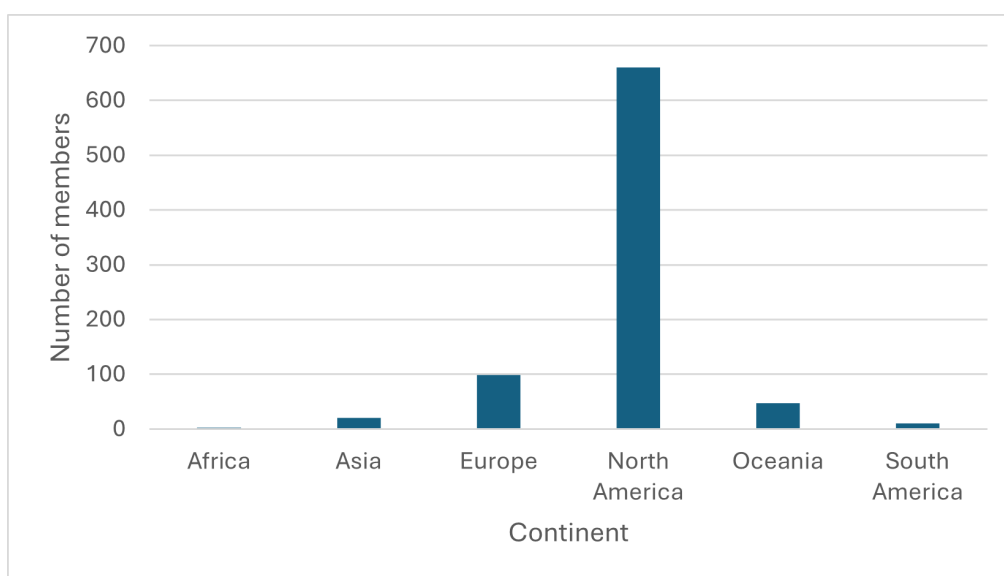
Choosing the auto renew option means fees will be automatically taken on January 1. It is hoped that this will reduce the number of lapsed memberships at the start of the membership year.

### Membership Statistics

As of May 6, 2025, the current total number of members is 839.

Membership level	Active
Collection Forum Print Only	19
Collection Forum Print Only - Auto Renew	2
Corporate/Commercial Online Only Member	1
Corporate/Commercial Print and Online Member	-
Institutional / Associate Online Only Member - 10+ Members	127
Institutional / Associate Online Only Member - 5-10 Members	38
Institutional / Associate Online Only Member - up to 4 Members	87
Institutional/Associate Print and Online Member - 10+ Members	28
Institutional/Associate Print and Online Member - 5-10 Members	11
Institutional/Associate Print and Online Member - Up to 4 Members	3
Library/Subscription Online Only Service	9
Library/Subscription Print and Online Service	15
Lifetime Member - Paid in full	32
Regular Online Only Member	361
Regular Online Only Member - Auto Renew	17
Regular Print and Online Member	15
Regular Print and Online Membership Auto-Renew	3
Student Online Only Member	62
Student Online Only Member - Auto Renew	2
Student Print and Online Member	6
Student Print and Online Member - Auto Renew	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>839</b>

This international Society has members represented in 30 countries. The majority of SPNHC members are based in North America but membership in Australia and South America has increased slightly since the beginning of this membership year. The continent of Africa continues to be underrepresented with only three members residing and working there.



Society supports early career professionals while also drawing on the expertise and knowledge of more experienced members. There is a relatively even split between more and less experienced members. Of those that provided data, 52% had worked with collections for 10 years or less versus 48% that had more than 10 years' experience.

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 in Manchester, UK, and will be at the Geological Society of America annual meeting held in Boston, MA in November.

The Membership committee has purchased stickers to give away at conferences to promote the Society. If you have a suggestion for exhibiting the in-person or virtual Membership Booth at upcoming conferences, or you wish to hand out stickers at an upcoming event please contact Robyn Crowther ([membership@spnhc.org](mailto:membership@spnhc.org)). You may be eligible for full complimentary conference registration. The Committee is also happy to hear from anyone with connections at future SPNHC Annual Meeting locations who can help us widen the membership reach of the Society.



Figures: SPNHC booth (left) and the shiny new stickers (right) exhibited at the NatSCA 2025 conference.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robyn Crowther

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## NETWORKING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

No report received.

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## PUBLICATIONS

### ***COLLECTION FORUM***

Due to a low volume of submissions and delays in the editorial process, articles continue to be published online in Volume 36 of *Collection Forum* (dated 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 two published articles as of this report. Four manuscripts submitted prior to 2025 are already in the review process, three of which will be published shortly in Volume 36. In order to catch up to the current year, Volume 36 will be closed with these five articles and Volume 37 will be opened for subsequent submissions. Volume 37 will be dated 2023–2024 and closed after four articles have been published. At least three new manuscripts should be submitted to *Collection Forum* over the next few months based on inquiries from authors.

Immediate access to the online journal's full range of content— and to periodic print issues, for those members whose subscription level includes the print version—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* is under development and will soon be finalized. The draft guidelines cover a broader range of formatting issues than the previous version, clearly establishing more comprehensive 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 mid-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](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

Two special projects to be launched in 2025 include a second themed volume of *Collection Forum* focusing on fluid-preserved collections and a volume devoted to presenting articles based on content presented at the 2025 annual meeting in Lawrence, Kansas.

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 associate 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](mailto:membership@spnhc.org). Please confirm and update membership at <https://spnhc.wildapricot.org/join-us> or contact the SPNHC Treasurer at [treasurer@spnhc.org](mailto: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](mailto:bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu) or the managing editor of *Collection Forum* at [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

## BOOK REVIEWS

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

## JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER ACCESS

A reminder that past issues of the newsletter and the journal are available online at <https://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](mailto: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](mailto:kelloffc@si.edu) or at [editor@spnhc.org](mailto: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](mailto:editor@spnhc.org)  
*SPNHC Connection* (Liath Appleton, Editor): [newsletter@spnhc.org](mailto:newsletter@spnhc.org)  
*SPNHC Leaflets* (Breda Zimkus, Editor): [bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu)  
 Book Reviews (Lisa Goldberg, Associate Editor): [lgoldberg@lgpreservation.com](mailto:lgoldberg@lgpreservation.com)

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

Respectfully submitted,  
 Scott Rufolo

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## RECOGNITION AND GRANTS

See also page:

### Report on the Activities of the SPNHC Travel Grant 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 some manner. Ways to contribute included, but are not limited to:

- Presenting a paper or poster at the 2025 SPNHC conference in Lawrence, KS.
- 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 were a total of thirty (30) applicants. We had a total of \$3000 for the Fitzgerald grants and \$750 for the Christine Allen grant. We awarded four (4) Fitzgerald grants and one (1) Christine Allen grant. We received applications from several underrepresented countries—The Galapagos Islands, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Norway, and Rwanda.

Meeting mentors will be assigned to those recipients that requested them through registration on the conference website. My thanks to the SPNHC members who served as grant reviewers—Greg Colwell-Watkins, Paul Mayer, and Sue Ryder. Bill Moser graciously volunteered to be a grant reviewer again this year but was unable to attend our review meeting. 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:**

#### Christine Allen Award:

##### **Andrea Carvajal Román**

Collections Assistant, Collection of Terrestrial Invertebrates (ICCDRS), The Charles Darwin Foundation, Puerto Ayora, The Galapagos

#### Fitzgerald Award:

##### **Claudia Alejandra Reyes-Valdez**

Technical academic, Colección de Vertebrados (Vertebrate Collection), Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Baja California, Mexico

##### **Janelle Morris**

Assistant Botanist, Natural History Museum of Jamaica (NHMJ), Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica

##### **Pascal Sibomana**

Botanist and Herbarium Collections Manager, University of Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda

##### **Pritha Dey**

Head, Research Collections Facility, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Karnataka, India

Respectfully submitted,

Elise V. LeCompte

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## **US FEDERAL COLLECTIONS**

The US Federal Collections Committee continues to work towards building connections between federal agencies and non-federal organizations to increase collections accessibility and streamline the management of federal collections by non-federal repositories. We have now formally moved from a sessional committee to a full committee of SPNHC. We are glad to be able to continue our productive conversations and keep communications open with our federal partners. For the past year, we have met and discussed the new NAGPRA implementation law as well as the state of agreements and contracts in this ever-changing landscape. We plan to continue our efforts towards a standard vocabulary for federal ownership in digitizing federal collections.

Changes within the federal government since January have been chaotic and profound. As the current administration seeks to reduce the budget and workforce, there are significant implications to museums across the country. As of this report, the fundamental changes are not over as more cuts, especially to federal staff, are expected soon.

Grants and funding from agencies like the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), and from almost every agency have been frozen or revoked. University funding has also been targeted. Many of these decisions are being challenged in court, but the impact on museums will likely be severe if not felt already.

For now, many federal partners who have been active with the committee are still in place. These partners continue to support the goals of the Society for collection stewardship and care, and will continue to navigate the changing situation with the goal of positive collaboration.

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 Ligget

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## WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

The Web and Social Media Committee has been working with Best Practices to move the SPNHC Wiki onto our website. All of the previous wiki information is now available at <https://spnhc.org/wiki-home-page>. We will be making improvements and updating the wiki moving forward. Please send any questions to [bpchairs@spnhc.org](mailto:bpchairs@spnhc.org).

Submission requests can be sent here <https://spnhc.org/wiki-submission-page/>

The committee welcomes anyone interested in helping out with the SPNHC website or social media. In particular, we need help from someone to keep our WordPress event calendar up-to-date. Please contact Liath Appleton at [webmaster@spnhc.org](mailto:webmaster@spnhc.org) for details.

Special thanks to Jessica Utrup for her work maintaining the SPNHC Jobs Board and NHCOLL-L List! Need to post a job to our board? Send details and how to apply to [jobs-board@spnhc.org](mailto:jobs-board@spnhc.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Liath Appleton

## SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CALIFORNIA COLLECTION PROJECT GRANTS

Thanks to the generosity of the California Institute for Biodiversity (CIB) and the State of California, the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) were granted approximately US\$340K to award in support of saving at risk collections relating to the geographical area of California. The funding is intended to rescue specimens and samples, process backlogs and accession specimens, repair collections infrastructure, and otherwise secure biodiversity specimens and associated materials/data.

The Sessional Committee for California Collection Project Grants has met regularly to plan for the allocation of the funding to successful grant applicants. We received a total of 32 applications from 25 different organizations. Three members from the committee reviewed each of the applications to matrix criteria and we were able to select 14 applications to allocate funding to. We look forward to hearing from the successful applicants in future about the impact that this funding has in securing their collections and enabling the specimens to become more accessible for research.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Finkelde

## REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

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

No report received.

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

No report received.

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### AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

No report received.

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### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS

No report received.

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### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOLOGISTS (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 following is a summary of activities since the Annual Meeting in 2024:

- 1) Four collections were officially accredited or reaccredited
  - a. University of Colorado Natural History Museum – the mammal collection was reaccredited, 25 October 2024. Accreditation of the genetic resources collection is pending.
  - b. Colección Regional Durango (CRD), Durango, Mexico – both the mammal and genetic resources collections were accredited, 7 November 2024.
  - c. Utah Museum Natural History, University of Utah (UMNH) – the mammal collection was reaccredited, 7 November 2024. Accreditation of the genetic resources collection is pending.
  - d. Northern Michigan University (NMU) – the mammal collection was accredited, 7 November 2024.
- 2) Three collections are currently at various stages of the accreditation review process.
  - a. Denver Museum of Nature & Science
  - b. University of Oklahoma, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
  - c. Museo Javeriano de Historia Natural-MUJ, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Bogotá
- 3) A revision of the *Basic Curatorial Standards for Systematic Collections* (Journal of Mammalogy, 85:180-181, 2004) is in progress. Once the revision is reviewed by the ASM President and Board of Directors, the updated *Standards* document will be submitted to the *Journal of Mammalogy* for publication.
- 4) 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.
- 5) A guideline document for performing accreditations is in development. Because accreditation visits are performed by a subset of the committee to keep the costs of travel down, this document will ensure standardization during site visits by a varied group of colleagues.

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

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## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS (ASPT)

The American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT), founded in 1936, is a botanical organization with the mission of promoting research and education in plant taxonomy, systematics, and phylogenetics. The Society has over 1,000 members and publishes two journals: *Systematic Botany* and *Systematic Botany Monographs*. ASPT also provides funding for student research and travel grants.

The 2024 annual meeting was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan as part of the *Botany 2024*

conference with the theme “Resilience in a Changing World”. The upcoming *Botany 2025* meeting, which was originally going to be held in Tucson, Arizona, has been moved to Palm Springs, California during the same dates (July 26-30, 2025). A last-minute issue with the former venue meant our conference organizers had to pivot and secure a new venue and retool the conference program, in partnership with the five other organizing societies; their ability to pull this off at warp speed is a feat of teamwork and dedication. Conference details and registration can be found at <https://2025.botanyconference.org/>.

ASPT was also well represented at the XX International Botanical Congress (IBC) in Madrid, Spain in 2024. This gathering of botanists from around the world occurs every six years for discussions on plant nomenclature and amendments to the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants*. This IBC featured over 3000 attendees from 95 countries! One of the highlights was the Madrid Declaration, which outlined ten strategic actions to promote plant science and sustainability, emphasizing the importance of stronger connections between plants and people for planetary health and resilience. The next IBC will be held in Cape Town, South Africa in July 2029.

Respectfully submitted,

Harlan Svoboda

### **ASSOCIATION FOR 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 members. The AMMP 2025 annual meeting was hosted by East Tennessee State University and the Gray Fossil Site in Johnson City, TN. The meeting was hybrid with in-person and virtual accessibility April 1-5, 2025. 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 “Behind the Scenes: Journey of a Fossil from Field to Exhibit.” Workshops included topics ranging from discussions on how to identify, treat, and prevent pyrite decay, creating custom storage boxes for specimens, screening fossils with hydrogen peroxide, and how to pack fossils for institutional loans. More information about the annual meeting can be found at this website: <https://paleomethods.org/Annual-Meeting>. Next year's meeting will be hosted by the North Dakota Geological Survey in Bismarck, North Dakota.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Byrd

### **ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS AND COLLECTIONS SPECIALISTS (ARCS)**

The theme of the fall in-person meeting of the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists is *PRESENT tense*, a time of action to share bold, ambitious, and unique actions through ideas, interconnections, and caretaking in service of the care of collections. The meeting will take place at Union Station in St. Louis, Missouri, from 18-21 November. For details about the meeting, sessions, and housing, go to:

<https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/conference/2025-st-louis-conference>

A useful list of *Emergency Care Now!* links for US institutions is available on the ARCS website at: <https://www.arcsinfo.org/community/resources/emergency-sub-committee-programs>

For ARCS members, there is an impressive list of resources by specialty on the website at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/community/resources>. Other ARCS member resources include posing questions and providing answers to other's questions on the *ARCS Forum* at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/community/forum#type=q-and-a&page=1&post=&search=> (recent questions included UV shade recommendations, fees for traveling exhibitions, and tariffs). *News in the Field* site offers an often interesting selection of museum news, and the *On Contract* site is an excellent place to look for professional assistance from consulting collection specialists. A current listing of museum jobs and internships are available at: <https://www.arcsinfo.org/opportunities/career-center>.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Simmons

## BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION STANDARDS (TDWG)

The 2024 annual meeting of Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) was held jointly with the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) and held in the Okinawa Convention Center, Okinawa Japan from September 2nd-6th, with both in person and remote participation. The hybrid conference details can be found at <https://www.tdwg.org/conferences/2024/>. This year the Interest and Task Group Working Sessions were held virtually from the 14 - 25 April (2025) focusing on standards development. You can check out the schedule for talks and posters and can watch many of the presentations via the TDWG YouTube channel (search for TDWG). This was a great opportunity for two critical biodiversity communities to learn from each other!

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 manages an open access journal called Biodiversity Information Science and Standards or BISS. This journal serves two purposes, first to publish the TDWG Proceedings of abstracts for their annual conference (done for select abstracts in 2024), 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 Biodiversity Information Science and Standards (BISS) (<https://biss.pensoft.net/>). With specific relevance to SPNHC, members of the Natural Collections Description Interest Group have recently completed work on the ratified "Collections Description" data standard, now called the Latimer Core, for describing collections of natural history materials at the collection level (<https://lrc.tdwg.org/>). 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/>). 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 2025, TDWG is very excited to meet jointly with the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), and the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) in Bogotá, Colombia from October 21<sup>st</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> under the name: Living Data 2025. The theme for the conference is "Unified information driving transformation." For more information, please see the conference website (<https://www.livingdata2025.com/index.html>) and consider joining us!

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

and all are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

James Macklin

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## **CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN TAXONOMIC FACILITIES (CETAF) & CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)**

No reports received.

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## **ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (ECN)**

ECN formed an MOU with SPNHC in late 2016; this is our 9<sup>th</sup> annual report. ECN is a 501(c)(3) non-profit international organization dedicated to promoting entomological science through the preservation, management, use and development of entomological collections and to disseminating information and fostering communications between collections managers around the world regarding best practices in entomological (and arthropod) natural history collections. The Network is organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes.

**ECN 2024 (In-person and virtual meeting; In-person: 09-10 November 2024):**

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

The annual ECN meeting was held as a blend of in-person and virtual modalities again in 2024 to facilitate and foster international participation. The in-person venue was the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown, Phoenix Ballroom D/E, Phoenix, AZ, U.S.A.

Here is a link to the meeting program:

<https://ecnweb.net/welcome/meeting/ecn-2024/2023-program/>

Meetings were held Saturday, 09 November and Sunday, 10 November 2024. 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.

**Contributed talks: 21**

**(5-minute) Lightning Talks: 9**

**Symposia included:**

**1) Collections Reaching Out. Moderators:** Jennifer C. Girón, Invertebrate Zoology Collection, Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, U.S.A.; Victor H. Gonzalez, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology & Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, U.S.A.; & Rachel Osborn,

Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology & Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, U.S.A. (10 talks presented)

**2) *iNaturalist today, a mutually beneficial tool or a plaything for amateurs?***

**Moderator:** Ingolf Askeveld, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville, FL, U.S.A. (4 talks)

### **3) Using Collections to Solve Agricultural Problems**

**Moderators:** Jessica Awad, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany, & Robert L. Kresslein, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA-ARS, Washington DC, U.S.A. (6 talks presented)

**2024 meeting organizers:** Oliver Keller, Ainsley Seago, Andrew Johnston, Jacki Whisenant, Patrick Gorrying, Chris Wirth, Kristin Jayd, and Ashleigh Whiffin

**ECN Social Media Team:** Ainsley Seago and Ashleigh Whiffin

**Program layout and design:** Chris Wirth and Kristin Jayd

#### **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 Gorrying, 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:**

The next meeting of ECN will be 08-09 November 2025, in conjunction with the November 9-12 Portland, Oregon annual meetings of the Entomological Society of America meeting:

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

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](https://www.instagram.com/entcollnet)) and Twitter/X ([@EntCollNet](https://twitter.com/EntCollNet)).

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel K. Young

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### **GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP (GCG)**

No report received.

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### **GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)**

No report received.

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## GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY (GBIF)

SPNHC is an organizational Associate Participant in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/>). James Macklin is the current GBIF “Head of Delegation” for SPNHC and also serves as the Canadian Node Manager. The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual GBIF Governing Board Meeting took place near Porto, Portugal from September 30th-October 4th, 2024. There were many valuable updates presented on the core work GBIF is currently focused on (1) in support of the 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,

James Macklin

1: <https://docs.gbif.org/2025-work-programme/en/>

2: <https://www.gbif.org/document/50117Bxn2p1vRgpbbs7aXaT/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.allianceforbio.org/>

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## HERITAGE EMERGENCY NATIONAL TASK FORCE (HENTF)

No report received.

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## 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 and 2025, 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:

- 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,
- Co-organizing the Advances in Digital Media Workshop Series (<https://www.idigbio.org/content/advances-digital-media-workshop-series>)
- Offering semiannual courses on Strategic Planning to the biodiversity collections community,
- Coordinating the October 2024 and April 2025 Worldwide Engagement for Digitizing Biocollections (WeDigBio; <https://wedigbio.org/>) events,
- Continuing to mobilize biodiversity specimen data to GBIF and the iDigBio portal (<https://www.idigbio.org/>), which now includes over 147M specimen records with more than 64M associated media records from 1,900+ recordsets,
- Creating iChatBio, a new biodiversity specimen-focused chatbot for accessing information related to biological collections (<https://chat.acis.ufl.edu/>);
- Developing educational modules published through QUBES, introducing innovative tools like Bionomia and Wikidata for enhanced biodiversity data discovery and integration;
- Organizing online and in-person workshops, including the Symbiota Support Group meetings, iDigBio Education and Outreach Meetings, and iDigBio Stakeholder Engagement Meetings,
- Representing and promoting biodiversity collections at national and international conferences,
- Supporting and enhancing the management and mobilization of biodiversity specimen data through 60 Symbiota portals containing 98M occurrences and 43M images from 2000+ 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](mailto: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 (<https://symbiota.org/symbiota-portals/>), which can be used to manage, digitize, and share specimen data from biodiversity collections.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Pearson

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

No report received.

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

ISBER will be co-hosting the 2025 Joint Biobanking Conference with Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN) on September 29 - October 3, 2025 at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden in Cape Town, South Africa. Early bird registration will open from April 1 - June 30, and abstract submissions will be open from April 1 - August 31. The year's theme is "Where Worlds Align: Biodiversity and Human Biobanks. Same, but Different.", bringing together leading experts, researchers, and industry professionals to collaborate, innovate, and exchange knowledge. Engage with global experts, explore cutting-edge research, and expand your network while basking in the natural beauty of Cape Town. For more details on registration, accommodations, travel, and more, please visit: <https://biobanksafrica2025.org/>.

ISBER is also pleased to announce the Chinese and the Japanese translation of the ISBER Best Practices: Recommendations for Repositories, Fifth Edition. Other translations of the guide include Spanish, Korean, Russian, and Farsi, and are available for download at <http://www.isber.org/bpr>. Please share this insightful guide with biobankers and genetic resource collections managers in your network.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Y. Wang-Claypool

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

Over the past year, MAHC have been revising shared procedural and administrative documents, including material transfer agreements, accession and acquisition documents, and documentation for visitors to herbaria. It has proven difficult to navigate some of these issues in the context of the Nagoya Protocol, given that Australia is not currently a party to the Protocol.

Several CHAH-sponsored curation-exchange projects were supported in 2024–2025 for herbarium staff to visit other national herbaria to curate specimens, or just learn new curatorial techniques, such as digitization workflows or special collection preparation techniques. Online curation seminars were also hosted throughout the year to share knowledge between Australian and New Zealand institutions, with the wide-ranging topics including collection relocations, fungi curation, digitization workflows, and working with naphthalene-treated specimens.

Key personnel changes in Australian herbaria include the appointment of Dr Andrew Fletcher as Principal Botanist and Collections Manager at the Queensland Herbarium (BRI) in November

2024; and the retirement of Tasmanian Herbarium Administration Officer, Kim Hill, in April 2025 after many invaluable years supporting loans, exchange and other herbarium activities at HO.

Dr Carlos Lehnebach (Botany Curator, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (WELT)) is the current chair of CHAH. Dr Hannah McPherson (Collections Manager, National Herbarium of New South Wales (NSW)) is the current chair of MAHC, with Andrew Fletcher (BRI) in the role of Deputy Chair.

2025 is a noteworthy year in the history of Australian herbarium collections, with 30 June 2025 marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, the 'father of Australian botany' and the founder of the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL). Staff at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria are preparing a public seminar in November to commemorate Mueller's contribution to botany, while examining the legacy of Mueller's life's work through botanical, conservation and decolonial lenses.

For more information about our activities, visit our website: <https://chah.gov.au/>.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Vaughan

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### **NATURAL SCIENCES COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION (NatSCA)**

No report received.

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### **NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE (NSC Alliance)**

No report received.

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### **PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PS)**

The next meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) will be held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in San Antonio, Texas October 19-22, 2025.

At the PS Mid-Year Council meeting in April two motions passed, one to make the PS Collections subcommittee a full committee and the other to make the chair of the committee a voting member of PS Council. We are very excited about these changes and hope this will give the committee a larger platform to promote education and best practices for fossil collecting and research collections.

A reminder that fossil collecting and collections resources compiled from the 2024 PS Short Course, From the Earth to the Repository and Beyond: Fossil Collecting and Collections Issues at Every Level, continue to be updated and can be found at: <https://paleo.memberclicks.net/2024-paleo-short-course>.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Cundiff

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

No report received.

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## SOCIETY OF HERBARIUM CURATORS (SHC)

The Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC) is an international organization established in 2005 with the mission to promote and expand the role of herbaria in botanical research, teaching, and service to the community. Our growing Society currently has over 475 members from more than 55 countries. The Society provides a platform for discussion and collaboration among herbarium professionals and offers resources such as student research grants, strategic planning courses, and a newsletter, *The Vasculum*.

As with ASPT (see above), SHC held their annual meeting as part of the *Botany 2024* conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Society will be meeting this year also at the *Botany 2025* conference in Palm Springs, California from July 26-30, 2025, with the theme “Botany Without Barriers.” A huge thank you, again, to the program organizers for pivoting so seamlessly to re-plan the event despite the incredibly short timeframe of moving an entire conference (scheduled years in advance!) from Tucson, Arizona.

SHC also had a sizable contingent at the XX International Botanical Congress (ICB) in Madrid, Spain. This gathering of botanists from around the world occurs every six years for discussions on plant nomenclature and amendments to the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants*. SHC held a satellite meeting during the IBC, which was attended by more than 50 people. Herbarium curators and staff were, naturally, in attendance, but about half of the group were students, conservationists, and end-users! Great discussions, networking, and planning flowed from this and SHC is looking forward to tapping into this energy as we move into the future.

Please check out our newsletter, *The Vasculum* (<https://www.herbariumcurators.org/newsletter/>), to keep up with everything happening in the Society and throughout the herbarium community.

Respectfully submitted,

Harlan Svoboda

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## SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (SVP)

The 84th Annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology was hosted 30 October- 2 November 2024 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA and attended by numerous SPNHC members. The annual Preparators Session focuses on topics related to paleontological collections conservation and care, and the relatively new Collections and Repositories Committee is tasked with addressing policies and issues that arise related to the curation, conservation, and funding thereof, of vertebrate paleontological specimens. SPNHC is typically represented at the Preparators Committee, Collections and Repositories Committee, Government Affairs Committee, and SVP Business meetings. The 2025 SVP meeting is planned for 12 November- 15 November in Birmingham, UK.

The SVP wishes to remind SPNHC members that it offers several awards and grants that might have relevance to those interested in paleontology, collections, and conservation. These include grants [<http://vertpaleo.org/the-Society/Awards.asp>] to promote student research and fieldwork, like the Estes, Patterson, Field Training, 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

## Appendix 1

### Treasurer's Report & Accountant's Review Report and Financial Statements

In 2024, the Society's total net assets decreased to \$486,530 from a total of \$492,663 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2024 totaled \$466,319. Operating income was generated from two sources: membership dues and publication sales. A total of \$30,280 in membership dues was received.

Sales of our seven publications plus royalty payments brought in \$7,005. A total of \$640 in donations were received.

The first part of 2025 has seen steady income activity and by April 30, \$17,707 has been received from membership dues.

Of the 839 SPNHC members between January 2024 and April 30th, 2025, 137 joined for the first time. Membership renewals included 71 students, 428 individuals, 24 library/subscriptions, 294 institutional, and 1 corporate memberships.

By April 30th, 267 members had yet to renew for 2025. As a reminder, we ask that all members please pay your dues on time.

The Treasurer's Office incurred \$20,263 in expenses which included \$2,730 for insurance, \$1,500 for Zoom, \$6,000 for Tax Preparation Services and taxes, and \$703 for the annual fee for QuickBooks.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments saw a market value loss of \$7,484.29 while the money market account earned \$3,196.51 in dividends and interest. The CD account earned \$18.63 in interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Reilly, Treasurer

The 2024 financial review is still being prepared by the auditor and will be circulated when completed.

#### FY 2024 Donations

Anonymous  
Noelia Galan

Julie McBain  
Emilie Pearson

#### FY 2025 Donations

As of April 30, 2025

Anonymous

**Thank you!** to all our generous donors.

<b>FY 2024 SPNHC Operating Budget</b>			
<b>01 January –31 December 2024</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$ 32,000	\$ 30,280	<b>\$ 1,720</b>
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$ -		<b>\$ -</b>
(3) Publication Sales	\$ 20,000	\$ 7,005	<b>\$ (12,995)</b>
(4) <i>Collection Forum</i> Page Charges	\$ 500	\$ -	<b>\$ (500)</b>
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$ 150	\$ -	<b>\$ (150)</b>
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$ 500	\$ 639	<b>\$ 139</b>
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$ 300	\$ -	<b>\$ (300)</b>
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$ -	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$ -	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
(10) Annual Meeting Revenue (registration and sponsorship)	\$ -	\$ 72,949	<b>\$ 72,949</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 53,450</b>	<b>\$ 110,873</b>	<b>\$ (57,423)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(11) Annual Meeting Expenses (estimated for Okinawa)	\$ -	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
(12) Education Committee	\$ 500	\$ -	<b>\$ (500)</b>
(13) Election Committee	\$ 400	\$ 99	<b>\$ (301)</b>
(14) Executive Contingency Fund	\$ 1,000	\$ -	<b>\$ (1,000)</b>
(15) Long Range Planning Committee	\$ 13,000	\$ 10,793	<b>\$ (2,207)</b>
(16) Membership Committee	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,367	<b>\$ (1,133)</b>
(17) Publication Committee	\$ 15,230	\$ -	<b>\$ (15,230)</b>
(18) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,889	<b>\$ (111)</b>
(18) Treasurer's Office	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,263	<b>\$ (9,737)</b>
(19) Web Committee	\$ 350	\$ 313	<b>\$ (38)</b>
(20) Professional Development	\$ 200	\$ -	<b>\$ (200)</b>
(21) President's Contingency Fund	\$ 2,690	\$ -	<b>\$ (2,690)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 71,870</b>	<b>\$ 38,724</b>	<b>\$ (33,147)</b>

<b>FY 2025 SPNHC Operating Budget</b>			
<b>01 January –31 December 2025</b>			
As of April 30, 2025			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$ 32,000	\$ 17,708	<b>\$ (14,293)</b>
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$ -	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
(3) Publication Sales	\$ 20,000	\$ -	<b>\$ (20,000)</b>
(4) <i>Collection Forum</i> Page Charges	\$ 500	\$ -	<b>\$ (500)</b>
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$ 150	\$ -	<b>\$ (150)</b>
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$ 500	\$ 500	<b>\$ -</b>
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$ 300	\$ -	<b>\$ (300)</b>
(8) Advertising in Newsletter	\$ -	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
(9) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$ -	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
(10) Annual Meeting Revenue (registration and sponsorship)	\$ 200,000	\$ 265,531	<b>\$ 65,531</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 253,450</b>	<b>\$ 283,738</b>	<b>\$ 30,288</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(11) Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ -	\$ 13,629	
(12) Education Committee	\$ 500	\$ -	<b>\$ (500)</b>
(13) Election Committee	\$ 200	\$ 99	<b>\$ (101)</b>
(14) Executive Contingency Fund	\$ 1,000	\$ -	<b>\$ (1,000)</b>
(15) Long Range Planning Committee	\$ 2,000	\$ -	<b>\$ (2,000)</b>
(16) Membership Committee	\$ 2,500	\$ 295	<b>\$ (2,205)</b>
(17) Publication Committee	\$ 5,000	\$ -	<b>\$ (5,000)</b>
(18) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	<b>\$ -</b>
(18) Treasurer's Office	\$ 30,000	\$ 7,883	<b>\$ (22,117)</b>
(19) Web Committee	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,436	<b>\$ (564)</b>
(20) Professional Development	\$ 200	\$ -	<b>\$ (200)</b>
(21) President's Contingency Fund	\$ 2,500	\$ -	<b>\$ (2,500)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 49,400</b>	<b>\$ 26,843</b>	<b>\$ (22,557)</b>
<b>TOTAL for FY 2025</b>	<b>\$ 204,050</b>	<b>\$ 256,895</b>	<b>\$ 52,845</b>

## Appendix 2

### Additional Reports

#### 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:

##### **The CAROLYN ROSE Award**

Sue McClaren is presented the Carolyn L. Rose Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to natural history collections.

##### **The PRESIDENT'S AWARD:**

Gil Nelson is presented the President's Award for his work at iDigBio over the past 15 years to support the collections community's efforts to digitize their specimens and share the data publicly.

##### **SPECIAL SERVICES RECOGNITION:**

- Vanessa Delnavaz and Meghan Toner for their work chairing and developing the IDEA committee.
- The 2024 SPNHC 'Local Organizing Committee' for the dedicated work put into the successful Okinawa conference.
- The Local Organizing Committee team for the 2025 conference.

##### **THE EARLY CAREER AWARD:**

For her outstanding contribution to natural history collections and to SPNHC for her enthusiasm and commitment to her work and the goals of SPNHC, Megan King is presented with the SPNHC Early Career Award.

##### **THE FABER INNOVATION GRANT:**

The Faber Innovation Grant of \$1000 is awarded to Jay Cordeiro to develop initiatives to enable the wider utilization of the natural history collection at Bridgewater State University (BSU).

The committee encourages nominations for SPNHC awards for deserving members throughout the year. More information about nominating colleagues can be found here:

<https://spnhc.org/what-spnhc-does/awards-and-grants/>

Respectfully submitted,

Julian Carter