

THE
41st ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE
**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

***Bridging Hemispheres:
Collaborating for a Unified Natural Heritage***

**Iziko South African Museum
Cape Town, South Africa**

7-11 September 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda for the 41st Annual Business Meeting	3
SPNHC Members Serving on Council and Committees, 2025-2026	4
Minutes of the Secretary: 2025 Annual Business Meeting	8
Report of the President	11
Report of the Treasurer	11
New Membership 2025-2026	12
SPNHC Operating Budget	13
Member-at-Large Reports	15
Standing Committee Reports	15
Archives	15
Best Practices	15
Biodiversity Crisis Response	16
Bylaws	17
Conference	17
Conservation	18
Education	18
Elections	18
Finance	19
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility	19
Legislation and Regulations	19
Long-Range Planning	20
Membership	21
Networking and Career Development	23
Publications	23
Recognition and Grants	24
US Federal Collections	24
Web and Social Media	24
Sessional Committee Reports	25
California Collection Project Grants	25
Representative Reports	26
Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC)	26
American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)	26
American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS)	26
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH)	26
American Society of Mammalogists (ASM)	26
American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT)	27
Association for Materials and Methods in Paleontology (AMMP)	27
Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS)	28
Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG)	28
Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF)	29
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	29
Entomological Collections Network (ECN)	30
Geological Curators' Group (GCG)	31
Geological Society of America (GSA)	31
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	31
Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF)	32
Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio)	32
International Council of Museums–Comm. for Collections of Natural History (ICOM-NATHIST)	32
International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)	32
Managers of Australasian Herbarium Colls–Councils of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (MAHC-CHAH)	32
Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA)	33
Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance)	33
Paleontological Society (PS)	33
Small Collections Network (SCNet)	33
Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC)	33
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP)	33
Appendix 1: Proposed changes and amendments to SPNHC Bylaws	34
Appendix 2: Amended reports	42

Agenda for the 41st Annual Business Meeting

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC)

Thursday 10th September 2026, 12:00 – 13:45 (SAST, UTC+2)

Iziko South African Museum, 5th Floor

Cape Town, South Africa

Online link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855331529?pwd=vfWHsXuQevfOyHZmYEkGLctWtG74Yd.1>

Meeting ID: 898 5533 1529

Passcode: 712347

[Timezone converter](#)

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1. Call to order
 2. Agenda
 3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2025 Annual Business Meeting [page 8]
 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 Institute of Biodiversity
 8. Reports of Representatives

Due to time constraints, please refer to the written reports [pages 26-33]
 9. New Business
 - a. Proposed changes and amendments to the Bylaws of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) [Appendix 1: pages 34-41]
 - b. Awards and Recognition
 - c. Upcoming Meetings – Montreal 2027
 10. Old Business
 11. Announcements
 12. Adjournment

SPNHC Members Serving on Council and Committees, 2025–2026

COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Greg Watkins-Colwell	2024–2026
President-Elect	Suzanne Ryder	2025–2026
Past President	Julian Carter	2024–2026
Secretary	Shelley James	2024–2026
Treasurer	Theresa Reilly	
Managing Editor	Scott Rufolo	
Membership	Arianna Bernucci	

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Mariana Di Giacomo	2025–2028
Adania Flemming	2024–2027
Dirk Neumann	2023–2026
Laura Rincón	2024–2027
Stéphanie Tessier	2023–2026
Jessica Utrup	2025–2028

STANDING COMMITTEES

Archives

Carol Kelloff (Chair)

Lisa F. Palmer

Meghann Toner

Best Practices

Emily Braker (Co-chair)

Genevieve Tocci (Co-chair)

Andrew Bentley

Eva Biedron

Serina Brady

Veronica Bueno

Christina Byrd

Jessica Cundiff

Emmy Delekta

Ron Eng

Nicole Fisher

Marilyn Fox

Anja Friederichs

Magdalena Grenda-Kurmanow

Joachim Haendel

Mariko Kageyama

Stevie Kennedy-Gold

Adam Kowalczyk

Margaret Landis

Elise LeCompte

Katherine Mallalieu

Justin Mann

Cailin Meyer

Jessica Nakano

Dirk Neumann

Vanessa Pitusi

Alana Rivera

James Sagebiel

Randy Singer

Meaghan Sorce

Stephanie Tessier

Chelsea Trenbeath

Jennifer Trimble

Sean Tudor

Cynthia Wang-Claypool

Breda Zimkus

Biodiversity Crisis Response

Alina Freire Fierro (Co-chair)

Mike Rutherford (Co-chair)

Arturo Arino

Jutta Buschbom

Elizabeth Downey

Libby Ellwood

Andrew Kitchener

Gil Nelson

Bylaws

Julian Carter (Chair)

Laura Abraczinskas

Shelley James

Andy Bentley

Greg Watkins-Colwell

Conference

Suzanne Ryder (Chair)

Wayne Florence (LOC 2026)

Andy Bentley (LOC 2025)

Cindy Opitz

Greg Watkins-Colwell

Ruth Seyler (conference and sponsorship coordinator)

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 Leard
 Devon Lee
 Eugenie Milroy
 Rebecca Newberry
 Cindy Opitz
 Bethany Palumbo
 Sophie Phillips
 Marilen Pool
 Erika Range
 Peter Roson
 Veronique Rouchon
 Dee Stubbs-Lee
 Julia Sybalsky
 Sheldon Teare
 Robert Waller

Education

Liz Leith (Chair)
 Maria Armour
 Jennifer Bauer
 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
 Molly Phillips
 Darin Penneys
 Julia Robinson
 Chris Tacker
 Greg Watkins-Colwell
 Jessa Watters
 Luc Willemse

Elections

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

Finance

Barbara Thiers (Co-chair)
 Greg Watkins-Colwell (Co-chair)
 Christy Classi
 Robyn Crowther
 Irene Finkelde
 Shelley James
 Janaki Krishna

Suzanne B. McLaren
 Theresa Reilly
 Scott Rufolo
 Suzanne Ryder

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
 William Moser
 Jessica Nakano
 Trina Roberts
 Lori Schlenker
 Fiona Ware
 Greg Watkins-Colwell

Long-Range Planning

Suzanne Ryder (Chair)
 Laura Abraczinskas
 Tiffany Adrain
 Shelley James
 Dirk Neumann
 Deborah Paul
 Ann Pinzl
 Barbara Thiers

Membership

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

Networking and Career Development

Hannah Bendull (Co-chair)
 Megan King (Co-chair)
 Meg Phillips (Co-chair)
 Veronica Bueno
 Abbey Hines
 Erin Kuprewicz
 Enrique Santoyo Brito
 Sarah Taylor
 Chris Thigpen

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)
 Cindy Opitz (Assoc. Editor)
 Genevieve Tocci (Assoc. Editor)

Recognition and Grants

Julian Carter (Co-chair)
 Elise LeCompte (Co-chair)
 Andy Bentley
 Mariana di Giacomo
 Suzanne McLaren

US Federal Collections

Janaki Krishna (Co-chair)	Cailin Meyer
Carrie A. Eaton (Co-chair)	William Moser
Greg Liggett (Co-chair)	Jessica Nakano
Rochelle Bennet	Conni O'Connor
Erin Bilyeu	Lindsay Palaima Hazen
Bernhard L. Bock	Caroline Palmer
Fernando Cervantes	Tiana Rehman
Katy Corneli	Catherine Riddle
Rachel Delovio	Fran Ritchie
Nico Franz	Alaina Harmon
Julia Grasso	Adam Rountrey
Alaina Harmon	Margaret Rubin
John Harwick	Kelly Hood
Jasmine Heckman	Juliet Hook
Kelly Hood	Mariko Kageyama
Juliette Hook	Harlan Svoboda
Mariko Kageyama	Christopher Thigpen
Anya Kitterman	Meghann Toner
Laura Knutson Murray	Meghan Truckey
Erica Krimmel	Nicole Volden
Elise V. LeCompte	Lindsay Walker
Liz Leith	Miriam Watson
Carrie Levitt Bussian	Justin Wilkins
Kirsten MacKenzie	Miranda Zwingelberg
Matthew Mers	

Web and Social Media

Liath Appleton (Chair)
 Andy Bentley
 Emily Braker
 Mariana DiGiacomo
 Deborah Paul
 Lori Schlenker
 Genevieve Tocci
 Jessica Utrup
 Greg Watkins-Colwell

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES**California Collection Project Grants**

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

ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION

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

American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS): Anna Monfils

American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC): [Position open]

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

American Society of Mammalogists (ASM): Suzanne B. McLaren

American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT): Harlan Svoboda

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

Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS): John E. Simmons

Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG): James Macklin

Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF): Jutta Buschbom

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Jutta Buschbom

Entomological Collections Network (ECN): Daniel K. Young

Geological Curators' Group (GCG): Andrew Haycock

Geological Society of America (GSA): [Position open]

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF): James Macklin

Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF): [Position open]

Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio): Katelin Pearson

International Council of Museums-Committee for Collections of Natural History (ICOM-NATHIST):
[Position open]

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 D. Cundiff

Small Collections Network (SCNet): Anna Monfils

Society of Herbarium Curators (SCH): Harlan Svoboda

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP): Matthew Brown

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, 2025

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
Friday 30th May 2025, 12:30 - 13.30 (CST, UTC+5)

University of Kansas, Kansas Memorial Union, Parlors Room
 Lawrence, Kansas, USA

ABM packet: <https://spnhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-SPNHC-ABM-packet.pdf>

Members present: 47 in person; 14 online

1. Call to order: 12:30 CST

Greg Watkins-Colwell (President) and Shelley James (Secretary) chaired the meeting.
 GWC welcomed everyone

2. Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda.

Moved: Elise LeCompte

Seconded: Dirk Neumann

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: none

Passed unanimously

3. Minutes of the 2024 Annual Business Meeting

Motion: To accept the minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting, held on 6 Sept. 2024, 9.00am JST (UTC+9) at the Okinawa Convention Centre and online, via Zoom.

Moved: Elana Seconded: Theresa Riley

Vote: Yes: all in favor Opposed: none

Passed unanimously

4. Report of the President

Recognized the work of outgoing members of Council:

Members at Large: Irene Finkelde and Jennifer Trimble

Past president: Paul Mayer

and welcomed incoming members of Council:

President-Elect of SPNHC: Suzanne Ryder

Members at Large: Mariana Di Giacomo and Jessica Utrup

See written report starting on page **11** of the 2025 ABM packet

5. Report of the Treasurer (found on page **39** of 2025 ABM packet)

Motion: To accept SPNHC new members for 2024 and 2025, as listed on pages **12-13** of the ABM packet.

Moved: Sue Ryder

Seconded: Genevieve Tocci

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: none

Passed unanimously

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

Moved: Jessica Utrup Seconded: Cindy Opitz

Vote: Yes: all in favor

Opposed: none

Passed unanimously

6. Reports of Standing Committees (found beginning page **14** of 2025 ABM packet)

GWC asked members to provide a 30 second summary of the year.

Full reports in the ABM packet.

- o Archives
- o Best Practices
- o Bylaws
- o Biodiversity Crisis Response
- o Conference - Many thanks to Andy Bentley and team for the wonderful Kansas conference
- o Conservation
- o Education
- o Elections
- o Finance

- o Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility
- o Legislation and Regulations
- o Long-Range Planning
- o Membership
- o Networking and Career Development
- o Publications - please publish your work in the Collection Forum!
- o Recognition and Grants
- o US Federal Collections
- o Web and Social Media

7. Reports of Sessional Committees (found on page **28** of 2025 ABM packet)

- o California Collection Project Grants

8. Reports of Representatives

Due to time constraints, please refer to the printed reports in the 2025 ABM packet (starting page **28**).

9. New Business

a. Awards and Recognition

California grants

Recipients of the 2025 California Collections Grants:

1. **Cal Poly Humboldt:** Andrew Kinziger: *Rescuing Specimens, Strengthening Infrastructure: Accessioning and Maintenance at Cal Poly Humboldt.*
2. **Yale Peabody Museum, Division of Entomology:** Lawrence Gall: *Housing and Databasing the Noll Collection of California Insects at the Yale Peabody Museum*
3. **The Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara:** Katja Seltsmann: *Critical Care for Central Coast Herpetology Collection*
4. **San Diego State University Research Foundation:** Kinsey Brock: *Saving the Chen Fish Collection and training the next generation of collections workforce*
5. **UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity:** Alison Colwell: *Lassen Herbarium Rescue*
6. **Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University:** Jocelyn Sessa: *Safeguarding California's fossil heritage in the US's oldest invertebrate paleontology collection*
7. **University of Iowa Museum of Natural History:** Cindy Opitz: *Securing California Aquatic Invertebrates at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History*
8. **Carnegie Institute / Carnegie Museum of Natural History:** Katherine Thompson: *Securing Carnegie's Specimens of the Californias*
9. **Turtle Conservancy:** Nathanael Stanek: *Turtle Conservancy - Resurrecting the Scientific Collection of Dr. Peter Pritchard*
10. **Petaluma Wildlife Museum:** Theresa Barclay: *Museum Curation Starts at Any Age: Teaching High School Students Museum Collection Stewardship*
11. **Illinois Natural History Survey Insect Collection:** Thomas McElrath: *Securing California Arthropod specimens in the Illinois Natural History Survey Insect Collection*
12. **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County:** Austin Hendy: *Twice Salvaged: Conserving Orphaned Mitigation Paleontology Resources*
13. **California Academy of Sciences:** Jon Fong: *Curation of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo fish collection*
14. **Regents of University of California San Diego:** Gregory Rouse: *Rescue of the Station M collection of California deep-sea invertebrates.*

GWC congratulated the **Travel Grant Awards** Recipients (see page **26** of the 2025 ABM packet). 30 applications were received.

Elise LeCompte presented:

Christine Allen Award:

Andrea Carvajal Román - The Galapagos - could not attend

Fitzgerald Awards:

Claudia Alejandra Reyes-Valdez - Mexico
 Janelle Morris - Jamaica
 Pascal Sibomana - Rwanda
 Pritha Dey – India

SPECIAL SERVICES RECOGNITION:

Recognition of individual(s) and sister organizations for noteworthy effort leading to the success of an important event, activity or objective of the Society.

- Vanessa Delnavaz and Meghan Toner for their work chairing the IDEA committee that developed the Society's code of conduct.
- The 2024 SPNHC 'LOC' committee for the dedicated work for the successful Okinawa conference in 202.
- The LOC team for the 2025 conference. Andy Bentley and team have done an amazing job.

THE FABER INNOVATION GRANT:

The Faber innovation grant is a cash grant for an original proposal, intended to encourage innovative projects that promote the objectives of the Society in collections management, conservation, use or other collection-oriented aspects of natural history. The Society awards the Faber Innovation Grant of \$1000 to Jay Cordeiro to develop initiatives to enable the wider utilization of the natural history collection at Bridgewater State University (BSU).

THE EARLY CAREER AWARD:

This award is presented to a member who is at an early stage in their career, or at an early stage in their involvement with SPNHC, and who has demonstrated great potential for leadership through innovative and energetic service that strengthens and broadens the impact of SPNHC. Awarded to Megan King, for her involvement in the strategic plan committee and chair of NC/DC.

The PRESIDENT'S AWARD:

This award is for superior service to the Society. Normally, this would involve exceptional service to appointed offices, committees, and/or ongoing activities of SPNHC. This year's recipient is no stranger to the Society and to most of its members. This person has organized dozens of workshops and symposia and served on committees and in advisory roles on grants. The recipient is a prolific author and is constantly striving to improve standardization and best practices in digitization and, in fact, is the director of iDigBio. The recipient of the 2025 President's Award is Gil Nelson.

The CAROLYN ROSE Award

The Carolyn L. Rose Award is our Society's highest honor and given to a *practitioner*, whose work and efforts have promoted the values and objectives of the Society. This award is not given annually. In fact, it has only been awarded 9 times in the Society's history. This year we celebrate the 10th! This year's recipient has had a career in natural history collections spanning more than 40 years and has served many roles for the society, including serving as treasurer, Member-at-large, President (6-year tour) and 12 committees! Sue McClaren is the 2025 recipient of the Carolyn L. Rose award in recognition of outstanding contributions to natural history collections.

b. Upcoming Meetings

SPNHC 2026 Cape Town, South Africa

Motion: To accept the invitation from the Museum of South Africa to host SPNHC 2026 in October 2026 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Moved: Andy Bentley Seconded: Theresa Riley

Vote: Yes: all in favor Opposed: none **Passed unanimously**

10. Old Business - none**11. Announcements - none****12. Adjournment:**

Motion: To adjourn the 2025 Annual Business Meeting.

Moved: Barbara Thiers Seconded: Megan King

Vote: Yes: all in favor Opposed: none **Passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 14:10 CST

Report of the President

What a crazy 15 months this year has been since our last annual meeting! We have been quite busy as a professional society doing our collective best to raise awareness of collections and their importance.

May before last we held a great meeting in Lawrence, Kansas. This was, in many ways, a return to campus life for the Society. Thank you to the entire local committee for a job well done!

In terms of elections, Libby Ellwood was elected as President Elect and Megan King was elected as Secretary. I thank Dirk Neumann and Stéphanie Tessier for their service in the role of Member-at-Large as they rotate out of that position, and I would like to formally welcome Shannen Robson and Enrique Santoyo Brito as incoming Members-at-Large for 2026-2029.

The Finance Committee has been diligently working to make the society compliant with various rules and making sure we do things properly. To this end we now have official statements on issues like ethics, and we now have an insurance policy to protect those who volunteer their time to the society.

The Conference Committee has met many times over the past 15 months while working in this year's conference in Cape Town. The Committee is also working two years into the future. To learn more about that, please come to the ABM.

In recent months the Bylaws Committee has worked hard with Council to update the Society's Bylaws to permit things like virtual voting and to put the society's business onto an annual schedule that follows a calendar, rather than hanging everything on in-person annual meetings. To learn more, please attend the ABM.

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-Colwell

Report of the Treasurer

In 2025, the Society's total net assets decreased to \$490,339. from a total of \$492,663 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2025 totalled \$470,128 Operating income was generated from two sources: membership dues and publication sales.

A total of \$ 26,890.00 in membership dues was received through October 2025. Sales of our seven publications plus royalty payments brought in \$3,177. A total of \$4,000 was received from the first Art Auction for Travel Grants at the 2025 SPNHC Conference.

Of the 796 SPNHC members in 2025, 397 joined for the first time. New memberships included 81 students, 118 are institutional, and the remainder are individual.

The first part of 2026 has seen steady income activity and by June 30th \$27,757 has been received from membership dues. We have welcomed 82 new members of which 15 are student memberships, 38 are institutional, and the remainder are individuals.

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

The Treasurer's Office incurred \$42,855 in expenses which included \$3,360 for insurance, \$2,604 for Zoom, \$6325 for Tax Preparation Services, \$23892.84 for the Christy Classi contract and \$780 for the annual fee for QuickBooks.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments saw a slight market value loss of \$44.53. while the money market account earned \$8,899.65 in dividends and interest. CD account earned \$930 in interest.

The Society anticipates expenses related to signed contracts, insurance premiums, tax payment and membership renewals for the remainder of 2026.

The 2025 financial review is being prepared by the auditor and will be provided when completed.

FY2025 Donations

Anonymous
 Richard Bankoff
 John Daniel
 Charles Davis
 Catherine Early
 Barbara Thiers
 Blaire Van Valkenburgh
 Gregory Watkins-Colwell

Thank You!

New Memberships Received in 2025-2026

Regular Members

Zoe Adams
 Tom Andrews
 Sidney Ascher
 Calder
 Holly Bolick
 Israel Borokini
 Marshall Boyd
 Brian Buczkowski
 David Cuthrel
 Alison Davis Rabosky
 IMakayla Dean
 Lynn Dorwaldt
 Jess Garrett
 Sejal Goel
 Julia McHugh
 Katarina Kaspari
 Sandy Kawano
 Kevin Keegan
 Breanna Kobiela
 Kiana Lee

Dr. Robin Lewis
 Simon Loader
 Elyssa Loewen
 Katrina Menard
 Andre Moncrieff
 Lydia Paradiso
 Natalia Pérez Amaya
 Bernadette (Nhan Le Thanh)
 Marilen Pool
 Andrea Riis
 Dakota
 Sariah Rushing
 Val Syverson
 Dusty Swedberg
 Riley Thomas
 Clare Valentine
 Signe Valentinsson
 Annick Vuissoz
 Annica Wu

Student Members

Karishma Avari
 Ezra Bailey
 Samantha Bonawitz
 Mac Boroza
 Abigail
 Lily Deeter
 Molly Hayne
 Jennifer Larsen
 Mngobi Lifa Mamba
 Angela LoCoco
 John Lyakurwa
 Conway Mallory
 Aidan Martin
 Noelle Mason
 Bryce Rosauo
 Charlotte Wood
 Aliyah Young

FY 2025 SPNHC Operating Budget			
January 2025 through December 2025			
INCOME	Projected	Realized	Variance
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 26,890.00	\$ (5,110.00)
(2) Publication Sales	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 3,306.00	\$ (16,694.00)
(3) Unrestricted Donations	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
(4) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$ 300.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,700.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 52,800.00	\$ 34,696.00	\$ 18,104.00
Not included in Revenue Totals			
Annual Meeting Revenue (registration and sponsorship)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 297,369.00	\$ 97,369.00
Annual Meeting Expenses		\$ 152,668.00	
Totals for Conference		\$ 144,701.00	
Total Returned to SPNHC (added to income)		\$ 20,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME PLUS SPNHC CONFERENCE SURPLUS	\$ 52,800.00	\$ 54,696.00	\$ 1,896.00
EXPENSES	Projected	Realized	Variance
(12) Education Committee	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
(13) Election Committee	\$ 200.00	\$ 99.00	\$ 101.00
(14) Executive Contingency Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
(15) Long Range Planning Committee	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
(16) Membership Committee	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,203.48	\$ 296.52
(17) Publication Committee	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 4,725.00
(18) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
(18) Treasurer's Office	\$ 33,400.00	\$ 42,855.00	\$ (9,455.00)
(19) Web Committee	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,312.00	\$ (312.00)
(20) Professional Development	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
(21) President's Contingency Fund	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 658.67	\$ 1,841.33
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 52,800.00	\$ 50,903.15	\$ 1,896.85

SPNHC Operating Budget			
January 2026 - December 2026			
<i>Current as of June 30, 2026</i>			
INCOME	Projected	Realized	Variance
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 27,757.50	\$ (4,242.50)
(2) Publication Sales	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,639.27	\$ (2,360.73)
(3) Unrestricted Donations	\$ 500.00	\$ 4.00	\$ (496.00)
(4) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ (300.00)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 37,800.00	\$ 30,400.77	\$ (7,399.23)
Not included in Revenue Totals	Projected	Realized	Variance
Annual Meeting Revenue (registration and sponsorship)	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 4,207.50	\$ 175,792.50
Totals for Conference		\$ 4,207.50	
EXPENSES	Projected	Realized	Variance
(11) Education Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
(12) Election Committee	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
(13) Executive Contingency Fund	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
(14) Long Range Planning Committee	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
(15) Membership Committee	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
(16) Publication Committee	\$ -	\$ 275.45	\$ (275.45)
(17) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
(18) Treasurer's Office	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 11,417.05	\$ 34,582.95
(19) Web Committee	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
(20) Professional Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
(21) President's Contingency Fund	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 57,800.00	\$ 20,107.50	\$ 37,692.50

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Reilly

MEMBER-AT-LARGE REPORTS

MARIANA DI GIACOMO (2025–2028)

This past year, together with MAL Laura Rincón, we created a survey to reach our colleagues in Latin America. Our goal was to understand our colleagues interests and needs and learn what we could be doing at the Society to better serve them. We have received more than 100 responses and look forward to presenting the data to Council and, later on, to the membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Di Giacomo

ADANIA FLEMMING (2024–2027)

No report submitted.

DIRK NEUMANN (2023–2026)

In my role as Member at Large on SPNHC Council in the past three years I have been active to foster professional education and capacity building at different council meetings, attended meetings of the Networking and Career Development Committee, and through my contributions in the Long Range Planning Committee. A second main point of engagement was to foster closer collaboration between SPNHC and CETAF (Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities) by conveying information on topics that were discussed either on the Legs & Regs Committee, on Council or Long Range Planning in our meetings with other CETAF Working Group chairs, the CETAF Executive, or the Regulations and Legislations Working Group of CETAF, which I also chair.

Even though my term as Member-At- Large on the SPNHC Council ends this year, I will stay involved through my involvement with other committees and committee chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Dirk Neumann

LAURA RINCON (2024–2027)

No report submitted.

STÉPHANIE TESSIER (2023–2026)

No report submitted.

JESSICA UTRUP (2025–2028)

Activities outlined in Elections and Web and Social Media reports.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

No report submitted.

BEST PRACTICES

This year the Best Practices Committee focused on reorganizing SPNHC wiki content on the new SPNHC website, creating a streamlined landing page, and fixing broken media and URL links from the host server migration process. New content, including a Mammal Preparation page, Vertebrate Specimen Preparation documentation, the Smithsonian Herbarium Specimen Preparation Volunteer Handbook, a table summarizing community experiences with fluid collection labels, and posters from the 2023 and 2025 conferences are now

available online; please explore these resources! We would like to thank Andy Bentley for transferring poster pdfs from Oxford Abstracts, past poster authors for granting permissions to share their presentations, and Eva Biedron and Nicole Fisher for help with this project. We are also grateful to the many Best Practices Committee members who helped with SPNHC wiki cleaning tasks and for contributing content. Additionally, we are coordinating with the Legs and Regs Committee on several new wiki pages regarding country-specific laws, permitting requirements, and specimen shipping and transport regulations, so stay tuned. We hope that SPNHC members continue to submit new wiki content by using a simple submission form available on the wiki home page. For any questions or comments, please contact bpchairs@spnhc.org. The Committee continued our virtual coffee hour series with Best Practices members on special topics, including a session on navigating the changing International Shipping landscape with committee member Anja Friederichs and Legs and Regs co-chair Dirk Neumann. Once again, the Best Practices Committee will host the Back to Basics: Museum Techniques Skillshare symposium for its fifth year at the 2026 SPNHC Annual Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. Chairs will also hold a committee meeting with current and interested potential members, and we look forward to connecting in person! Finally, after six years, we would like to announce that we are stepping down as co-chairs. We look forward to continuing to serve on this committee and welcoming new co-chairs (to be announced at the SPNHC 2026 meeting) to bring fresh ideas and contributions to Best Practices.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Braker and Genevieve Tocci

BIODIVERSITY CRISIS RESPONSE

Three meetings were held online between the February 2026 Report and the submission of this report, in February, April and July. For more details see <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1URtds97edUvtu7XYqvLrG45zBa-pYblqFJaUPJPtu80/edit?usp=sharing>.

The main output has been the webinar Contributions of Natural History Collections to Conservation. This was run in two sessions on the 18th and 20th May, in each session three speakers gave talks. Details can be found in the dedicated website - <https://collectionsforconservation.org/>

In summary, in the first session Anabela Plos spoke about Data dissemination of global biodiversity followed by Francisco Morales on Small herbaria in the Americas and their contribution towards conservation and it concluded with Jordan Teisher on 40 Years of Botanical Data (in 15 Minutes) – Tropicos, Conservation, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. The second session started with Michelle Price presenting on Promoting natural history collections and access to them: the importance of the community, collaborations, networking and exchange followed by Andrea Weeks with Advancing conservation in the Anthropocene by linking collectors to their natural history specimens using Bionomia and concluding with Tuntiak Katan with Protection and conservation of the biodiversity before it becomes a natural history collection, the role of Territorial Communities.

The recordings will be uploaded to YouTube and the link to them will be sent as soon as they are ready. Regarding attendance the numbers were:

Day 1: 41 attendees (out of 97 registrants), 17 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States).

Day 2: 24 attendees (out of 100 registrants), 11 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States)

To continue the theme of the webinar a session will run at the SPNHC Cape Town 2026 conference under the same title. Currently five speakers from Kew London and Madagascar, Tulane University, Durban Natural Science Museum and Iziko Museums are lined up to present in person, speaking about how their collections of plants, insects, freshwater fish and bats are being used in conservation work.

Going forward, although some members of the BCRC will be attending the meeting in Cape Town in person, Alina will not be attending, and Mike will only be there virtually.

With thanks to all members who attended meetings through 2026 for their continued support of the BCRC.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike G. Rutherford and Alina Freire-Fierro

BYLAWS

The Bylaws committee, along with the full Council, have this year carried out a review of the Bylaws document. The core reasons for the review were to establish a defined start date for the Presidential role, rather than it being based around the ABM itself, ensure all Council roles with a vote are voted upon by the membership and have set terms, and to ensure consistency of wording in the document to allow online meetings. The wider membership will vote to approve these amendments at the 2026 ABM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julian Carter

CONFERENCE

The Conference Committee plays a vital role in bringing our annual meetings together. Through careful planning, collaboration, and ongoing dedication, the committee works tirelessly with the local organizing committees to ensure each meeting is well organized, engaging, and runs smoothly. With the new conference guidelines in place and conference and sponsorship coordinator, Ruth Seyler we have made great progress with confirmed and prospective conference hosts for the coming years. Special thanks to Ruth for her expert advice, diligence, and guidance. Her support and thoughtful approach have been greatly appreciated and has made a significant contribution to the committee's work.

2026 – Cape Town, South Africa Working with our hosts at Iziko Museums South Africa the joint organizing committee made up of Ruth Seyler, Greg Watkins-Colwell, Andy Bentley, Suzanne Ryder and the local organizing committee, Wayne Florence, Adriaan Jordaan, Romala Govender we have prepared an engaging technical programme and a wonderful programme of events and in Cape Town for September this year. This will be the first SPNHC conference in Africa and the theme of the conference is appropriately *Bridging Hemispheres: Collaborating for a Unified Natural Heritage*.

2027 – Montreal, Canada We are correctly working with a consortium of likeminded organizations to organize a joint conference in Montreal next summer. Establishing partnerships with these organizations will facilitate networking and collaborative opportunities with stakeholders that share common strategic objectives, fostering the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practice to support the achievement of mutual goals. The partnership joining SPNHC will be Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG), the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), the Québec Centre for Biodiversity Science (QCBS), and the International Barcode of Life Consortium (IBOL). This opportunity came about after having two offers of interest from Edmonton and Montreal for the 2027 SPNHC conference. It transpired that TDWG were also looking to have their conference in Montreal that year, so it made sense to combine forces rather than compete for delegates. The conference committee are currently working through the MOU, once this has been agreed and signed by all partners we can move forward in earnest.

2028 - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, U.S.A. Ruth has been working hard with our host Enrique Santoyo-Brito in Illinois for the conference in 2028. The preparation for that meeting is going well. We are currently waiting for approval by the Director of the university before proceeding further with the planning process.

We are constantly working on the conference calendar for SPNHC going forward and will send out more information when we have confirmed details for the conference venues for 2027 and 2028. If you and your institute are interested in hosting the SPNHC conference, please contact anyone on the conference committee, we would be delighted to discuss any opportunities and possibilities.

The objectives for the coming year are to:

- Deliver an engaging, memorable, and cost-effective first SPNHC conference to be hosted in Africa, in partnership with the Iziko South African Museums Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The conference will provide an exceptional experience for all participants while fostering meaningful networking, collaboration, and

knowledge exchange among the global natural history collections community.

- Secure a MOU with the partner organizations for the 2027 SPNHC conference and work with them to plan a relevant and appealing joint meeting.
- Work with the prospective host for 2028
- Make enquiries for a suitable venue for 2029 and subsequent conferences.
- Work to implement the goals and objectives of the SPNHC strategy.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Ryder

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

The Committee began meeting on a semi-regular 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 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Ritchie

EDUCATION

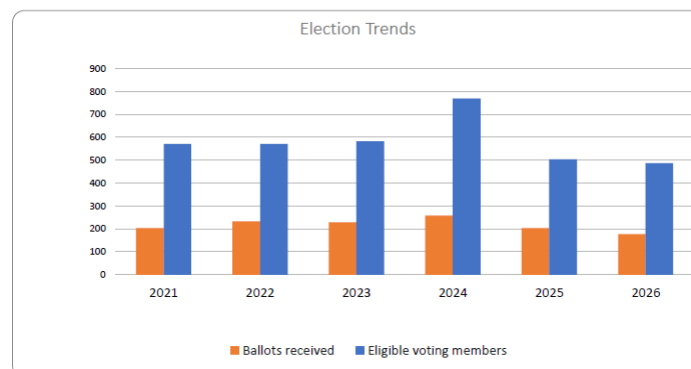
No report submitted.

ELECTIONS

2026 Elections Results! This year the elections were conducted successfully using a new online tool under our membership database software, Wild Apricot. The call for nominations was sent to members via email, for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary and two Members-at-large. There were six candidates for the three positions.

The election began on January 6th, 2026, with a close on February 6th, 2026. All voting members (as of January 2026) were emailed using the online platform. At the close of the election, the total number of returned ballots was 178 (36%) out of 488 eligible members.

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



The positions filled and successful candidates are:

President-Elect: Libby Ellwood

Secretary: Megan King

Members-at-Large: (2 positions): Enrique Santoyo Brito and Shannen Robson

These results were shared with the membership by the President via the main email on February 9, 2026. Congratulations to those in a new role and welcome to the committee.

After many years on the Elections Committee Jean-Marc Gagnon has decided to stand down to enjoy his retirement. Thank you, Jean-Marc, for all your help!

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Palumbo, Jessica Utrup and Jean-Marc Gagnon

FINANCE

The SPNHC Finance Committee monitored the organization budget throughout the year and tried to stay abreast of the transfer of financial management functions from Treasurer's office to Classi Management Systems. That transfer now appears to be complete. The Finance Committee initiated the policy of obtaining Conflict of Interest statements from all current officers and committee chairs. Thanks to all for your cooperation in returning the forms! The committee will need to solicit new forms each year; please look for an email about this in early January 2027. At the moment the Finance Chair is holding these forms; SPNHC needs to decide where these forms will be stored in the long term.

The Finance Committee discussed a year-end funding campaign for SPNHC, to correspond with membership renewals and the end of the tax year. Our goal would be to begin soliciting these funds from members in the fall. The funds could be used to supplement travel grants or to support the annual budget. The Finance Committee is awaiting approval of this idea from the Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara M. Thiers

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY (IDEA)

No report submitted.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The recent removal of the De Minimis Treatment of imports into the United States and the European Union, eliminating the low-value exemption for all shipments, has required major adjustment to the electronic systems used by national postal services and international carriers. In advance of these changes, the Legs and Regs Committee disseminated information through NHColl to inform our members and community. However, these adjustments have also created new challenges for the international shipment of scientific loans. During import clearance, the electronic systems often lack the capacity to capture the detailed information needed to accurately identify and process scientific loan material needed to convey correct information into customs systems, resulting in delays and other clearance issues.

The Legs and Regs Committee successfully organized a meeting with the FedEx International Headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, USA, on September 30, 2025, to address shipping issues affecting our community. The meeting resulted in the resolution of a specific shipping issue associated with Australia and New Zealand, and it provided an opportunity to develop two resources, which were subsequently shared with our contacts at FedEx International Headquarters. The first resource is a guidance document outlining best practices for shipping natural history specimens via FedEx. The second presents recommendations for improving customs clearance procedures by addressing three key challenges encountered when shipping natural history specimens internationally: (1) the limited capacity of the Item Description field to accommodate customs-relevant information; (2) the misclassification of scientific specimens within the FedEx E-Declaration system; and (3) the absence of an

appropriate customs documentation category for scientific specimens. These recommendations were also presented during a follow-up meeting in July with FedEx Germany, a major international air hub responsible for the processing and dispatch of European shipments. We look forward to continuing discussions with FedEx representatives to explore opportunities for implementing these recommendations and improving customs clearance procedures for the international shipment of natural history specimens.

In December, the committee informed the SPNHC members about the open call of the CBD Secretariat to participate in a survey on decision NP-3/1, paragraph 18 (a), intending to improve some of the dysfunctionalities of the Nagoya Protocol. Our committee prepared a PDF template of the survey and invited active participation of individual SPNHC members via NHCOLL-L. The Legs and Regs Committee also participated in an independent survey of the CBD secretariat, representing SPNHC as a relevant stakeholder to the CBD.

The Legs and Regs Committee is currently monitoring developments related to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which was adopted on June 19, 2023. The Agreement applies to Marine Genetic Resources collected from waters outside any single country's jurisdiction (the high seas). As the Agreement continues to be ratified and implemented by countries around the world, it introduces new reporting obligations for specimens collected during research cruises on scientific vessels, as well as for institutions that hold and provide access to Marine Genetic Resources. The committee will continue to monitor these developments and keep the SPNHC community informed of any implications for natural history collections and their associated research activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Dirk Neumann and Breda Zimkus

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

The Long-Range Planning Committee is responsible for understanding the processes and actions needed to achieve the strategic goals of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). It also determines what is needed to develop and progress SPNHC whilst responding to a changing environment, the needs of its membership and the wider natural history collections community. The committee ensures that strategic planning supports the activities, and guides the direction and sustainability, of SPNHC. This year we have been reviewing the progress the Society and its committees have made towards the goals and objectives set by the current Strategic Plan, 2025-2035. A review document has been created and shared for comment with the wider LRP committee members. The aim is to highlight the areas that need attention in the coming year, and which goals are on track.

This strategic review has demonstrated that many of the goals and objectives set out in the Strategic Plan (dates) are already being effectively delivered through the sustained and substantial efforts of the SPNHC committees.

Another significant area of work being undertaken by the LRP and membership committee is a review of the partnerships with other professional societies and associations formally in place with SPNHC. We are reviewing their mandate, role, and relationships to make sure they are current and continue to be beneficial to both parties, with active representatives and liaisons. We have sent out letters to all our current collaborative partners and are collating the responses. The results will be reported to Council in the coming months. This exercise has been interesting and one that clearly needs further work and consideration. Many of the MOU's are very old, some organizations do not have a current liaison, but the renewed communication for other organizations has already proved fruitful. I would like to suggest to Council that this work be continued with a designated MAL over the next year.

The objectives for the coming year are to:

- Report on the evaluation of the Strategic Plan review to council.
- Meet with the committee chairs to highlight the work needed to achieve specific strategic objectives and goals and assist where needed.
- Produce a report for council after reviewing current partnerships SPNHC has in place to make sure they are up to date and continue to be beneficial to both parties.
- Using the findings of the partnership report working with a designated MAL to implement the suggestions of

the report.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Ryder

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee would like to thank Christy Classi and the administrative team for the invaluable support they continue to provide to the Society and to the Membership committee throughout the year.

Looking ahead, current Chair Robyn Crowther will begin maternity leave in July 2026. During this time, Arianna Bernucci will take on the Chair's responsibilities and lead the Committee's activities. Upon Robyn's return, Robyn and Arianna will work together as Co-Chairs. Arianna is the Head of Remedial Conservation at the Natural History Museum in London, England. With over seventeen years' experience across Earth and Life Science collections, she works with fossils, eggs, insects, taxidermy, botanical and fluid specimens, leading on both collections care and exhibition projects involving complex natural history materials. She has previously been Coordinator of the ICOM-CC Natural History Working Group, Chair of the ICON Ethnography Committee and currently a founding member of the new NatSCA conservation committee.

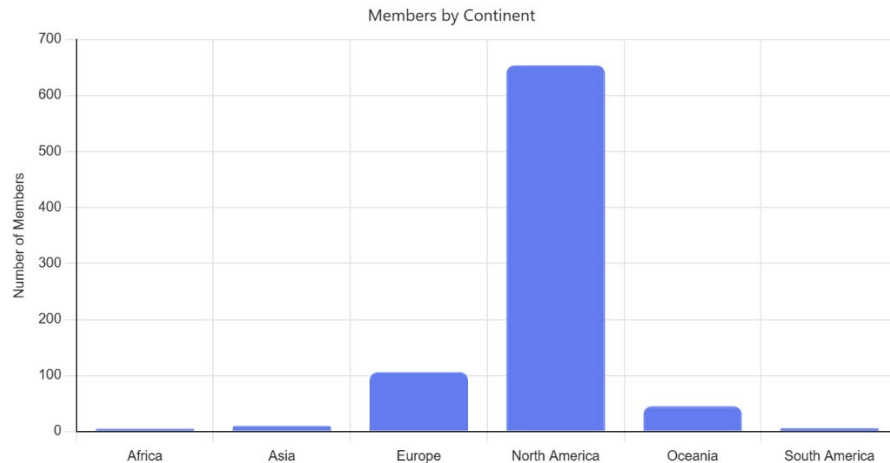
Membership Statistics

As of July 1, 2026, the current total number of members is 826, a 10.3% reduction in membership from the same time last year.

Membership level	Active
Collection Forum Print Only	8
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	144
Institutional / Associate Online Only Member - 5-10 Members	42
Institutional / Associate Online Only Member - up to 4 Members	109
Institutional/Associate Print and Online Member - 10+ Members	32
Institutional/Associate Print and Online Member - 5-10 Members	19
Institutional/Associate Print and Online Member - Up to 4 Members	8
Library/Subscription Online Only Service	8
Library/Subscription Print and Online Service	20
Lifetime Member - Paid in full	33
Regular Online Only Member	288
Regular Online Only Member - Auto Renew	31
Regular Print and Online Member	13
Regular Print and Online Membership Auto-Renew	6
Student Online Only Member	48
Student Online Only Member - Auto Renew	6
Student Print and Online Member	6
Student Print and Online Member - Auto Renew	2
Total	826

While the overall geographic distribution of members remains broadly similar to previous years, the Society

continues to maintain a genuinely international membership, with members represented in 31 countries across all six inhabited continents. Gains have been made since the start of the membership year in regions that have historically had lower representation, including Africa, Asia and South America. Although these regions still account for a relatively small proportion of total membership, the presence of members from every continent demonstrates the Society's growing global reach and provides a strong foundation for future diversity and international engagement initiatives.



Collaborative Partnerships

SPNHC maintains strong relationships with organizations that share our commitment to advancing natural history collections. During the year, the Membership Committee contacted 25 collaborative partners to reaffirm these connections, confirm liaison contacts, and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

Partners were invited to share updates on their activities, suggest new ways of working together, and identify opportunities for joint training, professional development, workshops, and meetings. Responses are currently being collated and analyzed, and the feedback received will help guide the continued development of these important and mutually beneficial partnerships.



Membership booth exhibited at the American Institute for Conservation annual meeting.

Promoting SPNHC

SPNHC continues to promote membership and raise awareness of the Society by advertising in conference literature and exhibiting the Membership booth. During the year, the Booth was exhibited at the NatSCA Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and the American Institute for Conservation annual meeting in Montreal, Canada. Later this year, the Society will also be represented at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, USA, marking it the second consecutive year that SPNHC has exhibited at this event.

We welcome suggestions for future conferences where the Membership Booth could be exhibited, either in person or virtually. Volunteers who can assist with outreach at these events may be eligible for complimentary conference registration. The Committee is also keen to hear from members with contacts in locations hosting future SPNHC Annual Meetings who can help expand the Society's reach and attract new members. For more information, please contact Membership Co-Chair Arianna Bernucci (membership@spnhc.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Crowther

NETWORKING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Network and Career Development Committee (NCDC) oversees various aspects of promoting networking, mentoring, and career development through SPNHC programming and conferences. You can [read more about the NCDC](#) on the SPNHC website.

We have an active committee which meets bi-monthly (6 times per year). Our meetings often begin with a presenter (guest or member) that shares knowledge on a subject or topic. We have just begun the process of recording these presentations and will be sharing them with the broader SPNHC community through the [SPNHC YouTube Page](#). We spread awareness about our meetings through the SPNHC social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram) as well as through the NHCOLL-L listserv.

The NCDC will continue to work with the local organizing committee (LOC) to re-write the "Guidelines and suggestions for attending a conference hosted by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History collections (SPNHC)" for each conference. While this document was intended for emerging professionals, first-time and lapsed attendees, we have found that this document is useful in providing information to all in attendance. Additionally, if the schedule and space allow, we will continue to host our annual conference luncheon which highlights what SPNHC and NCDC are and encourages mingling between first-time attendees/ early career professionals with our more seasoned professionals. For the 2025 conference we provided notebooks with conference tips and NCDC themed stickers, which is the plan for 2026 as well.

With the implementation of the new strategic plan in 2025, we strive to be an active and engaged committee, do our best to encourage and provide training, and promote best practices. Some of the many ways in which we would like to meet the goals of the strategic plan is by reviving the mentoring program at SPNHC's annual conferences, make better use of SPNHC's social accounts, encourage member growth within our committee and SPNHC, collaborate with our fellow SPNHC committees, locate and share opportunities through the [SPNHC Job Board](#) and lastly promote workshops and training opportunities both in person and virtually.

We are always open for new members and volunteers looking to get more involved in the SPNHC community, we have a lot of ideas and goals we'd like to reach, which aren't possible without the help of engaged members.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan R. King, Meg Phillips and Hannah Bendull

PUBLICATIONS

See Appendix 2 (page 42).

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.

The Awards part of this Committee has in 2025/26 been coordinated by Julian Carter (Past President), whilst the Grants part is coordinated by Elise V. LeCompte. The awards and grants include:

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

This year's awards have been considered and will be announced at the 2026 ABM, and afterwards via NHCOLL-L and the next newsletter. A big thank you also goes to Jean-Marc Gagnon who this year stepped back from his various roles supporting SPNHC including this committee. Jean-Marc has been a long advocate of the work of the Society and has done a great deal to support and guide the Society as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

Julian Carter

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 thankfully have continued productive conversations and keep communications open with our federal partners.

While much of our discussion in the past year was focused on navigating the changing state of affairs during federal shutdowns and the unfortunate impact of RIFs (Reduction in Force), our committee also held meetings discussing a range of topics including international shipment of federal specimens, orphaned collections containing federal objects, updates on RAPTOR (the BLM's new online permitting and report system), and the state of agreements and contracts with federal agencies.

A subset of our committee has been working to increase the discoverability of federal specimens. We have begun crafting recommendations for usage of certain Darwin Core terms as well as moving towards a best practice recommendation for non-federal institutions on denoting the ownership of federal objects held in their collections. We have also reviewed standard ownership vocabulary for different federal agencies and sites. This is a work in progress and a continued focus for the committee for the remainder of the year.

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 and Greg Liggett

WEB and SOCIAL MEDIA

The Web and Social Media Committee manages many aspects of the SPNHC online presence, including maintaining the website, SPNHC wiki, Slack, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook. You can find a complete list of who we are and what we do at <https://spnhc.org/what-spnhc-does/governance/committees-and-representatives/#website>.

Special thanks go to Jessica Utrup, who is essential in maintaining the SPNHC jobs board and the NHCOLL-L listserv. We are currently looking for someone to manage our online events calendar. If you are familiar with WordPress and would like to help out, contact us at webmaster@spnhc.org. Interested in helping out with social media, have a job you want listed on our jobs board, or announcements you want sent out to our subscribers? Let us know!

Respectfully submitted,

Liath Appleton

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

CALIFORNIA COLLECTION PROJECT GRANTS

Through the kind generosity of the California Institute for Biodiversity and the State of California, the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) was granted US\$372,277 in funding to award in support of saving at risk collections relating to the geographical area of California. The funding was available to rescue specimens and samples, process backlogs and accession specimens, repair collections infrastructure, and otherwise secure biodiversity specimens and associated materials and data.

The California Collections Project Grants have been a very successful program for SPNHC. The committee received 32 applications for funding, from which 14 grants were awarded to successful applicants. Of the 14 grant projects 12 have now been completed, listed below:

- Cal Poly Humboldt - Rescuing Specimens, Strengthening Infrastructure: Accessioning and Maintenance of the Cal Poly Humboldt Fish Collection
- The Regents of the University of California, UC San Diego - Rescue of the Station M collection of California deep-sea invertebrates
- Yale Peabody Museum - Housing and Databasing the Noll Collection of California Insects at the Yale Peabody Museum
- The Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara - Critical Care for Central Coast Herpetology Collection
- Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University - Safeguarding California's fossil heritage in the US's oldest invertebrate palaeontology collection
- The University of Iowa Museum of Natural History - Securing California Aquatic Invertebrates at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History
- Carnegie Institute/Carnegie Museum of Natural History - Securing Carnegie's Specimens of the Californias
- Turtle Conservancy - Turtle Conservancy - Resurrecting the Scientific Collection of Dr. Peter Pritchard
- Petaluma Wildlife Museum - Museum Curation Starts at Any Age: Teaching High School Students Museum Collection Stewardship
- Illinois Natural History Survey Insect Collection - Securing California Arthropod specimens in the Illinois Natural History Survey Insect Collection
- Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County - Twice Salvaged: Conserving Orphaned Mitigation Palaeontology Resources
- California Academy of Sciences - Curation of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo fish collection

Some projects requested a no-cost extension, and 2 remain to be completed or submit their final reports:

- San Diego State University - Saving the Chen Fish Collection and training the next generation of collections workforce
- UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity Herbarium - Lassen Herbarium Rescue

We are honoured to have been able to facilitate the award of this grant money to some many organisations within the SPNHC network. We hope that the grant funding assisted in providing much needed collection care and supported new roles for emerging professionals to gain hands on experience workings with collections.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Finkelde

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

ALLIANCE OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS OF CANADA (ANHMC)

No report submitted.

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

No report submitted.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

No report submitted.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS

No report submitted.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS (ASM)

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

The following is a summary of activities since the Annual Meeting in 2025:

- 1) No collections were accredited or reaccredited this year.
- 2) Three collections remain at various stages of the accreditation review process.
 - a. Denver Museum of Nature and Science
 - i. Planned site-visit during ASM 2024 annual meeting was postponed
 - ii. Pending scheduling of new site-visit
 - b. University of Oklahoma, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
 - i. Requested accreditation of genetic resources collection in March 2020
 - ii. Underwent staffing changes which affected scheduling of with SCC visit
 - iii. SCC chair contacted current staff regarding reinitiating the process
 - c. Museo Javeriano de Historia Natural-MUJ, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Bogotá
 - i. Made initial inquiry into accreditation
 - ii. Received self-assessment documents from chair (15 March 2024)
 - iii. No further contact to date
- 3) A new survey of South American collections was published in 2025 (Weksler, M., D'Elia, G., Teta, P., et al. 2025. A comprehensive survey of mammal collections and genetic resources in South America: challenges and directions. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 146(1), p.blaf069).
- 4) An updated list of accredited collections is complete and will be available on the ASM SCC website.
- 5) A guideline document for performing accreditations will be completed and available on the SCC website soon.
- 6) A revision of the Basic Curatorial Standards for Systematic Collections (*Journal of Mammalogy* 85:180-181, 2004) is in process. A final document will be available for President and Board of Directors review prior to the 2027 annual meeting. The Standards document will be submitted to the journal for publication shortly thereafter.
- 7) Conversion of the Mammal collections of the Western Hemisphere: a survey and directory of collections into a digital format hosted on the ASM website was approved by President Smith but development has stalled. A SCC subcommittee (Kurt Galbreath, Katrina Derieg, Cody Thompson, Nate Upham and Jon Dunnum) and the

communications Committee remain tasked with initiating this project.

8) The committee had no turnover of members this year.

9) Jonathan Dunnum stepped down as Chair at the end of the 2026 meeting. Cody Thompson assumed the Chair position at that time.

To view the documents mentioned here and other collection-related information, see:

<https://www.mammalsociety.org/committees/systematic-collections>

Note that Dr. Tom Lee of Abilene Christian University will become the new representative for the American Society of Mammalogists to SPNHC. I still plan to attend SPNHC Meetings but will be doing so as Collection Manager Emerita of the Section of Mammals, Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne B. McLaren

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS (ASPT)

The American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT) continues to advance its mission of promoting research, education, and collaboration in plant systematics and floristics. Over the past year, ASPT has strengthened its role as a hub for professional exchange, student support, and the dissemination of high-quality taxonomic research.

ASPT's professional development and community-building efforts saw notable growth this year. The Society expanded its virtual and hybrid programming, providing new avenues for members to engage with emerging methodologies in phylogenetics, biodiversity informatics, and botanical collections research. A series of member-led webinars and discussion panels attracted broad participation, fostering dialogue across institutions and career stages. The ASPT Wiki and online resources continue to be refined and updated, offering practical guidance ranging from best practices in herbarium management to teaching tools in plant systematics.

ASPT's flagship publication, *Systematic Botany*, published 30 high-impact research articles spanning taxonomy, phylogenomics, biogeography, and nomenclature across four issues.

The Botany 2026 conference—held jointly with the Botanical Society of America (BSA) and other partner societies—is occurring August 1-5, 2026 in Tucson, AZ (with a hybrid option to maximize accessibility). ASPT-sponsored symposia, workshops, and field trips will highlight topics such as integrative taxonomy, digitization and data mobilization, advances in phylogenomic pipelines, herbarium-based discovery, and conservation-driven floristics. The ASPT Student Section will have expanded mentorship events, including networking sessions and a research-in-progress forum designed to support students and early-career researchers.

ASPT looks forward to another productive year of collaboration, scientific discovery, and community support as it continues to champion the study and understanding of plant biodiversity.

Respectfully submitted,

Harlan Svoboda

ASSOCIATION OF MATERIALS AND METHODS IN PALEONTOLOGY (AMMP)

AMMP happily welcomes its newly elected officers: President – Nicole Dzenowski, Secretary – Mindy Householder, and Member-at-large 1 – J.P. Cavigelli. The Association also enjoyed a successful annual meeting hosted by the North Dakota Geological Survey in Bismarck, North Dakota April 14-18, 2026. The meeting's symposium, "Defining 'Best Practices'" was well attended and engaged the attendees in discussions about best practices, how they are communicated, and shared thoughts on how the community might improve documentation and dissemination of these practices. The ultimate goal of this symposium is to work toward developing short-form information packets that summarize the best practices associated with common tasks and material use.

Next year's annual meeting will be hosted by the Western Science Center in Hemet, CA. The meeting will be both in-person and virtual (via GatherTown). Platform presentations will be pre-recorded and live, and posters will be in

PDF format for the virtual component. More information about the annual meeting can be found at this website: <https://paleomethods.org/Annual-Meeting>.

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 exact dates for the ARCS fall virtual conference have not yet been finalized, so keep an eye on the website for more information (<https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/conference>). The next biennial in-person conference is being planned for 27-30 October 2027 in San Francisco.

ARCS Resources now include links to the Immigrant Solidarity and ICE Preparedness: a guide for museum, library, and cultural heritage workers (<https://www.chaaco.org/resource-hub/immigrants>) and a list of Annotated Resources for cultural heritage workers preparing for ICE (<https://www.chaaco.org/resource-hub/immigrants/resources>).

As climate change continues to affect weather patterns, the ARCS Emergency Preparedness resources are regularly updated and organized by region for the US and Canada (<https://www.arcsinfo.org/community/resources/emergency-sub-committee-programs>). A new feature is the ARCS Affinity Groups, which include a Manager's Book Club and a Science Museum group—both schedule meetings throughout the year so check the ARCS Professional Development Calendar for dates (<https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/professional-development>).

In addition, the ARCS home page now provides a Vendor Directory to help find business that serve the collections care and management community (<https://www.arcsinfo.org/community/vendor-directory>).

And as always, ARCS members pose questions and provide answers to other's questions on the ARCS Members Forum (<https://www.arcsinfo.org/members/Login?returnUrl=%2Fcommunity%2Fforum>) and view listing of museum jobs and internships (<https://www.arcsinfo.org/opportunities/career-center>).

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Simmons

BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION STANDARDS (TDWG)

The 2025 annual meeting of Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) was held jointly with the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON), the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) under the unifying "Living Data" conference held in Bogotá, Colombia from October 21st-24th. The hybrid conference details can be found at: <https://livingdata2025.com/>. You can check out the program, read the abstracts, and can watch many of the presentations via the TDWG YouTube channel (search for TDWG). This was a great opportunity for four critical biodiversity communities to learn from each other! This year the Interest and Task Group Working Sessions were held virtually from the 11th to 22nd of May (2026) focusing on standards development.

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 2025), and second, a forum for biodiversity informaticians to publish articles on biodiversity standards, methods, guidelines, models and applications. If you have content relevant to these topics please consider publishing in BISS (<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://lhc.tdwg.org/>). Likewise, the Minimal Information about a Digital Specimen (MIDS) standard was ratified, which more consistently “measures” digitization progress (<https://mids.tdwg.org/>). There was also a suite of new terms added to DarwinCore based on the alignment with GBIF’s new conceptual data model and implementation of the new DarwinCore Data Package protocol (<https://gbif.github.io/dwc-dp/qrg/index.html>). 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 2026, TDWG is excited to return to Europe and meet in Oslo, Norway from September 21st to 25th. The theme for the conference is “Research and Robot-ready Biodiversity Data Standards.” For more information please see the conference website (<https://www.tdwg.org/conferences/2026/>) 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

CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN TAXONOMIC FACILITIES (CETAF)

As SPNHC’s liaison to the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF), I maintained engagement under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SPNHC and CETAF throughout the past year. Points of connection between the two organizations include my continued active membership in the CETAF ePublishing Working Group. Dirk Neumann co-chairs both SPNHC’s and CETAF’s respective working groups on Legislation and Regulations. Recent discussions among Dirk Neumann, Suzanne Ryder as SPNHC’s incoming president, and myself explored collaborative training options involving CETAF, the CBD, and SPNHC. Connections to CETAF’s Collections Working Group seem currently suspended, as this group is in transition and awaiting new leadership.

Beyond these activities, I am not in a position to report on the fuller range of joint activities that may exist between SPNHC and CETAF under the MOU, as I do not have visibility into them. This raises a question similar to the one I have raised in my CBD report: how much of the engagement conducted under SPNHC’s various partnerships is actually reaching SPNHC or its partner organizations, or strengthening the relationships these partnerships are meant to establish and serve? Structured work routines for regular discussion and coordination between liaisons, representatives, and SPNHC’s leadership do not currently exist — a gap that may be worth the society’s attention, independent of any single partnership.

Respectfully submitted,

Jutta Buschbom

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

As SPNHC’s representative to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), I maintained close engagement with the CBD and its partners throughout 2025 and 2026, tracking policy developments relevant to global biodiversity conservation.

During the second half of 2025, I attended one webinar organized by the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) and 16 by global organizations (e.g. IPBES, OECD, etc.) and the wider network of CBD partners, including the DSI Network, COOP4CBD, etc. In 2026, I have attended five webinars organized by the SCBD and seven webinars by global organizations and CBD partners. Financial and socio-economic sustainability and resilience emerged repeatedly across this engagement as a major theme, not only for human societies worldwide but also for the bio/geodiversity collections — material and digital — and their services community. This observation prompted me to pursue further training on my own initiative: I completed BIOFIN’s massive open online course, “Biodiversity Finance: Designing and Implementing Finance Plans for Nature,” earning the certification in November 2025, and a further certification on biodiversity credit systems in June 2026.

Despite the currently disconcerting geopolitical atmosphere, activities toward implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) are moving forward at speed. Given that the UN system and large multilateral organizations are often considered slow to respond and cumbersome in their decision processes, this progress might even be called remarkable. For me, the engagement with the CBD and associated global stakeholders has been a major source of optimism and hope: I have experienced the sustained engagement of party delegations and observer organizations, the steady development and roll-out of KM-GBF monitoring by the CBD and its partners, and the surge of associated processes triggered by its adoption, e.g., in biodiversity finance and nature-positive economics, national monitoring, data infrastructure interoperability and governance, and gender awareness and gender-responsive data disaggregation. Independently, yet in alignment with my SPNHC partnership role, I am contributing to a collaboration initiated by the GEO BON Genetic Composition Working Group, which aims to "systematically evaluate the extent and quality of genetic diversity conservation commitments in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)."

Given how little of this engagement has been explicitly tied to my formal role, and how few channels exist for information to flow back, I find myself asking: have any insights and outcomes of these activities reached SPNHC at all? Taking a systems view, being a partner to the CBD, and engaging for global biodiversity conservation, intrinsically requires organizations and people to change and to accept transformation — this is what the KM-GBF is fundamentally about. This holds true even for a volunteer organization like SPNHC, engaging as fully as it can. Such transformation, in turn, requires leadership that is willing and able to embrace change, rather than hold it at bay. Thus, for me, organizational leadership and governance at this moment is not about managing what already exists or resignedly treating scarcity and decline as set and insurmountable. Instead, I understand responsibility in uncertain times as looking ahead and opening up ways forward, guided by optimism grounded in reality and in communities' needs, capacities, and ideas — finding and contributing solutions to the advantage of the global commons. It would be my wish for SPNHC's leaders — council, committee chairs, and representatives — and its members, to see solutions and opportunities where others see only effort, cost, and risk, and to bring to the society leadership that is open to change. The opportunities provided by the KM-GBF and SPNHC's community's capacity to act are in place — what is needed now is the courage to seize them.

Respectfully submitted,

Jutta Buschbom

ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (ECN)

ECN (<https://ecnweb.net/>) formed an MOU with SPNHC in late 2016; this is our 10th 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.

The annual ECN meeting (ECN 2025 08-09 November 2025: <https://ecnweb.net/welcome/meeting/ecn-2024/2025-program/>) was held as a blend of in-person and virtual modalities again in 2025 to facilitate and foster international participation. The in-person venue was the Hyatt Regency Portland at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR, U.S.A. Meetings were held Saturday, 08 November and Sunday, 09 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. We had 148 in-person attendees and 42 virtual attendees worldwide, and 34 contributed talks.

Symposia included:

- 1) The Promises (and Realities) of "AI" for the Insect Taxonomist
Organizer/Moderator: Ainsley Seago, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A. (6 talks presented)
- 2) Seeing Clearly Now: Tips and Tricks for Specimen Imaging, from Legacy Systems to the Latest Gear
Organizers/Moderators: M. Andrew Johnston and Christopher C. Wirth, Department of Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, U.S.A. (5 talks presented)
- 3) Discover the Hidden Gems in Our Museums

Organizers/Moderators: Luc Leblanc, William F. Barr Entomological Museum, Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, U.S.A., Brittany L. Kohler, University of California Davis, Davis, CA, U.S.A., and Peter Oboyski, Essig Museum of Entomology, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, U.S.A. (9 talks presented)

2025 meeting organizers: Oliver Keller, Ainsley Seago, Andrew Johnston, Jack Whisenant, Patrick Gorrington, Chris Wirth, Kristin Jayd, and Ashleigh Whiffin; ECN Social Media Team: Ashleigh Whiffin; Program layout and design: Chris Wirth and Kristin Jayd

The ECN Executive Committee and Officers:

Peter Oboyski, President (2025-2027)
 Oliver Keller, Past President (2025-2027); President (2023-2025)
 Andrew Johnston, Vice-President (2021-2027)
 Jack Whisenant, Secretary (2023-2027)
 Patrick Gorrington, Treasurer (2016-2027)
 Chris Wirth, Program Co-Chair (2023-2027)
 Adam Haberski, Program Co-Chair (2025-2027)
 Ashleigh Whiffin, Co-communications Officer (2019-2027)
 Isa Betancourt, Co-communications Officer (2025-2027)

The next meeting of ECN will be 07-08 November 2026, in conjunction with the November 8-11 Columbus, Ohio 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) and Twitter/X (@EntCollNtwrk).

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel K. Young

GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP (GCG)

No report submitted.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)

No report submitted.

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 32nd Annual GBIF Governing Board Meeting took place in Bogotá, Colombia from October 16th -20th in association with the Living Data Conference (<https://livingdata2025.com/>). There were many valuable updates presented on the core work GBIF is currently focused on (<https://docs.gbif.org/2026-work-programme/en/>) in support of the Strategic Framework covering 2023-2027 (<https://www.gbif.org/document/50117Bxn2p1vRgpb7aXaT/gbif-strategic-framework-2023-2027>).

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 new conceptual data model to support richer, more complex types of biodiversity data (<https://www.gbif.org/new-data-model>). 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 (<https://www.gbif.org/hosted-portals>). Work also continues on the Global Registry of Scientific Collections or GRSciColl (<https://www.gbif.org/grscicoll>). The main goals are to “improve access to information about scientific collections, their host institutions as well as contacts for key collections and curatorial staff” and “improve interoperability among databases by providing unique codes and machine-readable identifiers for institutions and collections”.

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

Respectfully submitted,

James Macklin

HERITAGE EMERGENCY NATIONAL TASK FORCE (HENTF)

No report submitted.

INTEGRATED DIGITIZED BIOCOLLECTIONS (iDigBio)

See Appendix 2 (page 43).

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

No report submitted.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPOSITORIES (ISBER)

ISBER hosted two large events in the past year: 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, and the 2026 Global Biobanking Congress with the Biobank Branch, China Medicinal Biotech Association (BBCMBA), and BGI on April 21-25, 2026, in Shenzhen, China. Major topics included biobanking for diversity, sustainable biobanking, AI-powered biobanking, and future directions.

The 2027 ISBER Global Biobanking Congress will be held on May 4-6, 2027, in San Diego, California, USA. Additional details will be announced soon on ISBER's website (<https://www.isber.org/page/2027ISBERGlobal>).

ISBER is also pleased to announce the Persian and Korean translation of the ISBER Best Practices: Recommendations for Repositories, Fifth Edition. Other translations (Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Russian, and Farsi) 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 Wang-Claypool

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

No report submitted.

NATURAL SCIENCES COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION (NatSCA)

See Appendix 2 (page 44).

NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE (NSC Alliance)

No report submitted.

PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PS)

The next meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) will be held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in Denver, Colorado October 11-14, 2026.

The PS Collections Committee distributed a short survey in the fall to gather responses about the state of funding for paleontological/geological collections. The survey showed a great need for small grant funding opportunities. As a result, the PS Collections Committee has been able to secure funds to award several small grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. These grants will provide funding for PS members working in natural history collections to support paleontological/paleobiological curatorial and digitization projects in order to address the backlog many collections face, and support collections care, management, and broad access.

More information on the PS Collections Grants can be found at <https://paleo.memberclicks.net/the-paleontological-society-collections-grants>.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Cundiff

SMALL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (SCNet)

No report submitted.

SOCIETY OF HERBARIUM CURATORS (SHC)

No report submitted.

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (SVP)

No report submitted.

Appendix 1

Proposed changes and amendments to SPNHC Bylaws

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Bylaws

(as revised and approved 1994, 2011, 2017, 2023, 2026)

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, hereafter referred to as the Society.

ARTICLE II. NATURE

The Society is a multidisciplinary organization, including persons within the fields of anthropology, botany, geology, paleontology, zoology, living collections, and others who are interested in the management, conservation, and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections comprise specimens, and supporting analog and digital documentation, such as labels, ledgers, card catalogs, library materials, field data, photographs, audio and video files, X-ray and CT scans, and archives. Preservation refers to any direct or indirect activity providing continued and improved management and care of these collections and supporting documentation.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society shall be:

- a) to provide for and maintain an international association of persons who study, care for, work with, or are interested in natural history collections;
- b) to encourage studies about the essential requirements for preservation, management, storage, research, and display of natural history collections;
- c) to publish a journal and newsletter as well as encourage the dissemination of information about natural history collections in journals, bulletins, proceedings, and wherever such information is appropriate; and
- d) to hold annual meetings and encourage conferences, symposia, workshops, and other meetings about natural history collections in order to facilitate exchanges of ideas and information.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

Classes of Members. The Society shall consist primarily of seven classes of membership, namely, Regular, Student, Library/Subscription, Institutional/Associate, Corporate/Commercial, Life Members, and Honorary Members (bestowed). Other categories of membership can be added or removed as needed by the Society, with approval of a majority of the Council Members. Unless otherwise stated, membership is by way of application.

Section 2.

Regular, Student, and Life Members. Any individual interested in or concerned about natural history collections is eligible to apply for Membership. Regular Members shall be eligible to vote at Business Meetings of the general membership, vote for Council Members on Society ballots, hold office in the Society and receive Society publications.

Student Members shall enjoy the same rights and privileges as Regular Members. Student membership is available to individuals enrolled in a course of study leading to a degree.

Life Members have elected to pre-pay their membership in the Society in perpetuity and shall enjoy the same privileges as Regular Members.

Section 3.

Library/Subscription Members. University and Institutional libraries shall be eligible to join the Society as Library/Subscription Members. Such Members shall receive only the publications of the Society and they shall not be entitled to voting privileges.

Section 4.

Corporate/Commercial and Institutional/Associate Members. Government departments, corporations, private institutions, and others shall be eligible to join the Society as Corporate/Commercial Members; institutions and organizations whose mission or goals align with the Society shall be eligible to join as Institutional/Associate Members. Such members shall receive the publications of the Society and may appoint a delegate to attend Business Meetings of the general membership.

Corporate/Commercial Members and Institutional/Associate Members, through their delegate, may vote at Business Meetings of the general membership and vote for Council Members on Society ballots. Delegates may not hold office in the Society.

Section 5.

Honorary Members. Council may elect Honorary Members in recognition of outstanding contributions to natural history collections or to the Society. Honorary Members have all the rights and privileges of Regular Members.

Section 6.

Dues and Assessments. Council shall set annual dues and special assessments to the members according to the needs of the Society. The membership year shall be the calendar year, and dues shall be payable in advance. Honorary Members shall not be billed for annual dues or other assessments. Failure to pay dues will result in loss of membership, but membership may be reinstated for the years that dues are paid.

Section 7.

Removal of Membership. Any member who conducts activities counter to the objectives of the Society and in a manner

viewed as unacceptable by members of the Council, may have his/her membership revoked by two-thirds vote of the Council. Reinstatement may be provided by a simple majority vote of the Council members after supporting information has been presented.

Section 8.

Voluntary Membership Withdrawal. Any member may voluntarily withdraw from membership by delivering a written resignation to the President.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1.

Annual Business Meeting. The Society membership shall meet annually or at such place and time as the Council shall resolve. A Council Meeting of officers, committee chairs, society representatives and Members-at-large, and a Business Meeting of the general membership, shall be held during the annual meeting of the general membership. The general membership can request that Council call special meetings of the Society by submitting a written requisition signed by at least 20% of the voting members.

Section 2.

Conduct of Business. Business of the Society shall be transacted at Annual or Special Business Meetings of the general membership. Conduct of the meeting shall adhere to “Robert’s Rules of Order” in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws or other rules adopted by the Society. Every resolution shall be determined by a majority of voting members present, unless specifically provided by statute or these Bylaws.

Section 3.

Notice of Meetings. Members shall be given written notice of Annual or Special Business Meetings of the general membership by sending a written notice to each member ~~by mailing to each~~ stating the place, day, and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose for which the meeting is called, and give sufficient information to members about such meetings to allow them to form a reasoned judgment on any decision to be taken. Notice of Special Business Meetings of the general membership shall be sent mailed ~~sent~~ not less than ten working days before the date of the meeting.

Written notice of the next Annual Business Meeting of the general membership is to be given no later than ten working ~~six~~ days before the date of the meeting.

Section 4.

Quorum. A quorum for transaction of business at Business Meetings of the attending general membership shall be voting members representing not less than 5% of the total number of voting members in good standing.

Section 5.

Voting and Representation. Each Regular, Student, Honorary, Life Member, and Corporate/Commercial and Institutional/Associate delegate in good standing and present shall be entitled to one vote on each issue at Business Meetings of the general membership.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS**Section 1.**

Executive Officers. The executive officers shall be the President, the Past- President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Managing Editor, and the Membership Committee Chair. Executive officers are required to be Regular, Honorary or Life Members in good standing.

Section 2.

Presidential Officers. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Society, shall preside at meetings of Council and Business Meetings of the general membership, shall be responsible for executing policies determined by Council, shall act as spokesperson for the Society, and shall see that all orders and resolutions of Council are carried into effect.

The Past-President and the President-Elect shall assist the President, shall be members of Council, and shall substitute for the President when necessary. The President-Elect shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by voting members of the Society.

Section 3.

The Secretary. The Secretary shall assist the President, shall answer all general correspondence directed to the Society, and shall be responsible for the minutes of all meetings of Council and the Business Meeting of the general membership. The Secretary shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by the voting members of the Society.

Section 4.

The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies and valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Society, for full and accurate accounting of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Society, and for maintaining a current list of members. The Treasurer shall have signatory powers and shall disburse the funds of the Society as may be ordered by Council. The Treasurer shall render to the President and Council at the Annual Business Meetings of the general membership, or when Council so requires, an account of the financial transactions and status of the Society. The Treasurer shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by the voting members of the Society. ~~be appointed by the President with the approval of a majority of the Council Members.~~

Section 5.

The Managing Editor of the Society's Journal. The Managing Editor of the Society's publications shall be responsible for obtaining reviews, selecting and editing copy, layout, printing, distribution, and any other functions necessary to get material to the members in a timely fashion. ~~The Managing Editor shall be appointed by the President with the approval of a majority~~

~~of the Council Members. The Managing Editor shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by the voting members of the Society.~~

Section 6.

The Membership Committee Chair. The Chair of the Membership Committee shall be responsible for activities that promote the growth, retention, and diversity of the membership. ~~The Membership Committee Chair shall be appointed by the President with the approval of a majority of the Council Members. The Managing Editor shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by the voting members of the Society.~~

Section 7.

Nomination of Officers. A slate of candidates for office shall be prepared annually by an Elections Committee appointed by Council. Candidates may be proposed in writing by Regular, Student, Life or Honorary Members in good standing. The committee shall present a slate with a minimum of one name for each position and with due regard to the proposals received. Elections of officers shall be carried out in accordance with the Leadership Manual, prior to the Annual Business Meeting of the general membership and the officers elected with take office from the start of the calendar year (1 January) following the election at that meeting. Both the ballot and the responding votes of the entitled members shall be transmitted via appropriate communications media approved by Council. Regular, Student, Honorary, and Life Members and delegates of Corporate/Commercial Members and Institutional/Associate Members may vote for officers. The President shall be responsible for overseeing the elections and communicating the results of the election.

Section 8.

Vacancies. Should the office of the President become vacant, the President-Elect shall become President. The President-Elect will complete the term of the President as well as the regular term of President for which the individual was elected.

Should the office of President-Elect become vacant, Council shall by majority vote elect a Council Member to serve in an interim capacity until a replacement can be elected by the general membership, thus the following election may include candidates for the office of President-Elect and President.

Should the office of Past-President become vacant, it will not be filled. Should the office of Secretary become vacant, the President shall appoint a Regular, Honorary or Life Member in good standing to serve as interim Secretary with the approval of a majority of the Council Members, until a replacement can be elected.

Should the office of Treasurer, Membership Chair, or Managing Editor become vacant, the President shall appoint new interim officers with the approval of a majority of the Council Members, until the next election cycle.

Section 9.

Removal from Office. An officer who is found to carry out the duties of office in a manner counter to the interests of the Society may be removed from office by a secret ballot vote expressing a consensus of two-thirds of all Council Members, or by a majority vote of the membership ~~taken at an Annual Business Meeting of the general membership or any special meeting of the membership called for that purpose.~~

Section 10.

Term of Service of Officers. Each presidential office shall be filled by the same individual for no more than a two-year term, except when the President-Elect must prematurely assume the office of President. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a two-year term, repeatable consecutively up to three ~~unlimited~~ times. The ~~Treasurer~~ Membership Chair and the Managing Editor shall be elected ~~appointed~~ for a two-year term, repeatable consecutively unlimited times.

ARTICLE VII. COUNCIL**Section 1.**

Council. The Society's affairs shall be conducted through a Council consisting of the following members: the Executive Officers plus six Members-at-large. All members of Council shall be entitled to one vote each. All members of Council will act without remuneration.

Section 2.

Quorum. A quorum of Council shall consist of two-thirds of the Council Members.

Section 3.

Meetings. Council shall meet at the Annual Meeting of the general membership and at other times ~~and places as it deems necessary.~~ Council decisions are determined by a simple majority of voting Council Members present. ~~When all Council Members consent, a Council Member may be deemed to be in attendance when communications equipment can be used to allow all persons participating in the meeting to hear all other participants.~~

Between ~~regular~~ meetings of Council, the President or, on request, the Secretary, shall send to each Council Member pertinent information about matters of concern. Council may discuss and vote via appropriate communications medium on matters deemed by the President to require immediate action.

Section 4.

Election of Members-at-large. The Members-at-large shall be elected by a simple plurality of votes of the voting members of the Society. All vacancies in Member-at-large positions shall be filled on an interim basis by Presidential appointment of a Regular, Student, Honorary or Life Member in good standing.

Section 5.

Nomination of Members-at-large. Candidates for Member-at-large positions shall consist of Regular, Student, Honorary or Life Members in good standing. Elections shall be carried out by the same procedure as for the election of officers. The members that are selected will take office from the start of the calendar year (1 January) at the Annual Business Meeting of the general membership following the election.

Section 6.

Term of Office. Each year, two Members-at-large shall be elected for a three-year term.

Section 7.

Removal from Office. A Member-at-large who is found to carry out the duties of office in a manner counter to the interests of the Society may be removed from office by a secret ballot vote expressing a consensus of two-thirds of all Council Members, or by a majority vote of the membership taken at the Annual Business Meeting of the general membership or any special meeting of the membership called for that purpose.

Section 8.

Execution of Documents. Contracts, documents, or instruments in writing requiring the signature of the Society shall be signed by the President or the Treasurer. The Council may by resolution, appoint an officer or officers, on behalf of the Society, to sign specific contracts, documents, and instruments in writing.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES**Section 1.**

Committees Appointed by Council. Council may appoint Standing Committees for special purposes and designate their duties and powers in the resolution of appointment. Such resolutions must be adopted by a majority of the Council Members. The chair positions and members of Standing Committees are appointed on an annual basis by the President. Unless individual exceptions are approved by a majority of the Council Members, only members in good standing are permitted to serve on committees of the Society.

Section 2.

Committees Appointed by the President. The President may appoint Sessional Committees and designate function, chairpersons, and members. Unless reappointed by the incoming President, such Sessional Committees shall cease to function upon the conclusion of the term of the President who appointed them.

ARTICLE IX. FISCAL YEAR**Section 1.**

The fiscal year of the Society shall be the calendar year commencing on the first day of January and ending on the 31st day of the following December.

Section 2.

Every year Council shall appoint an external auditor to audit the accounts of the Society.

Section 3.

The audited accounts will be made available to Council at least thirty days prior to the Annual Business Meeting of the general membership.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

On resolution by majority of the Council, or by written proposal signed by not less than two-thirds of the members in good standing, these Bylaws may be amended or repealed by a simple majority vote of the members in good standing at the Annual Business Meeting of the general membership or a special meeting called for the purpose. Written notice of the substance of the proposed amendment is to be sent to all members not less than thirty days prior to the time at which it shall be submitted to a vote.

Changes in the Bylaws shall go into effect following their adoption ~~at the Annual Business Meeting of the general membership.~~

ARTICLE XI. SEAL**Section 1.**

The Society shall have an official seal which shall contain the words “Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections-1986”.

Section 2.

The Seal shall be placed in the custody of the Treasurer or other Executive Officer as designated by the President.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY

Any proposal for the dissolution of the Society must be sent to each member not less than ninety days prior to the vote. A decision in favor of dissolution requires a two-thirds vote of the total voting membership.

Upon the dissolution of the Society, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

Appendix 2

PUBLICATIONS

COLLECTION FORUM

Volume 36 of *Collection Forum* (dated 2022) was closed in November of 2025 with four articles. Volume 37 (dated 2023–2025) is now open and contains one published article as of July 2026. Two articles will be published in this volume in August and three other manuscripts currently under review are slated for inclusion later in 2026. In an effort to return volume production to match the current year, Volume 37 will be closed after the inclusion of 6–8 articles.

Volume 38 (dated 2026), a special themed issue focused on the conservation and management needs of fluid-preserved collections, is also currently under production. Volume 38 will include articles based on contributions to the 2024 Preservation of Fluid Collections meeting held in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, and sponsored by Haute École Arc and MUZOO.

The published content of *Collection Forum* is first released online and is available at <https://collection-forum.kglmeridian.com/>. Articles are made available in digital format as soon as final proofs are in place and individual volumes are 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 active issues of *Collection Forum* are initially available online only to current members, becoming openly available to all after one year.

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.

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

Scott Rufolo (Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada) serves as managing editor of *Collection Forum*. Mariel Campbell (Museum of Southwestern Biology, Albuquerque, USA), Mariana Di Giacomo (Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, USA), Shelley James (Western Australian Herbarium, Perth, Australia), Cindy Optiz (Museum of Natural History and Old Capitol Museum, University of Iowa, USA), 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://collection-forum.kglmeridian.com/>, please contact the managing editor. Address changes for print copies should be sent to membership@spnhc.org. Please confirm and update membership at <https://spnhc.wildapricot.org/join-us> or contact the SPNHC Treasurer at treasurer@spnhc.org.

SPNHC LEAFLETS

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

BOOK REVIEWS

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

SPNHC CONNECTION

SPNHC Connection Editor Liath Appleton and Assistant Editor Lori Schlenker continue their hard work to publish the Society's newsletter. Liath also serves as the SPNHC webmaster. For any newsletter submissions or updates to the society's website, please email Liath at newsletter@spnhc.org. To access *SPNHC Connection*, please go to the Publications tab at www.spnhc.org.

SPNHC BOOKS

SPNHC book titles are 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. To propose a new title, please contact the managing editor at editor@spnhc.org.

JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER ACCESS

A reminder that past issues of the newsletter and the journal are available online at www.spnhc.org. More recent issues of *Collection Forum* (those published since 2014) are provided as fully interactive online volumes accessed through <https://collection-forum.kglmeridian.com/>; a separate member login is required to access articles published within the past year. Older issues have been uploaded as PDF documents and are available at <https://spnhc.org/collection-forum/>. If you or your institution require assistance with accessing the newsletter or the journal, please contact editor@spnhc.org.

SPNHC PUBLICATION ARCHIVES

Carol Kelloff, Archives Chair, maintains a reference library of all current and former SPNHC publications at the Smithsonian. If you have older print copies of SPNHC books or journal issues that are currently missing from the spnhc.org portal, and you would be willing to donate and/or provide scanned copies of these publications, please contact Carol at kelloffc@si.edu or at editor@spnhc.org.

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

Collection Forum (Scott Rufolo, Managing Editor): editor@spnhc.org

SPNHC Connection (Liath Appleton, Editor): newsletter@spnhc.org

SPNHC Leaflets (Breda Zimkus, Editor): bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu

Book Reviews (Lisa Goldberg, Associate Editor): lgoldberg@lgpreservation.com

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

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Rufolo

INTEGRATED DIGITIZED BIOCOLLECTIONS (iDigBio)

As iDigBio concludes its 15-year National Science Foundation-funded program, we are celebrating the remarkable progress of the biodiversity collections community. This webinar series highlights the innovative approaches, protocols, and best practices emerging across the community to sustain and advance biological collections digitization, data mobilization, and cyberinfrastructure. By showcasing successful models and sharing practical strategies, the series aims to support continued collaboration and ensure that the momentum built over the past fifteen years continues well into the future. Registration for upcoming webinars through 2026 can be found [on our Zoom Events page](#) and recordings of past webinars can be found [on YouTube](#).

Held virtually on June 2–4, 2026, iDigBio hosted Digital Data 2026: Enabling Science Through Integrated Biodiversity Data which brought together nearly 400 registrants from 44 countries to examine how digitized and integrated biodiversity data support research, innovation, and societal impact. Through plenaries, presentations, posters, extended sessions, and exhibits, the conference highlighted advances in collections digitization, shared data infrastructure, standards and workflows, artificial intelligence, long-term sustainability, and equitable and responsible data use, while demonstrating the growing value of connecting specimens and related data across institutions, disciplines, and platforms. Conference recordings are available through the [iDigBio YouTube](#)

[conference playlist](#).

iDigBio has transitioned its website and related services as it enters a no-cost extension period that allows project activities to continue into 2027. The former website was replaced by a simplified landing page (<https://www.idigbio.org/we-moved>) where you can find links to the legacy website and wiki as well as registration for upcoming webinars, conferences, and other virtual activities. A new GBIF Hosted Portal has become iDigBio's primary online presence (<https://idigbio.gbif.us/>), supporting continued access to biodiversity data and resources through GBIF infrastructure.

The legacy iDigBio data portal remains accessible for now, and the transition did not affect portals in the Symbiota network. Ingestion of new or updated records into the legacy portal ceased on 1 May 2026 and the former iDigBio Integrated Publishing Toolkit also migrated to the GBIF U.S. IPT, including existing datasets and user accounts.

Overall, the transition shifted iDigBio toward a more sustainable model centered on GBIF publishing and hosting services while preserving legacy resources and continuing training, events, and community support. We appreciate your patience and support as we work through these transitions!

Additional information about the transition can be found here, <https://idigbio.gbif.us/post/2026/website-transition/>. Details on specimen image hosting can be found here, <https://idigbio.gbif.us/post/2026/media-update/>, and frequently asked questions here, <https://idigbio.gbif.us/en/faq/>.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie D. Pearson

NATURAL SCIENCES COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION (NatSCA)

In an environment of prolonged financial and workplace pressures for the sector, NatSCA have continued to find ways to support the community. Primarily this has been by providing opportunities for connection and knowledge sharing using our platforms and attending our events.

NatSCA has significantly increased our bursary offer both in terms of number of bursaries and total amount offered to support members to attend our events. We have also subsidised conference and training costs, and re-launched our small grants programme the Bill Pettit Award. We are also able to write letters of advocacy for specific collections at risk and to support funding bids.

The Bill Pettit award was given to support three natural science collections projects for a record total of £6500 in 2024-25, marking the return of the award following a hiatus since 2022. The projects that support collections care, access and engagement are 'Bugs in Our Drawers – Securing the National Entomology Collections of the Isle of Man', 'Collections Move Project at Southend Museum', and the Kaupii footprint trace fossil footprint case in Lymm. We are hoping to open applications for the next round of funding soon.

We have been working hard to grow our programme of events and publications. As always, the largest is the annual conference which was held at Manchester Museum in 2025 with the theme 'Making a Difference: Showing the Positive Impact of Natural History Collections'. This was part of a wider piece of work to bring together case studies of how our work is making a difference, how we measure it, how we show success, and how we advocate for collections.

This year's presentations were of an extremely high standard and as always, the conference evaluation comments note the welcoming atmosphere. The sessions on collections-based research around biodiversity loss were particularly well received. We were especially pleased that we had a large delegation of first-time attendees, with 40% of respondents stating that this was their first time attending a NatSCA conference. We are really pleased that the 2026 conference will be held in Ulster Museum, Belfast on the 14-15th May with the theme focusing on collaborating and connecting with natural history collections.

We are continuing to work on delivering training to our membership, both in-person and online. This year we delivered "A Practical Introduction to Museum Disaster Management". This was one of the most-requested topics in a survey to members to understand priorities for training. The session was delivered by Jane Thompson-Webb, Head of Conservation for Birmingham Museums Trust and who Chairs Icon's Care of Collections Group. Ticket costs were subsidised approximately 50% by NatSCA. We have also been running a series of free lunchtime chats for members. These informal monthly sessions cover topics ranging from advocacy for Earth Science

collections, to the importance of pathology in natural history collections. We are currently working on more events for 2026.

Membership numbers have dropped very slightly. However, this was not by a great deal and so the decline in membership numbers is following its year-on-year trend of slowing down. Membership rates usually increase with our offer of training events and in-person conferences and so our plans for these in 2025-26 should help with our numbers.

We continue to engage with the sector through our webpage, social media platforms and journal. Following a successful transition to a new editor, Volume 13 of the NatSCA Journal was published at the beginning of 2025, and volume 14 has just been published (January 2026). Visits and views to our blog page are consistently attracting over 2000 views a month and it seems we have a loyal and interested readership.

We are in the process of reviewing and updating our current website which has been in use for over 10 years and lacks many quality-of-life and accessibility features of more modern websites. Its content has also grown substantially over that time, with several areas now requiring consolidation and updating. Development has started on a new website, which aims to migrate all existing features and content of the current site, whilst also integrating the blog posts and providing a more modern browsing experience.

In terms of national network projects such as DiSSCo UK, we hope to support participation and benefit for small to large collections across the UK. We have also represented NatSCA with the Museums Association, the National Trust as well as continuing to connect with UK Subject Specialist Networks.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Palumbo
