

THE  
**2014 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
OF THE  
**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**



**SPNHC**

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

**"Improving preservation, conservation and management of  
natural history collections to  
ensure their continuing value to society."**

**Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales  
Cardiff, UK**

**27 Jun 2014**

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## Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales  
Cardiff, UK  
27 Jun 2014

1. Call to order.
2. Agenda.
3. Minutes of the 2013 Annual Business Meeting.
4. Report of the President.
5. Report of the Treasurer.
6. Reports of Standing Committees.
  - a. Archives
  - b. Best Practices
  - c. Bylaws
  - d. Conference
  - e. Conservation
  - f. Documentation
  - g. Elections
  - h. Finance
  - i. Legislation and Regulations
  - j. Long-Range Planning
  - k. Membership
  - l. Professional Development
  - m. Publications
  - n. Recognition and Grants
  - o. Web Site
7. Reports of Sessional Committees.
  - a. Governance
  - b. International Relations
  - c. Mentorship
8. Reports of Representatives.

Due to time constraints, please refer to the printed reports.
9. New Business.
10. Old Business.
11. Announcements.
12. Adjournment.

2013-2014 List of SPNHC Members Serving on Council and Committees

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| President       | Chris Norris     |
| President-Elect | Andy Bentley     |
| Past President  | Jean-Marc Gagnon |
| Treasurer       | Ruth O'Leary     |
| Managing Editor | Susan Butts      |
| Secretary       | Judith Price     |

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 2011-2014 | Gretchen Anderson    |
| 2011-2014 | Mariko Kageyama      |
| 2012-2015 | Richard Sabin        |
| 2012-2015 | Greg Watkins-Colwell |
| 2013-2016 | Kelly Sendall        |
| 2013-2016 | Robert Huxley        |

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Archives Committee**

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Linda Hollenberg | Chair |
| Lisa F. Palmer   |       |
| Meghann Toner    |       |

**Best Practices**

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| James Macklin      | Co-chair        |
| Tim White          | Co-chair        |
| Jessica D. Cundiff |                 |
| Linda Ford         | Melinda Peters  |
| Jean-Marc Gagnon   | Richard Rabeler |
| Cathy Hawks        | Fran Ritchie    |
| Chris Norris       | Paula Work      |

**Bylaws Committee**

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Jean-Marc Gagnon   | Chair        |
| Laura Abraczinskas | Judith Price |

**Conference Committee**

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Andy Bentley        | Chair             |
| Tim White           | Clare Valentine   |
| Sally Shelton       | Rapid City 2013   |
| Julian Carter       | Cardiff 2014      |
| Elise Lecompte      | Gainesville, 2015 |
| Christiane Quaisser | Berlin, 2016      |

**Conservation Committee**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Gretchen Anderson | Co-chair               |
| Robert Waller     | Co-chair               |
| Rebecca Morin     | Mark Renczkowski       |
| Jude Southward    |                        |
| Carolyn Leckie    | Environmental          |
| Luci Cipera       | Specifications         |
| Andy Bentley      | Fluids Research/CBoL   |
| Richard Sabin     |                        |
| Bethany Palumbo   | Food Policy            |
| Rebecca Newberry  | Fran Ritchie           |
| Annette Van Aken  | Resources (RDU USA)    |
| Kelly Sendall     | Resources (RDU Canada) |
| Lori Benson       | Cindy Opitz            |
| Clare Valentine   | Tim White              |
| Armando Mendez    | Risk Assessment        |

**Documentation Committee**

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Elizabeth Leith  | Co-chair              |
| Margaret Landis  | Co-chair              |
| Stephanie Allen  | Mireia Beas-Moix      |
| Elana Benamy     | Jessica Cundiff       |
| Jean-Marc Gagnon | Mariko Kageyama       |
| Marcia Revelez   | Catherine Riddle      |
| Margaret Landis  | Citations             |
| Barbara Moore    | Diana Dicus           |
| Ann Pinzl        | Rebecca Peters        |
| John Simmons     | Cindy Ramotnik        |
| Robert Waller    | Janet Waddington      |
|                  | Greg Watkins-Colwell  |
| Jessica Utrup    | NHCOLL-L list manager |

**Election Committee**

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Bethany Palumbo  | Chair |
| Kelly A. Sendall |       |

**Executive Committee**

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Chris Norris | Chair |
|--------------|-------|

**Finance Committee**

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Barbara Brown      | Co-chair    |
| Robert Waller      | Co-chair    |
| Suzanne B. McLaren |             |
| Chris Norris       | Lisa Palmer |
| Ruth O'Leary       | Tim White   |

**Legislation and Regulations**

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Sally Shelton    | Chair                |
| Andy Bentley     | TDG                  |
| Stephanie Carson | Debra Trock          |
| James Macklin    | Greg Watkins-Colwell |
| Richard Rabeler  |                      |

**Long-Range Planning**

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Andy Bentley       | Co-chair      |
| Clare Valentine    | Co-chair      |
| Laura Abraczinskas | Richard Sabin |
| James Macklin      | Debra Trock   |
| Ann Molineux       | Tim White     |
| Bethany Palumbo    |               |

**Membership Committee**

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Tiffany Adrain   | Chair                |
| Elena Benamy     | Rachel Malloy        |
| Mireia Beas-Moix | Ann Molineux         |
| Kari Harris      | Ann Pinzl            |
| Talia Karim      | Greg Watkins-Colwell |

**Publications Committee**

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Susan Butts               | Chair                          |
| Cindy Ramotnik            | Assoc. Editor Collection Forum |
| Paula Work                | Assoc. Editor Collection Forum |
| Janet Waddington          | Assoc. Editor Collection Forum |
| Mireia Beas-Moix          | Newsletter Editor              |
| Lori Schlenker            | Newsletter Assistant Editor    |
| Lynn Jones                | Assoc. Editor Book Reviews     |
| Leslie Skibinski          | SPNHC Leaflets                 |
| Tim White                 | Special Projects Editor        |
| <u>CF Editorial Board</u> |                                |
| Jean-Marc Gagnon          | Chair                          |
| Ruth O'Leary              | Ann Molineux                   |
| Susan Butts               | Cindy Ramotnik                 |

**Professional Development Committee**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Amanda Neill     | Co-chair          |
| Jeff Stephenson  | Co-chair          |
| Elena Benamy     | Mariko Kageyama   |
| Linda Hollenberg | Amanda Lawrence   |
| Bushra Hussaini  | Jennifer Strotman |
| Robert Huxley    | Lindsay Woodruff  |

**Recognition and Grants Committee**

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Jean-Marc Gagnon   | Chair           |
| Suzanne B. McLaren | Richard Rabeler |

**SPNHC Web Site**

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Ann Molineux     | Co-chair         |
| Liath Appleton   | Co-chair         |
| Katie Anderson   |                  |
| Moe Flannery     | Judith Price     |
| Jean-Marc Gagnon | Richard Rabeler  |
| Bushra Hussaini  | Janet Waddington |
| James Macklin    | Tim White        |

**SESSIONAL COMMITTEES****Governance**

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Suzanne B. McLaren | Chair           |
| Laura Abraczinskas | Jessica Cundiff |
| Lori Benson        | Richard Rabeler |

**International Relations**

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Sue Ryder    | Chair |
| Dani Measday |       |

**Mentorship**

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Andy Bentley   | Chair                        |
| Kari Harris    | Emerging Professionals Group |
| Carol Butler   |                              |
| Susan Butts    | Lisa F. Palmer               |
| Lydia Garetano | Bethany Palumbo              |
| Chris Norris   | Clare Valentine              |

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION**

Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG): Mariko Kageyama  
 American Inst. Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC): Jude Southward, Gretchen Anderson  
 American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH): Greg Watkins-Colwell  
 American Society of Mammalogists (ASM): Suzanne B. McLaren  
 American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT): Richard Rabeler  
 Geological Society of America (GSA): Ann Molineux  
 Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF): James Macklin  
 Heritage Preservation & Heritage Emergency National Task Force: Cathy Hawks  
 Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio): Deb Paul  
 International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER): Carol Butler  
 Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA): Miranda Lowe  
 Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance): Robert Gropp  
 Paleontological Society (PS): Jessica D. Cundiff  
 Scientific Collections International (SciColl): Barbara Thiers  
 Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC): Richard Rabeler  
 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP): Matt Brown  
 SYNTHESYS Scientific Advisory Board: Chris Norris  
 Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG): James Macklin

Minutes of the Secretary: 2013

**Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**  
**Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting**  
**21 Jun 2013**  
**South Dakota School of Mines and Technology**  
**Rapid City, SD, USA**

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**Members Present:** 91 members in attendance.

**Call to order:** The President called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm

**1. Agenda**

The Secretary apologized for omitting "Approval of the Agenda" from the Agenda.

**Motion:** To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: R. Rabeler; Seconded: T. McSweeney

**Carried**

**2. Minutes**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of the last of the Annual Business Meeting, 15 June 2012, Omni Hotel New Haven, CT, USA

Moved: A. Bentley; Seconded: J.-M. Gagnon

**Carried**

**3. President's Report**

See written report in ABM package. C. Norris thanks the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Sally Shelton and her colleagues for the excellent meeting.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

R. O'Leary presented her written report, including changes to the 2013 budget.

**Motion:** To accept the report of the Treasurer and 2013 budget as amended.

Moved: J. Stevenson; Seconded: A. Bentley

**Carried**

**Motion:** To accept our new and re-instated members.

Moved: J. Macklin; Seconded: G. Hess

**Carried**

**5. Reports of Standing Committees:**

a. **Archives:** See written report in ABM package.

b. **Best Practices:** See written report in ABM package. Will be more active online in near future.

c. **Bylaws:** See written report in ABM package.

d. **Conference:** See written report in ABM package.

e. **Conservation:** See written report in ABM package.

f. **Documentation:** See written report in ABM package. Please forward international citations to the subcommittee chair.

g. **Elections:**

K. Sendall, speaking for committee chair B. Palumbo, opens nominations for President, Secretary and two Members-at-Large.

h. **Finance:** no report available.

i. **Legislation and Regulations:** See written report in ABM package.

j. **Long-Range Planning:** See written report in ABM package.

k. **Membership:** See written report in ABM package.

l. **Professional Development:**

J. Stevenson notes L. Woodruff has completed the "How to pack herbarium specimens for loan" document, and thanks A. Neill for another successful DemoCamp.

m. **Publications:** See written report in ABM package.

S. Butts made two announcements: In 2014 our publications will be electronic, both CoFo and the newsletter. CoFo will be on Pinnacle through Allen press, members will get an email notifying of a new edition. Print subscriptions will be extra, not sure of price as yet. Newsletter will also be electronic, with print option to be determined.

"Storage of Museum Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach" is being revised; will remove "Natural History Collections" from title, adding more disciplines to broaden appeal and increase sales. Lisa Elkin is special publications editor; publication will take place in partnership with AIC and Smithsonian, currently discussing how to split budget responsibilities, timelines. Lisa Elkin is special publications editor.

n. **Recognition and Grants:** See written report in ABM package.

J.-M. Gagnon announced the winner of the 2013 Faber Research Grant: Gali Beiner, Miriam Lavi, Hadas Seri, Rivka Rabinovich, Ovadia Lev and Jenny Gun from Jerusalem, Israel.

o. **Web:** See written report in ABM package.

A. Molineux will be doing upgrades on membership side of the web. Have a Facebook page, link will be posted.

**7. Reports of Sessional Committees.**

a. **Ethics:** See written report in ABM package.

This committee is being closed, forwarding its research materials to Documentation Committee and the remit for monitoring ethical standards to Best Practices Committee.

b. **Governance:** See written report in ABM package. C. Norris notes that Leadership Manual documentation on the web site will be updated in a month or so.

c. **International Relations:** See written report in ABM package.

d. **Mentorship:** See written report in ABM package.

A. Bentley reported that the international node program will be developing some kind of proof of concept tool, would like to find international representatives to feed info about what's happening in their part of the world, will send an email to all international members, asking if you are willing to help.

**8. Representative Reports**

See written reports in ABM package.

**9. New Business:**

a. **Awards**

C. Norris presented the following awards:

**Special Service Awards**

- i. **Greg Watkins-Colwell**, for his dedication and hard work taking care of the NHColl-I listserv for nine years, including the transition to a new platform last year.
- ii. **Amanda Neill**, for her innovative approach in the development and establishment of the annual Demo Camp; which has now been successfully delivered has become a significant draw at the Annual Meeting for 4 years.
- iii. The **2013 Local Organizing Committee**, for supporting SPNHC's mission by providing an annual venue for all members and other participants to interact, exchange knowledge and share experiences.

b. **Upcoming Meetings:**

2014: Cardiff, UK: J. Gallichan gave an update on plans from National Museum Wales, Cardiff, UK.  
2015: E. LeCompte and D. Ruhl of the Florida Museum of Natural History presented an invitation.

**Motion:** That the membership accepts the invitation from the Florida Museum of Natural History to meet in 2015 in Gainesville, Florida.

Moved: S. McLaren; Second: E. Benamy

**Carried**

c. **Strategic Plan**

A. Bentley reviewed the Strategic Plan process. See the White Paper produced by Long Range Planning Committee on SPNHC website, copy of Strategic Plan in May Newsletter.

**Motion:** That the membership accepts the strategic plan of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections.

Moved: J. Stevenson; Seconded: L. Benson

**Carried**

**10. Old Business: none raised**

**11. Announcements:**

- a. A. Bentley thanks all the Fitzgerald Travel Grant awardees and all the newcomers at this meeting (applause from attendees). Introduced Kari Harris who proposes the formation of an Emerging Professionals Group within SPNHC to help new members get their bearings and to reach out to those who can't attend the meetings. Younger members will also be urged to join our existing committees.
- b. A. Neill announced plans for that evening's after-banquet festivities in Rapid City.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** To adjourn.

Moved: A. Mendez

The meeting was adjourned at 14:40

**Carried**

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith C. Price  
Secretary, SPNHC



## Report of the President

The President's annual Report to the Society provides me with an opportunity to review the progress that we've made this year towards the goals articulated in our Strategic Plan. As I'm sure you know by now, the Plan has four goals.

The first goal is for the Society to show leadership in defining and developing the profession of natural history collections care. The foundations for this goal are the various activities that we're undertaking within the Society to foster the next generation of the Society's leaders.

First and foremost among these activities are the grants that enable emerging professionals in collections care to travel to SPNHC meetings and provide them with a mentor to help them get the most out of the experience of attending, presenting, and subsequently publishing their presentation.

This year, thanks to the generosity of Gaylord, Hollinger Metal Edge, and University Products, we are able to offer a new grant scheme to complement the existing Fitzgerald Travel Grants. Named in memory of a much valued, and much loved member of the Society, the Christine Allen Travel Grant will help a student working in the field of physical care and conservation of collections attend the meeting.

The growing pool of Fitzgerald grant recipients is already having a significant impact on SPNHC. One of the most impressive achievements of this year was the creation of the Society's Emerging Professionals Group (EPG). Coordinated by Kari Harris, the EPG is advising the Society on how to engage newer members of the profession in SPNHC activities.

The EPG has its own Facebook page, Twitter feed, and a blog – Cracking the Collections – run by a team including Katie McComas, Stephanie Allen, and Katie Anderson. It also provides a liaison to several of the Society's standing committees, giving newer members of the Society a voice in its governance. The enthusiasm and energy of the Group and its members is impressive, and will I'm sure have a major effect on SPNHC going forward.

We still want to expand the pool of members who are actively engaged in the running of the Society. For the 2014 meeting, we have worked with the Cardiff Local Organizing Committee to implement a specific recommendation of the Strategic Plan; moving the Society's committee meetings from the periphery of the meeting schedule to its core, the afternoon of the inaugural session. We hope this will allow more members to attend, to ask questions, and to get involved.

Led by the Best Practices Committee, we're working to build our role within the wider collections community. We have built a wiki-based infrastructure for collecting, circulating, and editing policies and procedures for natural history collections care. The first content should be live and available for work later this year. I'm grateful to Tim White, James Macklin, Lynn Jones, and Harry Shyket for spearheading this project.

We're also looking to reach out to other organizations with complementary interests, to develop strategic partnerships and find new ways of working together. We already have one memorandum of understanding with the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA), and thanks to the efforts of Suzanne Ryder and Roberto Portela-Miguez, we will be signing a second MoU between SPNHC, the Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA) and the Geological Curators Group (GCG) at the Cardiff Meeting. A third MoU, with the U.S. national biocollections digitization hub, iDigBio, is also ready for signing, and a fourth, with the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) is being drafted as I write.

Our existing roster of society representatives on Council has been strengthened this year, with the addition of Deb Paul as iDigBio representative, Matt Brown for the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP), and we enlisted one of our new Members at Large, Barbara Thiers, as liaison to Scientific Collections International (SciColl). The appointments have provided us with an opportunity to review the guidelines for society representatives; these positions are vital to our ability to work effectively with other organizations and the new guidelines provide valuable clarity regarding expectations on both sides.

And we don't just talk about collaboration – we actively collaborate. One of the Society's most important collaborative efforts is our next major publications project: Preventive Conservation of Museum Collections (the long-overdue successor to the 1993 volume *Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach* edited by Carolyn Rose, Cathy Hawks, and Hugh Genoways). This will be a joint effort by SPNHC, the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. A very distinguished editorial panel is now in place and we will begin commissioning chapters later this year for publication in 2016.

The second goal of SPNHC's Strategic Plan is to communicate the activities of the Society to its membership, stakeholders, and the general public. Here again, we have made significant progress in the past year.

I've already alluded to our increasing use of social networking, being driven by the SPNHC EPG. We have also worked to increase our use of the NHCOLL-L listserv as a tool for recruitment and communication, instituting regular mail shots encouraging recipients to join SPNHC. But the major change this year – and a significant change in the history of the Society – is the shift to digital publishing (with on-demand printing) of our journal and newsletter.

You will – I hope – have already seen the new SPNHC Newsletter, and many thanks are due to our Newsletter Editor, Mireia Beas-Moix (yet another Fitzgerald Travel Grant recipient – 2013) and our designer, Kim Zolvik. The end product looks a lot nicer, but that's not the main reason for the change. With enhanced search capabilities, color images, greater accessibility, and features like RSS Feeds, keyword alerts, and author alerts, digital publication will vastly increase the accessibility and reach of the Society's published works. This is true already for the Newsletter, and we will see the first digital edition of Collection Forum later this year.

From this platform, we are already working on developing new publication models for the rest of the Society's products. Starting with the Preventive Conservation volume, we will be looking to publish electronically across multiple e-reader platforms, with micro-inventory print runs.

Publications provide one method of communication, but there is no substitute for face-to-face advocacy. I've already discussed the changes we've made to make SPNHC committee meetings more accessible and we are also continuing our successful program of sponsoring specialist sessions at the meetings of other professional societies, and participating as invited speakers. One example of this form of targeted outreach is a special technical session at the 2014 meeting of the Geological Society of America, organized by Talia Karim, Gil Nelson, and Tim White, entitled *Advancing the Digitization of Paleontology and Geoscience Collections: Projects, Programs, and Practices*. Another is a special session on the increasing educational usage of collections that I worked on in collaboration with colleagues at the Smithsonian, North Carolina Museum of Natural History, and Utah Museum of Natural History. The first of these sessions took place at the 2014 meeting of the American Alliance for Museums (AAM), with a second session scheduled for the annual meeting of the Association of Science-Technology Centers later this year.

The third goal of the Plan is to make more efficient use of our financial resources. We reluctantly raised our dues two years ago and it has greatly benefitted the overall state of the Society's finances. We continue to work hard to attract new members, while at the same time looking for ways to streamline our activities and cut costs.

Although the primary driver of our move to e-publication was the need to expand the reach of the journal and newsletter, it has had the welcome effect of reducing production and distribution costs. This has already had an impact. One reason we have been able to push ahead with production of our new preventive conservation book is that downstream savings in the production costs of our other publications will free up funds within the publications budget. Meanwhile, we are investing significant time in developing both an efficient support mechanism for the production of the book, and a marketing plan to ensure that we maximize sales.

The new Newsletter has had another very positive impact on our finances. You won't see it in this year's budget, because the payments hadn't cleared at the time of preparation, but we've seen a five-fold increase in advertising revenue. This is a tribute both to the attractiveness of the new digital format as an advertising venue and to the efforts of our editor, Mireia, in drumming up new sponsors. The hard work of Tim White in managing our long-term relationships with sponsors and vendors is also keeping the Society's budget, and particularly the meeting budgets, looking healthy. You'll see many of these sponsors listed in the program for the Annual Meeting and I urge you to drop by their stands in the trade show to thank them for their support.

As I said last year, efficiency is not just measured in dollars and cents. We also need to make better use of our member's limited time. The Sessional Committee on Governance, chaired by Suzanne McLaren, is continuing its work on reviewing our existing committees and other governance mechanisms and assessing their suitability for delivering the goals set out in the Strategic Plan. Starting last year, the Society's Council now meets only once at the Annual Meeting; with most of the committee planning and

budget work done beforehand, Council can focus its time on addressing the major challenges facing the Society. On-line membership renewal has significantly improved the workload of the Society's Treasurer – now it's merely excessive, as opposed to impossible – while our website also makes it easy to donate on-line; many thanks to those of you that have done so.

Finally, our strategic plan calls for us to work internationally to further the goals of the Society. Our Sessional Committee on International Relations is continuing its work on tackling the challenges of providing a better service to our worldwide membership. As mentioned earlier, the Chair of the Committee, Suzanne Ryder, was instrumental in negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding between GCG, NatSCA, and SPNHC, which we hope will open doors to working more closely with the natural history collections community in the United Kingdom. With this year's meeting in Cardiff, and a forthcoming meeting in Berlin in 2016, we have two important opportunities to engage with our large – and growing – membership outside North America. So we need to hear from you: what should we be doing on your behalf?

This year's elections have seen an influx of new blood to strengthen the Society's Council. We welcome Linda Ford (Harvard University) as President-Elect, Ann Molineux (University of Texas) as Secretary, and Julian Carter (National Museum of Wales) and Barbara Thiers (New York Botanical Gardens) as Members-at-Large. Thank you to everyone who ran for election and to all of you that voted. I also want to thank our outgoing Members-at-Large, Gretchen Anderson and Mariko Kageyama for their service.

This week will see some significant changes in the SPNHC Executive, with three of the Society's Officers standing down. Jean-Marc Gagnon has completed his six years as a presidential officer; our Secretary, Judith Price, is moving on; and our Managing Editor, Susan Butts is also stepping down after six years, having steered *Health & Safety for Museum Professionals* (2010) to publication, managed our transition to electronic publication, and kept *Collection Forum* running smoothly through six volumes. Susan's role will be taken by Christine Johnson, although Susan will continue to work with Mireia on the transition to the new newsletter. My thanks to all of the above for the extraordinary work they have done on your behalf.

And, of course, we will have a new President, as Andy Bentley takes over from me. It's been a privilege to serve you as President, and having worked with Andy on SPNHC issues for many years, I know SPNHC is in good hands.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Norris

## Report of the Treasurer

In 2013, the Society's total net assets increased to \$219,236 from a total of \$181,501 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2013 totalled \$233,328. Operating income was generated from two sources: membership dues, and publication sales. A total of \$25,195 in membership dues was received. Sales of our six publications brought in \$6,528. A total of \$35,296 in donations was received.

Sixty-six library subscribers and 461 individuals, institutional, corporate and student members renewed their membership for the year 2013. Of the 560 active SPNHC members in 2013, 79 joined for the first time.

Major expenses for the Society in 2013 were \$10,856 for two issues of the SPNHC Newsletter, \$9,940 for Collection Forum 27 (1&2), \$7,500 for upgrades to the website and \$3,600 for website fixes due to changes in the host's infrastructure, \$3,300 for website set up for e-publications, \$2,958 for the Faber Research Grant and the Fitzgerald Travel Grant and \$1,054 for printing extra copies of SPNHC books.

Additional expenses include \$794 for 2012 and 2013 elections, and \$600 for membership booth space rental at professional meetings. The Treasurer's Office incurred the following expenses: \$5,000 for the 2012 financial review, tax preparation and filing, \$3,244 for insurance, \$594 in merchant fees, \$300 for assistance in drafting changes to the website and \$96 for P.O. Box rental.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments saw a market value gain of \$18,635 while the money market account earned \$2,186 in dividends. There are no earnings to report for the CD account as it did not mature until January 2014.

The first part of 2014 has seen good income activity. By April 30, \$25,790 has been received from membership dues, including deferred dues paid in 2013. As of April 30, 2014 we have 532 active members, including Life members.

Membership renewals included 14 student, 318 individual, 58 library/subscriptions, 27 institutional and 4 corporate renewals. As of April 30, 78 new members have joined in 2014, of which 20 are student memberships, 4 are institutional, 1 is corporate, 1 is library and the remainder are individual. By April 30, 122 members who paid in 2013 have yet to renew for 2014.

**Please pay your dues on time.**

In the first quarter of 2014 sales of all our publications total \$1,883. Additionally, by April 30, we received \$2,674 in royalties from Copyright Clearance Center. We have received \$240 in unrestricted donations and \$1,745 in restricted donations. A sincere thank you to all.

Expenses incurred in FY2014 as of April 30 include \$3,750 for travel grants, \$866 for reprinting the Ideas and Preventive volumes, \$420 in merchant fees, \$377 for Society President Chris Norris to travel to Washington, DC to meet with curators from the Department of the Interior, \$300 for the digital set up for the e-publication of the SPNHC Newsletter, \$300 for membership booth space rental, \$150 for website fixes due to changes in the host's infrastructure, \$150 for Heritage Preservation dues, and \$100 for P.O. Box rental. At the time of writing, the financial review had just been completed. SPNHC has paid \$1,500 as a retainer to The Burdette Smith Group. The Society anticipates expenses related to the financial review, publications, web redesign, the trade show booth and 2014 online election.

Please contact the SPNHC Treasurer for further details.

For their help throughout the year, I would like to extend thanks to Chris Norris, Susan Butts, and Tim White (Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History), Judith Price (Canadian Museum of Nature), and Barbara Brown (American Museum of Natural History). The American Museum of Natural History, Division of Paleontology provided general office support for the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth O'Leary, Treasurer

**For the 2013 financial review please see the Appendix.**

### **FY2013 Donations**

Tiffany Adrain  
Margot Brunn  
Anita Cholewa  
James Dean  
Becky Desjardins  
Jennifer Doubt  
Jean-Marc Gagnon  
Lisa Goldberg  
Diana Hobart Discus  
Chris Johnson  
Teresa Mayfield  
Roy McDiamid  
Ann Molineux

Chris Norris  
Ruth O'Leary  
Lisa Palmer  
Pamela Polloni  
Judith Price  
Deborah Sheppard  
Mary Spencer Jones  
Jeff Stephenson  
Barbara Thiers  
Rob Waller  
Wendy Zomlefer  
Local Organizing Committee SPNHC  
2012 Yale Peabody

Thank You

### **FY2014 Donations As of 30 April 2014**

Julian Carter  
Katharine Corriveau  
Hollinger Metal Edge  
Gaylord  
Lisa Goldberg  
Deborah Harding  
Diana Hobart Dicus  
Karen McBee  
Armando Mendez  
Amanda Millhouse

Patricia Nutter  
Ruth O'Leary  
Deborah Paul  
Ann and John Pinzl  
University Products  
Floyd Shockley  
Forrest St. Aubin  
Janet Waddington  
Mark Wetter  
Tim White

Thank You

**FY 2013 SPNHC Operating Budget  
01 January –31 December 2013**

| <b>INCOME</b>                                     | <b>Projected</b> | <b>Realized</b>   | <b>Variance</b>   |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350          | \$20,000         | \$24,395          | <b>\$4,395</b>    |
| (2) Life Members @ \$1,125                        | \$1,125          | \$800             | <b>(\$325)</b>    |
| (3) Publication Sales                             | \$8,300          | \$6,528           | <b>(\$1,772)</b>  |
| (4) Collection Forum Page Charges                 | \$100            | \$0               | <b>(\$100)</b>    |
| (5) Mailing List Sales                            | \$150            | \$0               | <b>(\$150)</b>    |
| (6) Unrestricted Donations                        | \$250            | \$35,296          | <b>\$35,046</b>   |
| (7) Temporarily Restricted Donations              | \$100            | \$320             | <b>\$220</b>      |
| (8) Operating Account Interest                    | \$40             | \$6               | <b>(\$34)</b>     |
| (9) Advertising in Newsletter                     | \$700            | \$3,000           | <b>\$2,300</b>    |
| (10) Transfer from Future Publication Fund        | \$26,835         | <b>(\$18,690)</b> | <b>(\$45,525)</b> |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                               | <b>\$57,600</b>  | <b>\$51,655</b>   | <b>(\$5,945)</b>  |
| <br>  |                  |                   |                   |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                   | <b>Projected</b> | <b>Realized</b>   | <b>Variance</b>   |
| (11) Archives Committee                           | \$250            | \$8               | <b>(\$242)</b>    |
| (12) Election Committee                           | \$800            | \$794             | <b>(\$6)</b>      |
| (13) Executive Contingency Fund                   | \$3,000          | \$0               | <b>(\$3,000)</b>  |
| (14) Membership Committee                         | \$5,000          | \$4,263           | <b>(\$737)</b>    |
| (15) Publication Committee                        | \$26,700         | \$25,572          | <b>(\$1,128)</b>  |
| (16) Recognition and Grants Committee             | \$4,250          | \$2,958           | <b>(\$1,292)</b>  |
| (17) Treasurer's Office                           | \$10,350         | \$9,760           | <b>(\$590)</b>    |
| (18) Web Committee                                | \$5,000          | \$8,150           | <b>\$3,150</b>    |
| (19) President's Contingency Fund                 | \$2,100          | \$0               | <b>(\$2,100)</b>  |
| (20) Society Business: Heritage Preservation Fees | \$150            | \$150             | <b>\$0</b>        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                             | <b>\$57,600</b>  | <b>\$51,655</b>   | <b>(\$5,945)</b>  |

**FY 2014 SPNHC Operating Budget  
01 January –31 December 2014  
As of April 30, 2014**

| <b>INCOME</b>                                     | <b>Projected</b> | <b>Realized</b> | <b>Variance</b>   |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| (1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350          | \$20,000         | \$25,790        | <b>\$5,790</b>    |
| (2) Life Members @\$1,125                         | \$1,125          | \$0             | <b>(\$1,125)</b>  |
| (3) Publication Sales                             | \$8,300          | \$4,557         | <b>(\$3,743)</b>  |
| (4) Collection Forum Page Charges                 | \$100            | \$0             | <b>(\$100)</b>    |
| (5) Mailing List Sales                            | \$150            | \$0             | <b>(\$150)</b>    |
| (6) Unrestricted Donations                        | \$100            | \$240           | <b>\$140</b>      |
| (7) Temporarily Restricted Donations              | \$50             | \$1,745         | <b>\$1,695</b>    |
| (8) Operating Account Interest                    | \$4              | \$2             | <b>(\$2)</b>      |
| (9) Advertising in Newsletter                     | \$1,200          | \$0             | <b>(\$1,200)</b>  |
| (10) Transfer from Future Publication Fund        | \$25,304         | \$0             | <b>(\$25,304)</b> |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                               | <b>\$56,333</b>  | <b>\$32,334</b> | <b>(\$23,999)</b> |
| <br>  |                  |                 |                   |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                   | <b>Projected</b> | <b>Realized</b> | <b>Variance</b>   |
| (11) Archives Committee                           | \$250            | \$0             | <b>(\$250)</b>    |
| (12) Election Committee                           | \$400            | \$0             | <b>(\$400)</b>    |
| (13) Executive Contingency Fund                   | \$3,000          | \$0             | <b>(\$3,000)</b>  |
| (14) Membership Committee                         | \$5,000          | \$300           | <b>(\$4,700)</b>  |
| (15) Publication Committee                        | \$25,833         | \$1,186         | <b>(\$24,647)</b> |
| (16) Recognition and Grants Committee             | \$4,250          | \$3,758         | <b>(\$492)</b>    |
| (17) Treasurer's Office                           | \$10,350         | \$2,030         | <b>(\$8,320)</b>  |
| (18) Web Committee                                | \$5,000          | \$150           | <b>(\$4,850)</b>  |
| (19) President's Contingency Fund                 | \$2,100          | \$377           | <b>(\$1,723)</b>  |
| (20) Society Business: Heritage Preservation Fees | \$150            | \$150           | <b>\$0</b>        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                             | <b>\$56,333</b>  | <b>\$7,951</b>  | <b>(\$48,382)</b> |

## **New Memberships Received in 2013**

### **Institutional Members**

Kristen Brophy, Stamford Museum and Nature Center

### **Library/Subscription**

Museu de Zoologica, Sao Paulo Brazil

### **Regular Members**

|                     |                      |                   |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Madison Barkley     | Hans Viborg          | Tanja Schuster    |
| Mary Barkworth      | Kristensen           | Eric Scott        |
| David Bloom         | Amanda Lawrence      | Katja Seltmann    |
| Francisco Borrero   | Dmitry Lisitsyn      | Brain Sidlauskas  |
| Celia Bueno         | Anne Maglia          | Jamie Smith       |
| John Carr           | Teresa Mayfield      | Kate Sparks       |
| Andrew Clark        | Maryanne McCubbin    | Forrest St. Aubin |
| Katie Connolly      | Timothy McSweeney    | Suzanne Strait    |
| Silvia Da Rocha     | Carl Mehling         | Wendy Strohmeier  |
| Carolina D'Horta    | Peter Oboyski        | Jennifer Strotman |
| Elizabeth Dietrich  | Larry Page           | Adrienne Stroup   |
| Ronald Eng          | Anna Paradis         | Meghann Toner     |
| Robert Farrar       | Christina Piotrowski | Sali Underwood    |
| Anna Fenlon         | Katherine Price      | Maureen Walsh     |
| Casey Gallagher     | Michael Quigley      | Heidi Warbasse    |
| Sarah Ghorbanian    | Amanda Reid          | Brian Westra      |
| Phillip Harris      | Vanessa Rhue         | Urs Wuest         |
| Benjamin Hess       | Karen Roberts        | Bernhard Zipfel   |
| Kyndall Hildebrandt | Carlos Rodrigues     |                   |
| Claire Hopkins      | Eugenio Santiago     |                   |

### **Student Members**

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Kathleen Anderson | Jenna Moore         |
| Derek Brousseau   | Lorna O'Brien       |
| Helen DeMarsh     | Amanda Saracho      |
| Gabriela Doria    | Hayley Singleton    |
| Ben Frable        | Amy Smith           |
| Heidi Garrett     | Signe Valentinsson  |
| Joseph Hamden     | Allison Vitkus      |
| Kari Harris       | Lindsay Walker      |
| Morgan Jackson    | Gretchen Wilbrandt  |
| Katherine McComas | Brigette Zacharczen |



## **New Memberships Received in 2014**

As of April 30, 2014

### **Corporate**

Karin Hooker, MEDIS Medical Technology GMBH

### **Institutional Members**

Pierre-Olivier Antoine, Université Montpellier 2; Institut des Sciences de l'Évolution (ISEM)

Yngve Brodin, Swedish Museum of Natural History; Department of Zoology  
Deirdre Ryan; ITHAKA

Timothy Whitfield, Brown University Herbarium

### **Library/Subscription**

Strategic Collection Management, Museum Victoria, Australia

### **Regular Members**

Mary Aime  
David Baxter  
James Beach  
Savanna Bradley  
Alejandra Camacho  
Carla Cicero Studley  
Bryan Cody  
Adam Cohen  
Nicola Crompton  
Andrea Crowther  
Brett Danielson  
Matt Edling  
Libby Ellwood  
Colleen Evans  
Julie Feinstein  
Susan Gallagher  
Criis Geer Chagnon  
Christine Giannoni  
Magdalena Grenda

Kristina Hampton  
Lena Hernandez  
Robert Heyer  
Pamela Horsley  
William Jarema  
Lars Erik  
Johannessen  
Eleonore Kissel  
Esther Langan  
Andrew Leitch  
Kevin Love  
Angela Matchica  
Robert McAfee  
Chelsea McKibbin  
Nicolette Meister  
Mare Nazaire  
Glenna Nielsen-Grimm  
Jude Philp

Diane Pitassy  
Karen Reiss  
Heather Robeson  
Thomas Schossleitner  
Leslie Schuhmann  
Katja Seltmann  
Gregory Setliff  
Vicky Singleton  
Donald Siwek  
Samantha Szesciorka  
Laura Tancredi  
Charlotte V. Hansen  
Hank Van Leeuwen  
Deborah Wagner  
Andrea Wuenschel  
Daniel Wylie

### **Student Members**

Bethany Abrahamson  
Laura Brenskelle  
Katharine Corriveau  
Heather Falkner  
Dianne Fitzpatrick  
Ren Gregoric  
Liberty Hightower

Rebecca Kaczowski  
Mackenzie Kirchner-Smith  
Emily Lannoye  
Emma Locatelli  
Melissa Macias  
Stephanie Morgan

Michael Niezgoda  
Don Rathwell  
Ingrid Rochon  
Wichai Srisuka  
Robin Thomson  
Sarah Tulga  
Katie Wolfson

## Standing Committee Reports

### Archives

#### BACKGROUND

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

#### PROCEDURE

The committee chair acts as liaison between SIA and SPNHC. The committee receives, lists, and transfers material to the Smithsonian Institution Archives when sufficient quantities accumulate. All material that is deposited within a fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) is assigned the same accession number and housed in the same storage box/unit. Some SPNHC archives need to be rehoused in archival materials prior to transfer to SIA. All material that has been received since the last deposit is being held by the committee.

#### CURRENT WORK

Although SPNHC is publishing electronically, printed copies of the SPNHC newsletters and Collections Forum are being deposited in SPNHC's archives. No requests for archived information were received by the chair in the past year. Archival supplies have been obtained (via purchase or gift) to properly house the material now being held by the committee. As per SIA protocols, both electronic and physical materials are being prepared for deposit in SIA.

Linda Hollenberg

### Best Practices

Discussions have continued over the past year about how SPNHC can effectively manage Best Practices in a diverse community that includes collections managers, curators, conservators, facility managers and informaticians. One of the many ways to promote and encourage best practices is through partnerships. In May Tim White will attend the AIC conference in San Francisco to hear firsthand of the activities of their Collection Care Network and possible collaborations with SPNHC. Plans are underway to co-sponsor a technical session at the Geological Society of America in the fall, 2014, with iDigBio. Talia Karim (University of Colorado, Boulder) and Tim White are working with Gil Nelson (iDigBio) on an outline for the session if accepted. Discussions are continuing with a couple other groups for co-sponsored sessions but if anyone is interested in organizing a "Best Practices Session" at a discipline meeting please touch base with James Macklin or Tim White.

This March, James Macklin and Tim White are participating in an iDigBio workshop focusing on the digitization of original source documentation and the integration of this material in the management of museum collections. One of the products of this workshop will be a post-meeting workshop at our annual meeting 2015 in Gainesville, Florida that will focus on the care, management and digitization of archives and source-documentation.

James Macklin and Tim White have been working with the SPNHC Web committee on the development of a SPNHC wiki for the management of information as it relates to committee activities and best practices documentation case studies of specific topical areas. If you have areas of interest you would like to pursue and lead a discussion please contact Tim or James.

Tim White and James Macklin

### Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee is responsible for the continued development of the Society Bylaws as needed, monitoring Society activities to ensure agreement with the Bylaws, and for periodic updates to the Leadership Manual of the Society.

Bylaws: No new issues were brought to the attention of the committee this year.

Leadership Manual: The committee is responsible for keeping the Leadership Manual current. This year, thanks to the hard work of the Governance Sessional Committee and the contribution of each committee chair, the goal of completing the revision of the Leadership Manual has been met. We acknowledge, however, that the recent implementation of the Society's Strategic Plan and the review being conducted by the Governance Sessional Committee will impact the content of some sections of the manual.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean-Marc Gagnon, Chair 2012-2014

## Conference

The 2014 meeting at Museum Wales, Cardiff, Wales, is in full swing under the leadership of Julian Carter (see the conference website at <http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/spnhc2014>). In addition plans are continuing to progress for the 2015 meeting in Gainesville, FL and the 2016 meeting in Berlin, Germany. We also have a letter of invitation from a North American meeting venue for 2017 and will continue to work with the institution to finalize plans.

Work continues on the draft Policies and Guidelines for Planning and Conducting Annual Meetings document in conjunction with past, present and future local organizing committees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Bentley, Chair

## Conservation

General Information:

The Conservation Committee is currently looking for new members. We welcome our new members Cindy Opitz, Fran Ritchie, Clare Valentine, Tim White and Mark Renzkowski, and are delighted to welcome Jude Southward back! We have some exciting projects in the works and would love to have more help in working on them.

Conservation Advocates: Conservation and preservation queries to NHCOLL-L have been answered and discussed promptly and thoughtfully by SPNHC members. There is a wealth of information amongst our membership, and we generously share our knowledge and experience.

Emergency Planning: No one contacted the chair regarding examples this year. There are several online classes available for plan preparation, new publications and user-friendly guides. There have been several emergencies at museums in recent years underscoring the need for updated emergency plans.

Subcommittee Reports

### **Resource Display Units (RDU) Subcommittee**

Subcommittee Co-Chairs:

(Canada) Kelly Sendall [ksendall@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:ksendall@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)

(US) Annette Van Aken [annette.vanaken@yale.edu](mailto:annette.vanaken@yale.edu)

The RDU's are a valuable resource for the membership. They pull together a list of conservation grade products useful for collection storage and display, and provide the membership with both a quick reference and a place to actually see and touch the materials. At last year's meeting the committee agreed that the physical unit was still of value, but underutilized and seriously out of date. The units need to be made more compatible with current technology, the supply and suppliers list need to be updated, as do some of the material samples.

This information is currently being updated and will be prepared for a more immersive web experience. The RDU was photographed and upgraded at Yale in 2012-2013. This year progress has been made in updating the materials and suppliers list, thanks to Lori Benson. A template is being developed that will combine the US and Canadian documents for the web site. The goal is to have a document that can be used in conjunction with the web site, the RDU (digital or actual) and can be modified more easily. We will be looking for input on the materials list from SPNHC membership within the next year. These efforts need to be co-ordinated with the activities at Yale. The ultimate goal is to have a digital version of the unit with information that can be more easily accessed. Cindy Opitz is exploring alternative methods for creating a more cost effective RDU and discussions have begun with Clare Valentine to move forward on a more international format.

The Canadian RDU did not travel during the past year. The US unit traveled to South Dakota for 2013 SPNHC meeting.

General information on both the USA and Canadian Resources Display Units is available at <http://www.spnhc.org/49/promotional-materials> . There are pdf's of vendors lists for both the United States and Canada, as well as loan conditions for both units.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Resources Display Units or to request a loan for collections-based meetings, conferences, and workshops, please contact Annette or Kelly at the email addresses above. Also, if you have a suggestion regarding content please let us know.

#### **Risk Assessment: Standards for relating change in state of specimen to loss in value**

Chair: Armando Mendez (a.mendez@nhm.ac.uk)

The objective of this sub-committee is development of a portal (probably within the SPNCH website) which will include fact sheets of damage to different natural history specimens (including, perhaps, books, manuscripts and artwork) through different mechanisms (insects, sunlight, humidity, bad handling, etc.) and recommended best practice, remedial and prevention techniques. The damage described could be rated by curators and society members and the information could be used to present stronger cases to upgrade prevention and best practices.

Armando Mendez and Rob Waller presented a poster on the damage and value loss in natural history objects at the 2013 SPNHC meeting. The team is planning presentations for the 2014 meeting in Cardiff based on and around a risk assessment of the Natural History Museum's microscope slide collections. We are hoping to be able to set up a participatory, interactive session.

#### **Food Service: Standards in service goods in museums**

Co-Chairs: Bethany Palumbo (bgpalumbo@hotmail.co.uk) and Rebecca Newberry (newberry@smm.org)

The purpose of this subcommittee is to create useful strategies to be used as guidelines for the presence of food in museums. We need to meet our commitments to best practices for collections care, even as we find ourselves increasingly pressured to open more food service, have more events, etc., just to meet the bottom line.

The co-chairs, joined by Fran Ritchie, developed an on-line survey. This was posted on over 15 museum based list serves and social media sites. The survey went live on April 16 to an overwhelming response – as of May 16 we have 308 completed surveys, 92 partially completed surveys and numerous samples of food, plant and IPM policies. The breakdown is: 217 from USA, 46 from Canada, 22 from UK, 3 from New Zealand, 2 from Australia, and 1 from each of these countries- Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain. The co-chairs developed a preliminary outline for a best practices document and are in the process of fleshing it out. We will be discussing the next steps: data analysis and dissemination at the upcoming meeting. A white paper with case studies showing both problematic and successful food experiences in museums is planned.

#### **Environmental Specifications and Museum Sustainability Subcommittee**

Co-chairs: Carolyn Leckie (cleckie@mus-nature.ca) and Luci Ciperá (lcipera@mus-nature.ca)

The goal of this sub-committee is to be a forum for natural history preservation professionals to compare information on environmental specification and museum sustainability or greening initiatives. Plans to produce a SPNHC Newsletter article summarizing current initiatives was put on hold, primarily due to the changes of personnel at Canadian Museum of Nature and the work load of the co-chairs. A paper discussing findings from a year-long environmental survey at Carnegie Museum of Natural History will be presented at SPNHC. A renewed effort for this timely project is planned for 2014-5.

#### **Fluid Collections Subcommittee: Furthering the potential for using formalin treated materials in molecular studies.**

Co-Chair: Andy Bentley (abentley@ku.edu) and Richard Sabin (r.sabin@nhm.ac.uk)

The role of this subcommittee is to track progress in this area and to encourage and foster connections that will further this work. In the past several years this committee has published a number of resources and products. Starting in 2013-4 the committee is on hiatus, at the request of the committee chairs.

Respectfully submitted

Gretchen Anderson and Robert Waller, Co-Chairs

## **Documentation**

At the annual SPNHC meeting in 2013, the Documentation Committee decided to focus this past year on the medium and, if possible the format, of the information that has been (in the past) and will be (present and future) produced by the Documentation Committee. Documents and other relevant information will reach a wider audience

and will be more cost effective to publish on the SPNHC website. PDF formats will be the most widely accessible, will take up less space, and will retain formatting qualities, and so will be used whenever possible.

The biggest challenge has been the way in which documents have been drafted through the Documentation Committee prior to publication. The committee decided at the 2013 meeting that we needed a better medium for this process. The committee decided to try using a Google Docs account and see how well it works. In this way, many members can edit and/or comment on a single document without one person trying to compile individual edits/comments periodically. After going through the process with the Accessions Checklist, it looks like this format will be adequate for the committee's needs. As with any format, we will modify our needs based on each document or as technology changes.

The Documentation Committee continues to rely on its members (and other members of SPNHC) to approach us with any documentation needs. We encourage all members to voice potential needs within the profession that are lacking clear or established documentation so we can work toward rectifying any holes.

As a final note, we would like to announce that Marcy Revelez is stepping down as co-chair due to her new demanding job duties. She will continue to serve as a member on the committee. Her dedication and service to heading the Documentation Committee will be greatly missed! Margaret Landis has agreed to join Liz as co-chair. Thank you, Margaret, for stepping up!

#### CITATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Citations Subcommittee continues to compile a listing of inter-disciplinary citations of recently published literature (including accidentally overlooked literature that did not make the listing when it originally was published) related or applicable to natural history collections care. We endeavor to make these citations be ones that are directly relevant to what is or should be done in natural history collection(s) throughout the international community, regardless of active SPNHC participation. We are beginning our transition to having these online (<http://www.spnhc.org/80/citations>), where we plan to have a PDF highlighting the new (or at least new to the overall compilation) citations and eventually some sort of searchable master compilation/database (currently the subcommittee is working with a customized Endnote Library of previously-collected citations with keywords). This is in part to help those who do not have easy library access and/or those whose journals, books, and other resources may be more limited to have a source to discover relevant citations that they may not have been aware of without access to these collections of citations, with the hope that the citations become a one-stop location to assist in finding sources in your and other disciplines for natural history collection care related-topics that are hopefully relevant to what you are doing in your institutions. As we become more visible on the web, we continue our quest to include more international publications. Please contact the Citations Subcommittee chair, Margaret Landis [[paleocatstar@ou.edu](mailto:paleocatstar@ou.edu)], with citations you encounter or know of the assist with this or to join the subcommittee (including ideas to make the citations freely publically available in a searchable format).

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Leith and Margaret Landis (co-chairs)

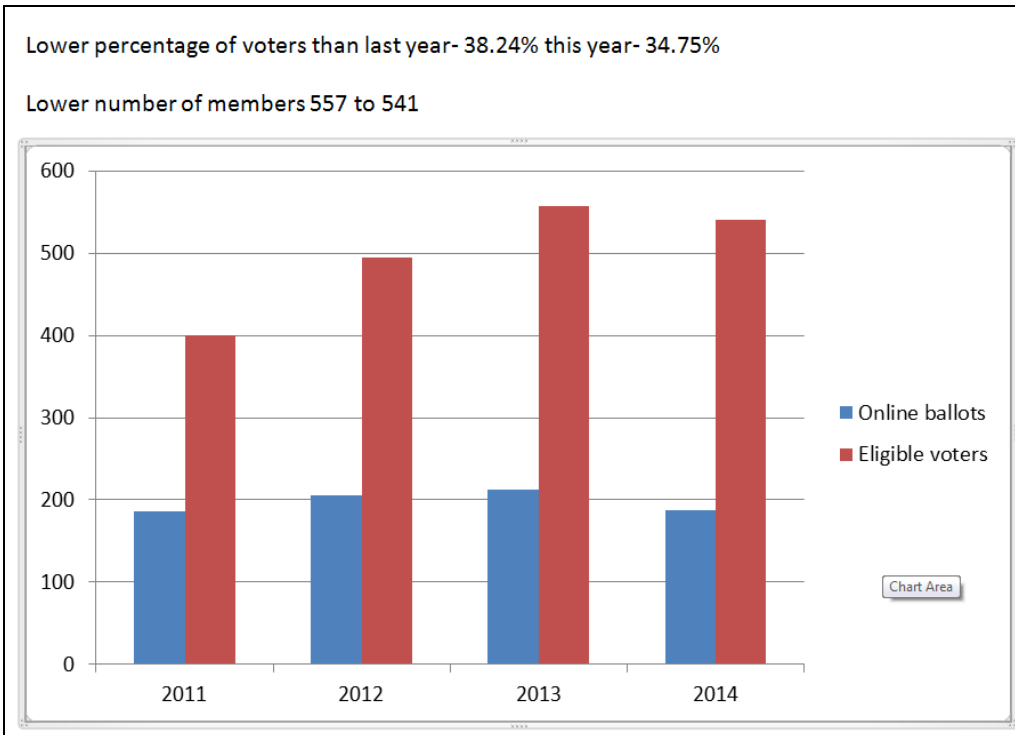
## Elections

Elections Online (<http://www.electionsonline.us/>) was used exclusively this year. The fee from Elections Online was **\$397.60** Cdn.

Positions filled are President- Elect, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large. The successful candidates are:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>PRESIDENT-ELECT</b> | <b>Linda Ford, Harvard Museum of Comparative Anatomy, MA, USA</b>      |
| <b>SECRETARY</b>       | <b>Ann Molineux, University of Texas, TX USA</b>                       |
| <b>MEMBER AT LARGE</b> | <b>Julian Carter, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, UK</b>            |
| <b>MEMBER AT LARGE</b> | <b>Barbara Theirs, Herbarium of New York Botanical Garden, NY, USA</b> |

There were 12 nominations received from 9 different members. 5 of the members nominated declined to stand. The election started with an email message sent to all members on a 'voting list' (provided to Elections Online based on the Treasurer's most recent membership list as of July 2013). A few weeks later a reminder email was sent to all members that had not yet voted online. At the close of the election on December 06, 2013 the total number of returned ballots was 188, or 34.8% of the eligible members – a decrease of 3.8% from the previous year. The table below outlines the trends over the last 4 elections.



This election was the 6th in which members could vote online. There was a slight decrease in eligible voters and number of ballots received. Although we have more than 100 new members compared to 2011, the number of ballots received does not reflect this.

These results were submitted to the newsletter on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2014 and also were emailed via NHColl and the existing membership list at the end of the election (December 6<sup>th</sup> 2013). This report was submitted for 2014 Council meetings January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Bethany Palumbo, Chair, Elections Committee

## Finance

No report received. The position as Chair of this committee is currently vacant.

## Legislation and Regulations

The Legislation and Regulations Committee is planning a major workshop on shipping and permit issue for the 2015 SPNHC meeting in Gainesville. This will include discussions of current laws, issues arising from the IATA work spearheaded by Andy Bentley, and other concerns regarding the collection, transportation and use of natural history specimens. Andy Bentley will chair the L&R meeting in Cardiff in Sally Shelton's absence to plan this workshop and other initiatives.

PERMIT-L is being closed as a listserv and will be reincarnated in another social media format that provides more immediate information on international laws and policies regarding natural history museum issues. More news will be provided as that develops.

The 10th Conference on Fossil Resources (May 13-16) will feature a law enforcement training/information day for people in LE positions on public lands/agencies who have to deal with on-the-ground issues connected to fossil poaching, theft, and changes to the applicable laws. This is the first time we have provided a day-long course for the LE people who are in the trenches implementing the laws and policies; the SPNHC L&R committee will be represented at this session. We will provide a report to the SPNHC leadership on the outcome of this session.

We are also currently planning an open discussion session on comprehensive repository definitions, standards and policies at the Gainesville meeting as a way of opening a much-needed dialogue between agencies and museums.

Respectfully submitted, Sally Shelton

## Long-Range Planning

The Strategic plan is a living document that needs to adapt to the evolving goals and aspirations of the society and its surrounding community. The Long Range Planning Committee plans to meet in Cardiff to discuss and review this document with any recent developments in mind. The strategic plan will be revisited every four years but constant input from membership is urged and any comments, suggestions or edits to the existing plan (printed in the last newsletter and available on the website) are still welcome. Please send any such material to the co-chair, Andrew Bentley, at [abentley@ku.edu](mailto:abentley@ku.edu).

Respectfully submitted  
Andrew Bentley and Clare Valentine, Co-chairs

## Membership

The Membership Committee is working on a series of SPNHC booth banners that members can borrow to take to conferences worldwide. The large SPNHC booth (three panels with lighting) was exhibited at the 2013 SPNHC Annual Meeting, the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting (2013), and the North American Paleontological Convention (2014). Members who would like to take the booth or banner(s) to conferences may contact Tiffany Adrain ([tiffany-adrain@uiowa.edu](mailto:tiffany-adrain@uiowa.edu)) to organize exhibitor registration, shipping, and assistance. Complimentary conference registration may be available. The committee is looking at ways to increase membership and membership diversity, and encourage membership renewal and Life Membership. In addition, we are liaising with the Conservation Committee in developing a new Resources Display Booth, and with the Emerging Professionals Group in ways to engage and support students and emerging professionals.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tiffany Adrain, Chair

## Professional Development

### DemoCamp

Preparations are underway for DemoCamp at SPNHC 2014 and we look forward to another exciting and well-attended session with live demos of new technological advancements for natural history collection research, curation, and digitization—no PowerPoints allowed! DemoCamp will again be sponsored by iDigBio, the U.S. National Resource for Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC), funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation.

### Committee

The Professional Development Committee will meet at the annual conference in Cardiff, Wales, on June 24th. Please attend if you wish to help promote and assist with professional development for new and continuing members.

Mariko Kageyama and Amanda Neill have volunteered to be PDC co-liaisons to the Emerging Professionals Group. The EPG is led by Kari Harris, a graduate student at Arkansas State University and recipient of a Fitzgerald Travel Grant at SPNHC 2013. The EPG has started a blog at <http://crackingthecollections.wordpress.com/> and has some very energetic members we look forward to working with. See the 2014 conference program for the announcement of a new mixer for emerging professionals.

### “How To...”

The “How to...” Leaflet Series, available on [SPNHC.org](http://SPNHC.org), is a peer-reviewed resource intended to serve as a resource tool for collections managers by briefly and clearly explaining best practices for preparation, storage, packing/shipping, and curation. Please consider how easily YOU could share your wisdom and expertise with our community by authoring a leaflet on a specific topic, e.g., proper packaging for a loan of objects from your discipline. We are now exploring a digital format for these leaflets. If you have a suggestion for a topic, or would like to be an author of a leaflet, please contact Jeff Stephenson or Amanda Neill.

### Mentorship

The PDC helped the Mentorship Committee partner a total of five SPNHC mentors with this year’s Fitzgerald Travel Grant awardees and the inaugural Christine Allen Travel Grant. Many thanks to all of the mentors and congratulations to all of the mentees!



## Survey Results

Two PDC surveys were circulated at SPNHC 2012 (Yale) and the results from these have now been analyzed. One survey was for “newcomers” to SPNHC and the second was given to members who attended the annual business meeting. The 69 anonymous respondents provided a wealth of ideas and suggestions that should provide meaningful guidance to our society’s evolution. Each survey included questions about Collection Forum going electronic that now appear to be moot and were left out of this reporting, but suffice it to say the responses were overwhelmingly positive.

### Newcomers’ Survey (23 respondents):

- *How long have you been a SPNHC member?*  
One year (17); Two years (3); Not a member (2); No response (1)
- *If you joined to attend this meeting will you be renewing your membership? If not, why not?*  
Yes (23)  
*Comments:* Some hope their institutions will pay for this, or they plan to rely on their institutional membership. One complaint about foreign transaction fees associated with requirement of credit card/ bank checks for membership payments.
- *Did you know about the Fitzgerald Travel Grant program? If not, and you had, would you have applied?*  
No (13); Yes but didn’t need it due to institutional support to travel or ineligibility (8); Not previously but was awarded one in 2012 (1); Yes and intend to apply in future (1)
- *Did you attend the newcomers’ breakfast and was it useful? If not, why?*  
Attended and it was useful (11); Did not attend (8) – reasons: fully booked, scheduling issues; Attended and it was not useful (4) – reasons: no real orientation/ speech/ content, no structure, too many people, tables restricted mingling, not enough mixing, too hurried  
*Other comments:* Too early in the morning (7!)
- *If we had resources to provide mentors to all new participants, would you take advantage of this?*  
No (13) – reasons: traveled with a large group, already knew people, everyone is friendly & helpful and mentors are not always necessary; Yes (10)  
*Other comments:* Many (10) who said they didn’t need a mentor also said they thought younger people/ students/ first-timers/ those traveling alone might.
- *Was there anything that wasn’t included in this year’s (2012) meeting program that you would like to see at future meetings?*  
No (9); I don’t know or no response (7); Yes (7)  
*Comments:* Longer presentations and fewer presentations/ sessions, less concurrent sessions (2); digitization should be a section every year (2); more zoology; working with alcohol collections, dry collections, frozen collections; raising funds for collections; should have been able to buy the SPNHC book there; merchandise vending; student presentation competitions; session on tips for scientific publishing; more banquet tickets; longer coffee breaks.
- *Do you have any ideas for future workshops at meetings?*  
Yes (11); No (7); I don’t know or no response (5)  
*Comments:* Collection digitization workshops (2); funding sources/ grant writing for collection improvement grants; the role of natural history collections in the future; best practices (standardizing preservation methods) and teaching preservation methods/ demonstrations; more on vertebrate zoology and paleontology; a workshop on handling databases such as Specify and to identify the benefits of each; a workshop on field and lab preservation techniques such as skeletonizing and tissue preservation; specimen photography/ digital imaging workshop; workshop on display design; workshops that include experience of using equipment like high-end cameras; technical issues workshops; a follow-up workshop regarding cryogenic collections; best practices for wet collections (especially regarding the challenges faced at smaller institutions); a “digital imaging on the cheap” workshop with solid fundamental information about best practices for imaging; a workshop on finding places that don’t exist anymore or are hard to find [Editorial assumption this refers to applying geocoordinates for obsolete place-names?].
- *Would you recommend a SPNHC meeting to colleagues or associates? If not, why?*  
Yes (23)
- *Do you use the SPNHC website regularly? Is there any other content you would like to see?*  
No (13); Sometimes (5); Yes (3); No response (2)



*Comments:* More how-to manuals/ leaflets (2); a comprehensive list of publications and references on the Resources tab (2); topic-specific forums (or listserves maybe?) (i.e., Frozen Tissue Collections, or Textiles, etc.) where people can share their best practices documents, ask questions, learn from others' experiences; links to other organizations that promote natural history collections; more promotion of SPNHC at other conferences to help attract more people from more countries; announcement of dates/ venue for next SPNHC meeting well ahead of time; conference papers with PowerPoint's and related resources, as well as posters for reference; standards for collection care published and updated yearly; jobs and opportunities; funding sources and grant deadlines; digitization effort status summaries by region/ country/ museums.

- *Other comments not already covered above:*

The online version of *Collection Forum* is useful (3). Registration payment as well as accommodation arrangements should also be possible by bank transfer, or by cash on site at the meeting. Banquet should also not be held so far away from conference venue. There should be student competition for prizes. Poster sessions are too short and posters should stay up the entire conference. SPNHC should have a vendor table and display and sell society merchandise and souvenirs. There should be a widely-advertised open afternoon session free to local college students and a new membership "recruiting" table with general interest SPNHC stuff, discounts for joining that day, etc. Thanks again for being such a warm and welcoming group, you guys are much better than GSA!

Member Survey at Annual Business Meeting (46 respondents):

- *Does SPNHC do enough for international members?*

Comments provided (19); No response (18); It's getting better (6); Yes (3)

*Comments:* Should have meetings in more countries/ continents and expand international committee/ general membership (9); should reach out to similar organizations and form partnerships/ do outreach/ sponsor sessions with regional societies/ institutions or form regional nodes (9); should provide announcements/ services/ presentations/ webpages/ publications in languages other than English (8); should improve communication with members and make virtual meeting attendance possible (3); should promote SPNHC with increased online presence and e-publications (2); travel scholarships are great (2); should have international representatives and an international coordinator; should promote basic and affordable methods/ technologies for developing countries; should make payment easier for European membership; should offer discounted membership for people from Africa and Latin America; should have more mentoring opportunities.

- *How much do you engage in SPNHC outside of the annual meeting?*

Committee member (23); Committee chair (4); NHCOLL-L (29); Website (23)

- *Workshops/courses you would like to attend?*

Comments provided (32); No response (14)

*Comments:* Fundamental best practices planning and documentation - lighting, cleaning, disaster planning, special collections housing, storage conditions (pest/ humidity management and HVAC), material testing, specimen labeling, hands-on specimen preparation and repair, conservation (10); collecting/ import/ export permitting and packing/ shipping issues (5); digital imaging topics including general specimen photography, 3-D imaging technologies, low cost approaches, and image archiving best practices (4); hands-on specimen prep techniques and conservation specifically for vertebrates/ birds/ mammals/ skins (3); repository agreements and legal components of collections ownership (3); digitization, especially for small museums (2); dealing with old collections (disorganized) and historical collections (2); fields not receiving enough SPNHC attention: birds, mammals, insects, archaeology (2); standards documentation; IT 101 or IT basics for collection managers; data management; digital media other than images as collection objects e.g. sound files; ancillary collections (maps, prints, drawings, other ephemera); new technology; hands-on experience (demo session) for specimen mounts; anything concerning fluid collections; moving collections; building up new storage; toxins in specimens and IPM; cryogenic collection practices; anoxic enclosures/ treatments; how georeferencing could benefit social sciences; integrating collections with like needs into common space with ideal conditions; innovative methods of outreach/ education; grant writing for collections; field techniques to better prepare specimens; barcoding/ RFID technologies; designing and managing crowdsourcing transcriptional cataloging/ citizen science projects.

- *Content you would like to see on the website?*

Comments provided (33); No response (13)

*Comments:* Discipline-specific and easily searchable active forums/ wikipages for best practices information/ collection care techniques/ digitization techniques/ how-to leaflets and advice (14); searchable past meeting abstracts plus PDFs of posters and recorded/ YouTube presentations (11); more links and

more frequently-updated and member-updateable content in general (7); shared documents – standard operating procedures, accession protocols, planning checklists, safety docs, shipping info, labels (6); discipline-specific, member-updateable materials/ supplies/ vendor lists (6); career pages/ professional development links and training/ job opportunities (6); searchable bibliography of peer-reviewed references (with keywords/ subject categories) relevant to collections management and conservation (6); SPNHC member list with fields of expertise and contact information (3); links to other international and regional organizations/ societies (2); more links to natural history collections databases; information on collaboration and reports from other meetings that members attend; access to searchable NHCOLL-L discussions; specimen swap-shop/ trade/ orphan collection news and contacts; recommended blog list; newsfeed of items of interest to SPNHC members.

- *Other comments not already covered above:*  
*It would be good to include more information on nametags at meetings (discipline) to allow networking*

Amanda Neil, Jeff Stephenson, Co-chairs

## Publications

Congratulations and many thanks to Christine Johnson from the American Museum of Natural History, who will become the new SPNHC Managing Editor following the annual meeting. Chris is very well prepared for the position having been the Managing Editor for *Entomologica Americana* since 2008.

### Serial Publications

#### *Newsletter*

Congratulations are also in order to Mireia Beas-Moix, who took over as the Newsletter Editor just in time to produce the Spring 2014 issue. This issue was the first digital newsletter using Bright Copy from Allen Press and was certainly impressive. Thanks to Mireia for her enormous effort in making such a professional resource for our members (and many more to come)! In Fall 2014, the newsletter will officially have a title.

Newsletter access to members (all types) is controlled via login requiring registration through the *Collection Forum* digital system ("e-CoFo"). A full volume of *Collection Forum* must be available for that system to go live, so for this first issue a direct link to the Allen Press page was sent out. For the Fall 2014 newsletter, users will have access through the e-CoFo "portal". Reading the new digital newsletter is as easy reading a book... simply click on any of the folded page corners to turn to the page (or use your arrow keys). Click on the "?" icon in the menu on the top right corner to get tips and help on navigation. That menu also gives you access the viewing the table of contents, printing or download the newsletter, and customizing your experience by changing settings in the "toolbox".

You may have noticed the abundance of colorful ads linked to collections-related companies in the newsletter. This is a feature that has the real benefit of linking members to useful products and services and vendors to their target audience, with the added bonus of helping to offset some of the e-publication expenses. Thanks to Tim White for additional help with the coordination of advertising with our very generous business partners.

I remind everyone that the newsletter will *continue to be fantastic with your help*. Please consider submitting an article for publication. Also, don't forget to make suggestions for the new SPNHC Newsletter title! All submissions should be made to Mireia ([beas-moix@cber.ucsb.edu](mailto:beas-moix@cber.ucsb.edu)).

#### *Collection Forum*

*Collection Forum* Volume 28 will be out this summer and has 8 articles, one opinion piece, and three book reviews. This will be the first digital volume of *Collection Forum* utilizing Allen Press's Pinnacle System! Users will register with the Pinnacle System and will have to the ability to create favorites lists and customize email alerts for new postings and notifications for specific topics. Library, corporate, and institutional members will be able to indicate a range of IP addresses in their institution for which access will be granted. Multiple predefined areas on the website are available for news, notes, advertisements, and other information pertinent to our organization, publications, and annual meetings. We will focus on developing advertising for the newsletter at this time and the e-CoFo portal will have links to the current newsletter (direct access), our upcoming annual meeting, publications available from University Products, as well as all the vital information such as council members and instructions to authors. We are also newly registered with CrossRef, which provides Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) to e-CoFo articles for persistent reference linking for indexing services and libraries.

#### *BioOne*

We continue to submit *Collection Forum* for addition to BioOne. We have not heard the results for this year, but they have suggested that we can include the journal in their open access service. The possibility of open access for *Collection Forum* should be discussed.

*Copyright Clearance Center (CCC)*

SPNHC publications (books and *Collection Forum*) are all posted in CCC. If you are using SPNHC images, CoFo articles, book chapters, or charts (electronic or print) for educational or business use, please register for a license on [copyright.com](http://copyright.com)

*Archiving and print copies*

Archives of all journals and newsletters, excluding the current edition, will continue to be available at [spnhc.org](http://spnhc.org). We will continue to offer print copies of the newsletter and *Collection Forum*, which can be purchased on a yearly basis with new or renewing memberships.

**Books**

*Storage of Museum Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach*

Lisa Elkin and Chris Norris, Special Publication Editors, continue to forge ahead with production of *Storage of Museum Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach*. They are working, in collaboration with our partners the National Museum of Natural History and AIC, to formalize a memorandum of understanding outlining the roles of all parties, project management and reporting arrangements, and division of royalties. The special publications editors, treasurer, and incoming and outgoing managing editors will meet with the AIC preferred production company, Aptara, on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

There is already a budget, production schedule, and table of contents with nine section editors assigned and many authors already identified. After the memorandum of understanding is agreed upon, the editorial board will be informed and work will start on the book.

**2014-2015 Publications Budget**

|   | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Collection Forum</b>                               |             |             |
| CrossRef services                                     | 95          | 95          |
| Pinnacle (e-CoFo), 1 volume per year                  | 10270       | 10270       |
| printing and mailing                                  | 2600        | 2600        |
| pay per view (optional)                               | 430         | 130         |
| archiving recent CoFo (21-27) (optional)              | 1000        | 0           |
| advertising revenue                                   | 0           | 0           |
|   | 14395       | 13095       |
| <b>Newsletter</b>                                     |             |             |
| BrightCopy, 2 issues per year                         | 2550        | 2250        |
| additional fees for advertising                       | 1000        | 1000        |
| printing and mailing                                  | 1888.29     | 2000        |
|   | 5438.29     | 5250        |
| <b>Publications/Managing Editor</b>                   |             |             |
| operating budget                                      | 1000        | 1000        |
| <b>Publications</b>                                   |             |             |
| publication printing                                  | 0           | 800         |
| <i>Preventive Conservation for Museum Collections</i> | 5000        | 21850       |

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Butts, Chair

## Recognition and Grants

The R & G Committee is charged with promoting and administering the annual recognition awards that the Society can confer, as well as the Faber Research Grant.

This year, the Committee received one nomination for the President's Award and one for the Carolyn Rose Award.

### **2014 Carolyn Rose Award**

#### **For outstanding commitment to Natural History Collections Care and Management**

In recognition of his significant contribution to conservation and collection management worldwide, through his tireless service as a conservator, a prolific writer of professional papers and excellent communicator, the Council of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections has voted to present the 2014 Carolyn Rose Award to **Dr. Tom Strang**.

The Carolyn Rose Award is our Society's highest honour and is given to a practitioner whose work and efforts have promoted the values and objectives of the Society. Tom Strang clearly deserves this award, as demonstrated by the numerous support letters written on his behalf.

- "His significant contributions to the objectives of SPNHC have had great impact on collection practices across Canada and throughout the world. I sincerely believe that Dr. Tom Strang is a worthy recipient of the Carolyn L. Rose Award."
- "Tom's influence has been manifold in preserving natural history collections."
- "an obvious choice!!!!!"
- "A leader in museum pest research for many years, Tom Strang is the expert I would turn to first with any question or problem relating to museum pest management. He is awesome!"
- "Carolyn [Rose] would also definitely approve as she clearly understood from the beginning the value for our field represented by such 'genius mind' as Tom possesses."
- "Tom more than merits this award. He has changed the way our field approaches pest management and a host of other topics, introducing scientific rigor without sacrificing a wry sense of humor. It has been an honor to know him and work with him."
- "Tom has an infectious enthusiasm for pest control in museum collections. He blends his extensive knowledge of pests with down-to-earth solutions for small institutions but can scale it up for formable projects such as the Japanese temple. He is a gem in the conservation community."
- "Tom Strang is one of the most recognizable names in the realm of museum pest control. ... Tom has made significant strides in making collections care more sustainable and safer for both the collections themselves and for the people who handle them."
- "Of course, it is Tom's contributions in the area of applying scientific knowledge and technical innovation to integrated pest management that ... is best recognized. We are all fortunate that Tom has gathered together, further synthesized and made this information widely available through the publication in 2012 of his doctoral thesis, Studies in Pest Control for Cultural Property."

### **2012 President's Award**

#### **For activities which have furthered the objectives of the Society through outstanding committee work, prolonged officer roles, and/or promotion of activities of the Society**

In recognition of her extensive contributions to SPNHC since its early days, The Council of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections has voted to present the 2014 President's Award to **Judith C. Price**.

Judith has been a devoted SPNHC member since 1988 and truly deserved this recognition. To use the words of the President of Society, Chris Norris:

"If we were to judge Judith solely on her years as Secretary, then her length of tenure and her contribution to the smooth and efficient running of SPNHC would be enough, I think, to warrant recognition at the highest level. But she has done so much more than this. She has been a stalwart member of the Society for more than 25 years, has served on the Local Organizing Committees of three separate annual meetings (1991 and 2010

in Ottawa, 2002 at the Redpath Museum), chaired the Elections Committee for 10 years, and has served on countless standing and sessional committees. She has served the Society and its members with great distinction and she will be greatly missed.”

The President-Elect, Andy Bentley, adds:

“Judith has served the society in numerous different capacities over the years since her joining SPNHC in 1988. She has been a member of numerous committees and chair of the Election Committee from 1990 to 2000.

...

She is also a well-respected collection manager in her field. However, her tour-de-force has been her service as secretary of the society since 2004, managing council meetings and serving the President of the society.

...

She has also had the unenviable task over the years of being the “bum kicker” who has kept everyone on deadline – a task she has always taken on with dedication and a touch of humor.”

Former Society President, Rich Rabeler, is one of the six presidents Judith served under. Here’s what he concludes:

“Although committee chairs most likely came to know Judith as “the Gun”, especially when she was trying to complete the documentation for the Annual Meeting or, more recently, the Leadership Manual, I came to think of her as “the Rock” – a colleague I could depend on very reliably for solid advice on almost “anything SPNHC”. In the collegial spirit that embodies SPNHC, we worked as a team, without regard for titles and positions, for the betterment of the organization.”

Special Services Awards are also often being considered by Council. The recipient(s) will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting.

No applications were received for the 2014 Faber Research Grant.

The 2013 Faber Research Grant was awarded to Gail Gali Beiner ([National Natural History Collections](#), [The Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#)) and her team for their proposed research project entitled “Materials Testing for Natural History Collections – an Interdisciplinary Approach”.

You can find more details on these grants and awards on the [SPNHC Website](#)

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean-Marc Gagnon, Chair

## Web Site

Expanding social media has been one of the major items this year. The Emerging Professionals group has developed a Facebook page, Twitter feed and an excellent Blog “Cracking the Collections”. Special thanks go to Kari Harris and Katie Anderson and other members of the group for their persistence and vision. Tim White and Lynn Jones now have a prototype for a wiki page that should be live shortly, and should improve committee activities. Citations are on the horizon thanks to the Documentation committee, Margaret Landis in particular. Another big step has been the update of the Leadership Manual thanks to the huge efforts of Suzanne McLaren, Chair of the SPNHC Sessional Committee on Governance and Jean-Marc Gagnon, Chair of the Bylaws Committee.

On a practical note an unannounced hosting update resulted in the loss of many documents linked to from the pages within the web site. We are slowly double-checking and reloading where necessary.

As always please do let us know if you see errors of any variety or wish to add material to our SPNHC webpage, and send any newsworthy items or job opportunities to Ann Molineux, [annm@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:annm@austin.utexas.edu).

Respectfully submitted  
Ann Molineux, chair

## Sessional Committee Reports

### **Governance**

This Sessional Committee was established by President Norris in the 2012-2013 annual cycle to review the functioning of SPNHC committees and other entities that report to SPNHC Council and membership. The intention of this work is to ensure that each committee or other group is functioning as well as possible, maximizing the skills of its members, and achieving its goals. Furthermore, by reviewing existing documentation across the spectrum of the Society's activities over the course of 5 years as well as leveraging the complete updating of the Leadership Manual, it is hoped that this Committee's input can facilitate synergy among committees with closely aligned objectives while helping to eliminate redundant efforts.

To that end, the Committee's five members have reviewed the following documents:

The 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 ABM packages, Minutes from the 2013 and 2012 ABM and from the 2011, 2012 and 2013 Council Meetings, the newly updated Leadership Manual, the SPNHC 2013 Strategic Plan, the SPNHC website and assorted documents produced by individual committees, such as the Conference Guidelines. After extensive review of these resources, Committee members shared their independent observations by email. The content of these observations was massaged into several documents that were shared and discussed with President Norris and President-Elect Bentley at the 2013 meetings in Rapid City, South Dakota. At that time, the committee was asked to continue and expand its evaluation for another year.

During the year, the committee submitted a short article for the Fall SPNHC Newsletter about its activities. It has also played a strong role in pushing for the completion of submissions to the Leadership Manual with all but one committee (Finance) fulfilling this task. The committee has revisited its previous recommendations, reviewed the updated Leadership Manual entries and considered other options for evaluating governance efficiency. Given the fact that another year of activities has nearly concluded, the Committee will also review the 2014 ABM package before completing its documentation for President Norris and President-Elect Bentley. We will meet with the President and President-Elect at the 2014 SPNHC Meetings in Cardiff, Wales to share observations and discuss recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne B. McLaren (Chair), Laura Abraczinskas, Lori Benson, Jessica Cundiff, and Richard Rabeler.

### **International Relations**

The International Relations sessional committee following the SPNHC meeting in South Dakota recruited the help of Skip Skidmore from Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum, Brigham Young University, Utah. We have sent the questionnaire out further afield as planned but sadly got very little responses back but we will work with what we have to produce a report for the SPNHC committee in June.

The most significant step achieved over the last few months is an increased dialogue with the UK's equivalent society NatSCA (Natural Sciences Collection Association) and the UK's Geological Curators Group (GCG). As a result of these discussions we have agreed to jointly host the 2014 meeting in Cardiff. In addition, SPNHC is working with the NatSCA and GCG committees to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for these like-minded groups. This will hopefully ensure greater collaboration and support in future projects.

With another proposed European SPNHC conference in Berlin in the next few years we hope to use this opportunity to once again build further international partnerships and collaborations.

Our intention is to continue to gather information where possible and start analysing the information we already have to produce a report with recommendations for the SPNHC Council later this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Ryder, Chair

## Mentorship

Once again this year at the SPNHC annual conference in Cardiff, Wales, the Fitzgerald Travel Grant program will award travel grants for attendance of the meeting. This year we will also have a new travel grant opportunity with the establishment of the Christine Allen Travel Grant in memory of Christine Allen who worked for University Products, Gaylord and Hollinger Metal Edge during her long career in museum support, who passed away recently. She was a long time member and supporter of the society and worked tirelessly with many of us to ensure that the products marketed by her companies reflected the needs articulated by our membership. The grant will support the attendance at our annual meeting of an emerging professional with interests in physical care and conservation of collections.

With regard to the international node program, this committee is working in close conjunction with the International Relations Committee and shortly we will be sending out a call for international representatives to SPNHC. To this end, the committee would like to hear from any of our international members who may be interested in serving as an international representative or ambassador of the Society for particular regions – Africa, South America, Oceania, Asia, etc. Initially we would like this representative to feed information back to the Society (in the form of a brief newsletter piece twice a year) about collections activities in your region but also to begin to engage the collections professionals in that region to create a community. Additionally, we would be interested in hearing from any members as to what it is you think SPNHC could offer these international members above and beyond the basic benefits of membership. Some of the ideas presented already include region-specific Facebook pages that would feed into the main page together with activity (conferences, courses, events), member and vendor lists for that region. We are working on outlining the description of duties and tasks to be accomplished by these representatives and what form these international nodes will take. Anyone interested in acting as a representative or providing information should contact the chair at [abentley@ku.edu](mailto:abentley@ku.edu).

With the impending chair's takeover as President, I have been giving some thought to the future of the Mentorship Committee. I feel that the goals of the committee have run their course. The travel grant program is successfully being run by a combination of the Recognition and Grants and Professional Development committees while the International Node program logically fits within the newly formed International Relations committee. As such I will be recommending to Council at the meeting in Cardiff that the Mentorship Committee be disbanded. I will continue to remain involved in the International Nodes program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Bentley, Chair

### Representative Reports

#### **American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)**

The Sustainability Committee and the new Collection Care Network joined forces to develop a very successful program for the 42nd American Institute for Conservation (AIC) annual meeting. The meeting highlighted the theme *Conscientious Conservation: Sustainable Choices in Collection Care*. Meeting topics focused on how these two approaches are influencing professional conservation practices amidst global environment and sustainability challenges. Specialty groups at the annual meeting included Architecture, Book and Paper, Collections Care, Conservators in Private Practice, Electronic Media, Objects, Paintings, Photographic Materials, Research and Technical Studies, Textiles, and Wooden Artifacts.

One general session explored the topic of energy and museum climate sustainability, and posed the question-at what cost? This and other presentations led to discussions throughout the meeting of the impacts of loosening stringent indoor climate requirements and standards. Four concurrent sustainability sessions focused on case studies in collection care, engaging communities in collection care, exploring sustainable preservation environments, and sustainability in public art conservation. Topics within these sessions included architectural and archaeological projects, collections re-housing, environmental management, and recycling and efficiencies for conservators in private practice. Specific interest sessions included collection care, collection care plus HVAC, sustainable roundtable, health and safety, Wiki edit-a-thon, syllabus sharing, and digital resource needs.

With funding from the Mellon, Kress and Getty Foundations, the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) is exploring the digital landscape of the conservation profession. The forum titled '*Charting the Digital Landscape of the Conservation Profession*' focused on presentations and discussions concerning digital



tools and resources, audiences, and methods in which content can be delivered to audiences. This specialty session is the first in a series of planned events developed to help FAIC identify both current and future critical needs.

The closing session of the conference was a lively and fun-filled debate of two topics, a) the most important aspect of conservation practice is no longer the treatment of cultural property and b) AIC is successfully promoting the advancement of recently-graduated conservators in today's work force. Amid great clapping and cheering, the affirmative side held sway with both topics.

The 42nd annual meeting hosted one of the largest numbers (approximately 1,200) of attendees for an AIC meeting. The 43rd Annual Meeting will take place May 13-16, 2015 in Miami, FL at the Hyatt Regency Miami. The theme for the 2015 meeting is '*Practical Philosophy or Making Conservation Work*'.

Conference blogs about the annual meeting can be found at <http://www.conservators-converse.org/>.

Jude Southward

## **American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH)**

The 2013 meeting of the ASIH was held in Albuquerque, NM 10-15 July 2013. At this conference, ASIH met jointly with the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR), Herpetologists' League (HL) and the American Elasmobranch Society (AES). Officially, 936 herpetologists and ichthyologists (417 of which were students) from 19 different countries attended the meetings. The ASIH Collections Committee met during the conference. The Collections Committee discussed Best Practices, and funding sources among other things.

Greg Watkins-Colwell

## **American Society of Mammalogists (ASM)**

Since 1972, the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) has had a standing committee called the Systematic Collections Committee as an outgrowth of an ad hoc committee formed at the request of the National Science Foundation. The Society has defined this committee's responsibilities as follows: (1). Advising curators worldwide in matters relating to collection administrations, curation, and accreditation; (2). maintaining a directory of mammal collections and conducting a survey of existing collections approximately once each decade; and (3). maintaining a list of curatorial standards for mammal collections and managing a collection-accreditation program under the auspices of the Society.

Once the evaluation process has been completed, the Committee forwards its recommendations for accreditation to the ASM President for review. The President then notifies the collection's administration of the Committee's decision. If accreditation is to be conferred, the President sends a letter to that effect as well as an Accreditation Certificate and a copy of the Final Report. Final Reports generally contain both positive observations and recommendations for improvement. The latter rarely comes as a surprise to collection staff. Rather, the Committee works with the staff to articulate areas for which they need greater administrative support. It is hoped that our recommendations will highlight the importance of the collection to the mammal research community and help to leverage greater institutional support for the collection.

This year, long-time Chair Bill Stanley (FMNH) turned over leadership of the committee to Dr. Robert Dowler of Angelo State Natural History Collections. During the 2013-2014 annual ASM cycle the committee received requests for collection inspections for ASM accreditation from Museo de Historia Natural, UNMSM in Peru and the University of Central Oklahoma Vertebrate Collections (UCOVC). Plans are underway to complete these inspections. The committee also began preparations for the next survey of mammal collections of the Western Hemisphere to begin in May 2014. Mammal collections' staff can expect members of the committee to contact them soon with the easiest survey they have ever completed. Each collection will receive a copy of its response to the last survey conducted ten years ago and will be asked to make any corrections or updates to that information. It is very short process and we look forward to a high level of participation.

For recent listings of Mammal Collections of the Western Hemisphere, a copy of the Basic Curatorial Standards used by the Committee during the accreditation process or a list of currently accredited collections, see the Systematic Collections Committee webpage on the ASM website:

<http://www.mammalogy.org/committees/systematic-collections#tab3>. In addition, a paper published this year by R. J. Baker, L. C. Bradley, H. J. Garner, and R. D. Bradley "Door to Drawer" Costs of Curation, Installation,



Documentation, Databasing, and Long-term Care of Mammal Voucher Specimens in Natural History Collections at the same link.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne B. McLaren

## **American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT)**

I serve as an ex-officio member of the ASPT Systematics Collections Committee. The chair of the committee leads a Curator's meeting during the annual Society meeting.

Although the Committee has been inactive again this year, one of the committee goals is to promote regional networking of US herbaria, interfacing with participants in the United States Virtual Herbarium, Global Plants Initiative, and iDigBio.

I was unable to attend the 2013 Annual meeting of the Society at Botany2013 (New Orleans - July 27-31). The 2014 meeting will be held at Botany2014 in Boise, Idaho on July 26-30, 2014.

Rich Rabeler

## **Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG)**

The Association of Academic Museums and Galleries is the leading educational and professional organization for academic museums, galleries, and collections. AAMG addresses issues that are relevant and unique to college and university museums, galleries and collections of all disciplines including art, history, natural history, and science. Issues include governance, ethics, education and exhibitions, management, strategic planning, support, collections, and professional programs.

Organized in 1980 as the Association of College and University Museums and Galleries (ACUMG), and renamed in 2010, today the AAMG establishes and supports best practices, educational activities and professional development that enable its member organizations to fulfill their educational missions in recognition of the unique opportunities and challenges of its constituents.

The 2014 Annual Conference of AAMG was held successfully in collaboration with the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, and the Henry Art Gallery, both at the University of Washington on 16-18 May 2014 preceding the American Alliance of Museums 2014 Annual Meeting in Seattle. It was the largest meeting that the AAMG had ever hosted with over 200 participants representing 47 different states and 5 countries. It was also their first year moving from one day of panel sessions to an extended three-day format, which was a huge success. The conference theme was "Moving the Needle: Academic Museums and Galleries Innovating the Future." The keynote session "Difficult Dialogues: Exhibiting Environmental Crisis and Nuclear Narratives" explored a multidisciplinary approach to intellectually and socially challenging stories of environmental crisis.

The AAMG is hosting again the increasingly popular Academic Museum and Gallery Leadership Seminar scheduled on 23-27 June 2014 in partnership with the Kellogg School of Management Center for Nonprofit Management at the Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. For the latest news, please visit the website (<http://www.aamg-us.org/>).

Respectfully submitted,  
Mariko Kageyama

## **Geological Society of America (GSA)**

As an associated society of GSA, SPNHC was represented at the 2013 annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, October 27-30, 2013. The next meeting of GSA is in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, October 19-22. SPNHC will once again be a part of a topical session:

T200. Advancing the Digitization of Paleontology and Geoscience Collections: Projects, Programs, and Practices. Talia S. Karim, Gil Nelson, Russell D. White  
*Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections; iDigBio; Paleontological Society; GSA Geoinformatics Division; University of Colorado Museum of Natural History; Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History*

Digitization programs in paleontology and geoscience collections have become widespread, and researchers and educators now expect that these data will be discoverable online. This session will present new developments in digitization and data discovery.

We hope that SPNHC members in the vicinity of this meeting may spare some time to run the booth for a few hours. Please let me know if you can help in this capacity. Booth supporters are provided with registration. We are hoping to display our SPNHC awardees 2014 in the GSA recognition area.

Respectfully submitted  
Ann Molineux, SPNHC representative to GSA

## Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

SPNHC is an organizational Associate Participant in The Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Rich served as the GBIF "Head of Delegation" for SPNHC until April of 2014; James Macklin assumed that role at that time.

GBIF has faced challenges as a result of the world economic situation and the Executive Secretary, Donald Hobern, continues to look for ways to streamline operations while maintaining GBIF as a premier data provider. Priorities in the near term include an emphasis on improving data quality and developing methods for clearer attribution of data usage.

Richard K. Rabeler & James Macklin

## Heritage Preservation & Heritage Emergency National Task Force

### Heritage Preservation

Heritage Preservation continues to sponsor or co-sponsor several programs of interest to the SPNHC membership:

- **Conservation Assessment Program (CAP)**  
Provides a general conservation assessment of a museum collections, environmental conditions, and site via a 2-day site visit by conservation and preservation professionals at minimal cost to the museum; identifies conservation priorities to help develop strategies for improved collections care, and provides a tool for long-range planning and fund-raising <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP/index.html>
- **New Heritage Health Index (HHI) Survey**  
At the 10-year anniversary of the 2004 watershed report, Heritage Preservation has partnered with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities, together with support from foundations, to conduct a second Heritage Health Index to assess the current state of cultural heritage collections in 2014 and the change in preservation practices in U.S. institutions since the initial study. **The HHI 2014 survey is expected to launch in the fall with a final report issued in 2015.**
- **Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF, discussed below)**

Heritage Preservation also offers a variety of **publications of interest to the SPNHC membership:**  
<https://www.heritagepreservation.org/catalog/default.asp>.

Notable publications now sale priced for US residents include

- [\*Preserving Natural Science Collections: Chronicle of Our Environmental Heritage\*](#)
- [\*The Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel\*](#)
- [\*Field Guide to Emergency Response\*](#)
- [\*Disaster Combo: Field Guide and Wheel\*](#)
- [\*Implementing the Incident Command System at the Institutional Level: A Handbook for Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Other Cultural Repositories\*](#). (You will be redirected to another website for information and purchase.)

### Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF)

Co-sponsored by Heritage Preservation and the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) is made up of 40 federal and private agencies and national service organizations concerned with protecting US cultural property in times of emergencies or disasters. There are numerous resources available through the task force's Web site at <https://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/TASKFER.HTM>. The HENTF director is Lori Foley, her email is [lfoley@heritagepreservation.org](mailto:lfoley@heritagepreservation.org).

A valuable tool available from the HENTF is the free app for Emergency Response and Salvage.  
<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/flood.html> :

[Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel app](#) (Heritage Preservation and NCPTT)

*A free app that provides practical salvage tips for nine types of collections: photographs, books and documents, paintings, electronic records, textiles, furniture, ceramics/stone/metal, organic materials, and natural history specimens. Compatible with iPhone 3GS, iPhone 4, iPhone 4S, iPod touch (3rd generation), iPod touch (4th generation) and iPad. Requires iOS 5.1 or later.*

[BlackBerry users](#) The app is available for BlackBerry users and can be downloaded through [BlackBerry World](#). The app is also available for Android devices through [Google Play](#). [All versions](#) are free.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catharine Hawks

## Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio)

SPNHC and iDigBio are drafting a formal MOU and anticipate it will be signed by SPNHC in 2014. iDigBio Staff Member, Deborah Paul was selected to be the first SPNHC-iDigBio Representative Liaison. SPNHC and iDigBio have collaborated on several workshops in fiscal year 2013 – 2014 (see list below), and iDigBio continues to support SPNHC Demo Camp. iDigBio is participating in SPNHC 2014 in several ways including 2 symposia, one specifically focusing on the issues of small collections digitization titled: [Recruiting, Retaining, and Supporting Small Collections in Biodiversity Digitization Initiatives](#) by the founders of [SCNet](#). The second one is [Update on Initiatives and Progress in Digitization of Natural History Collections](#) and is designed to encourage discovery followed by collaboration and expertise sharing. It's paired with a SPNHC Special Interest Group (SIG) session on Friday: [Collections Digitization and Opportunities for International Collaboration](#). Through a series of webinars and workshops, iDigBio and SPNHC are striving to facilitate mobilizing data from small collections and SPNHC President Elect Andrew Bentley, and SPNHC past president Richard Rabeler participated in the most recent of these workshops and webinars on this topic. SPNHC 2015 is being hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH) in Gainesville, Florida which is also the home of iDigBio. Many iDigBio staff are actively involved in the development of SPNHC 2015 and the aforementioned workshops and webinars. Some meetings and symposia at SPNHC 2014 are setting up the foundation for symposia at SPNHC 2015. Kari Harris, graduate student at Arkansas State University, has stepped up to become an active iDigBio workshop participant, presenter, and contributor and also SPNHC member and organizer of the SPNHC Emerging Professionals Group (EGP).

Collections are evolving and digitization is becoming integral to their existence. iDigBio continues to look for ways to make it easier and faster for all collections to make their data discoverable on the web. If you've got data, we'll help you figure out how to get that data disseminated. If you need to figure out how to get started, we can help with that too. At the same time, we would like to encourage SPNHC members to get involved and also act as ambassadors to the broader community to invite colleagues, young and established, into the mix. We have digitization resources in the form of digitization protocols, workflows, recorded seminars, and workshop presentations. [Our working groups](#) welcome new members and encourage SPNHC members to join us and we also encourage our iDigBio community to join SPNHC. We envision a promising future of collaborative efforts to support collections in their endeavors to make their specimen data and media available world-wide.

@iDigBio Events <https://www.idigbio.org/calendar>:

August 12 – 16, 2013: [Specify 6 Workshop](#), University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute, Lawrence Kansas

April 7 – 10, 2014: [Small Collections Workshop](#), Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

April 14, 2014: [WEBINAR: The Role of SPNHC in Supporting the Sustainability of Small Collections](#)

May 19: [Webinar: The Future of Funding for Small Collections](#)

June 6: [WEBINAR: Large Collections Supporting Small Collections](#)

June 25<sup>th</sup>: [Recruiting, Retaining, and Supporting Small Collections in Biodiversity Digitization Initiatives](#)

June 26<sup>th</sup>: [Update on Initiatives and Progress in Digitization of Natural History Collections](#)

June 26<sup>th</sup>: [SPNHC 2014 DemoCamp](#)

June 27<sup>th</sup>: [SPNHC 2014 Special Interest Group Session: Collections Digitization and Opportunities for International Collaboration](#)

July 31<sup>st</sup>: [North American Network of Small Herbaria Workshop](#)

May 17 – 22: [SPNHC 2015, Gainesville, Florida](#) host: FLMNH and iDigBio

With iDigBio's best regards

Deborah Paul

[dpaul@fsu.edu](mailto:dpaul@fsu.edu) on Twitter @idbdeb

## **International Council of Museums – Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC)**

The position of SPNHC representative to ICOM-CC is currently vacant.

## **International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)**

ISBER's official journal has been approved for MEDLINE and PubMed indexing, achieving an important goal of the society.

A special interest group on the Management of Investigator-returned Research Results (MIRRR) has been formed.

The Biospecimen Working Group (BSWG) has prepared a review article on room temperature storage technologies. The paper is under review, but should be of interest to the SPNHC community.

As always, the ISBER list is lively and has covered topics related to recommendations about equipment and supplies, costs, informed consent, and commercial uses of collections. While some topics focus on human tissues, many of the discussions are applicable to the types of specimens typically in natural history biorepositories. An important topic over the past months was the establishment of specimen fee structures.

The 2014 annual meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida, May 20-24, titled "Fact not Fantasy: Evidence Based Biobanking". Nine workshops sessions will cover a broad range of topics: informatics and migration of legacy data; protocol planning; case studies in balancing biospecimen-related patient and investigator requests with risk management and human subject protections; implementing quality management systems; learning from cryobiology to improve specimen preservation outcome; limitations in the use of human and animal tissues in research; issues to consider in designing and nuts and bolts of operating a biorepository; essential concepts for effective specimen receipt; creating successful training programs for biorepository staff; and, development of a disaster readiness, response and recovery plan.

In addition to these educational workshops, the meeting will feature plenary sessions, corporate workshops, contributed papers, poster sessions, working group discussions and a vendor fair.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol R. Butler

## **Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA)**

NatSCA has had a busy and fruitful year, as Natural Science collections continue to face a variety of threats. We are pleased to announce that our new website: <http://www.natsca.org/> is up and running thanks to the two half coordinator posts funded by Arts Council England (ACE). These dedicated roles along with input from the rest of the committee have provided us with an opportunity to make the site easier to maintain and more user-friendly. It has allowed us to effectively plan and implement our strategies and communicate our efforts with the membership, the wider sector and public.

NatSCA extended warm welcomes our two new patrons Professor Alice Roberts and Professor Iain Stewart who have helped to raise the profile of natural science collections whilst showing tremendous support for the Association and its work.

We now have an exciting new blog site with both committee and NatSCA members contributing on a regular basis: <http://naturalsciencecollections.wordpress.com/>  
But the majority of communication within NatSCA is still through the Jiscmail distribution list.

Our NatSCA News has changed with the introduction of the 'Journal of Natural Science Collections' and the long-awaited ICON leaflets were produced. We ran some successful workshops this year including the 'Natural Sciences Collection Review and Disposal' Workshop at the Horniman Museum & Gardens.

NatSCA continues to fund various projects, supporting its membership through bursaries for workshops and conferences. We still continue to award the Bill Pettit Memorial Award (up to £1,500 for projects every year) and this year's recipient will be announced at our AGM. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded "Skills for the Future" programme, which has provided paid training for up-and-coming natural science curators, has been very successful, with further funding being offered by the HLF to continue the programme.

As the funding situation continues to tighten its grip on many museums and their staff, NatSCA continued to work with (ACE) to highlight the value of Natural Sciences collections and the specialist staff who care for and maintain those collections. With collections at risk in the forefront of our minds, NatSCA takes this seriously and in our role as the UK Subject Specialist Network (SSN) for natural science collections we have met with representatives of ACE and the newly formed UK Natural Science Consortium to discuss the future of natural science collections at a strategic level, with a view to understanding and combating the threats to collections.

In January, NatSCA presented the findings of an Arts Council England funded study into the audiences of mixed discipline museums. This independent study was undertaken by Jenesys Associates Ltd. in 10 museums across the UK during the summer of 2013. This work intended to explore the experiences of different audiences in different galleries of mixed discipline museums, in order to understand their preferences and the reasons behind them. This information will allow us to better understand how natural science galleries are perceived by the public and to allow other Subject Specialist Networks and museums to gain an insight into their audiences.

The 48 page report showed visitors identified natural sciences, art and live animal galleries as their favourite types of exhibit and described art, natural sciences and local history as their least favourite gallery types. The fact that some of the same galleries appear on both the most and least favourite lists suggests that audiences are highly heterogeneous in their tastes.

See more at: <http://www.natsca.org/understanding-audiences#>

There has been positive action in the shape of the UK Collection Consortium comprising of 22 major Museums, Galleries and Archives. Many NatSCA committee members have been involved, taking on specific roles to support and provide input on working together within this, whilst exploring safe mirror hosting, migration and updating of the FENSCORE database, which still provides useful information about natural science collections around the country.

In April we officially launched our crowdsourcing project, Natural History Near You (#NHNearYou), with an aim to find every natural history collection in the UK & Ireland and discover what they hold and what state they're in. Every collection, no matter how small, can provide the specimens needed to answer important or interesting questions. We want to help researchers of all kinds find collections that they might be able to use to bring the collections and their hidden stories to life and we need help to find out about natural history collections in the UK & Ireland.

This project will allow us to learn more about the state of natural history collections in Britain and Ireland. We would greatly appreciate if you could help us get the word out: whether you forward the flyer, tweet, blog, including a note in your society newsletters. Find out more about this project, see what collections are already on the map, and to add more information please visit <http://www.natsca.org/NHNearYou>

As NatSCA continues to go from strength to strength with the combined efforts of the committee and members, we look forward to developing our partnerships and working more closely with both the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) and Geological Curators' Group (GCG) over the next year.

Submitted by Miranda Lowe (NatSCA/SPNHC Rep)

## **Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance)**

The Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance) is pleased to provide this report to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). The NSC Alliance is a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. NSC Alliance members are primarily institutions and are part of an international community of museums, botanical gardens, herbariums, universities and other institutions that house natural science collections and use them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

The NSC Alliance primarily focuses on initiatives that develop and advance science policy that reflects the needs of the collections community. To do this, the NSC Alliance has established a formal partnership with the American Institution of Biological Sciences (AIBS). Through this partnership, NSC Alliance is able to access and leverage the policy advocacy and communication services of AIBS.

During the past several years, the NSC Alliance has worked collaboratively with SPNHC and AIBS to develop a coordinated national voice for collections, particularly for increased federal support for digitization. NSC Alliance is also pleased that during the past year, it has worked with SPNHC, AIBS, and iDigBio to pursue a National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network grant, "Network Integrated Biocollections Alliance (NIBA): Organizing,



Coordinating, Sustaining.” The NSC Alliance views this effort as a good model for how our organizations can further collaborate and looks forward to additional opportunities to partner with SPNHC.

During May 2014, the NSC Alliance cosponsored a symposium with iDigBio on 21st Century Collections, and we look forward to future potential collaborations on meetings with SPNHC and iDigBio.

This year, NSC Alliance has initiated a membership drive. We are pleased to say that new member institutions so far include: SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry, iDigBio, and the University of Texas Natural History Collections. We welcome the participation of all collections and hope that other institutions will join the NSC Alliance to help promote the importance of collections to funders and policy-makers in Washington, DC.

The following is a summary of some accomplishments from 2013. Please see <http://nscalliance.org/> for more information.

- Sponsored a symposium with iDigBio on digitization and dissemination of natural history data. The event was held at the 2013 Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) annual meeting.
- Joined with SPNHC and the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) to submit a Research Coordination Network grant to the National Science Foundation. If funded, the grant would enable the three organizations to build a biocollections community that is able to fully implement and achieve the goals of the Network Integrated Biocollections Alliance.
- Provided testimony to House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of increased funding for research, curation, and digitization of natural history collections from the National Science Foundation and the Department of the Interior.
- Sponsored the 5th Annual Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits event. Several NSC Alliance member organizations participated.
- Joined as a Partner to the National Park Service for National Fossil Day. In connection with the event, NSC Alliance released an issue brief on the value of fossils in research.
- In collaboration with numerous other scientific organizations, NSC Alliance pushed for increased funding for basic research and fought against overly prescriptive policies that would interfere with the peer review process.

#### Natural Science Collections Alliance

#### 2013 Accomplishments

- Collaborated with AIBS and SPNHC to provide comments to the federal government about digitization of natural history collections as part of ‘big data.’
- Rallied the collections community to influence pressing science policy issues, including the threat of budget sequestration to federal research funding.
- Participated in the USGS Coalition, an alliance of more than 70 organizations dedicated to the continued vitality of the US Geological Survey and its programs.
- Provided regular policy and news updates via the NSC Alliance Washington Report. The newsletter is now freely available. Subscribe at <http://nscalliance.org/>.
- NSC Alliance is now on Twitter. Follow us [@NSCAlliance](https://twitter.com/NSCAlliance).

Robert Gropp

## **Paleontological Society (PS)**

The 2013 meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) was held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) Meeting in Denver, Colorado October 27-30.

The PS Collections Committee met, with five SPNHC members present. The committee has not met over the past few GSA meetings so this was a chance to regroup. There was discussion of our earlier goals of better reaching those who work with geological and paleontological collections and providing a broader platform for discussion of the challenges facing these collections. Plans for a "Friends of Collections" group meeting at the next GSA meeting were also discussed, as well as connecting with other GSA associated societies with collections or those who oversee collections.

The next meeting of The Paleontological Society will be held during the 2014 GSA meeting in Vancouver, Canada October 19-22.

For more information on The Paleontological Society go to: <http://www.paleosoc.org/>  
Respectfully submitted by Jessica Cundiff

## **Registrars' Committee-AAM**

The position of SPNHC representative to the Registrars' Committee of the AAM is currently vacant.

### **Scientific Collections International (SciColl)**

The first SciColl event will take place at the SPNHC meeting: a session on interdisciplinary research on environmental change using diverse types of collections. Speakers will present research based on biological, geological, and anthropological collections. A similar two-day conference will be held in October at the Natural History Museum London.

Three SciColl conferences on Food Security, Zoonotic and Human Diseases, and Human Migration are being planned for early 2015. Each conference will focus on interdisciplinary research that relies on diverse types of collections with the goal of developing and promoting new research agendas.

The SciColl website is being re-designed and rebuilt to make it more inviting to the general public. It will be a platform for outreach and for raising general awareness of and appreciation for collections, especially their unanticipated impacts on science and society. SciColl will be soliciting success stories from research communities that support scientific collections.

An updated version of the Global Registry of Biological Repositories (GRBio) is being released next week. It includes a new map display system and increases compatibility with Index Herbariorum (particularly in the area of staff member records) and BCI records (support for LSIDs assigned to collections within institutions).

Barbara Thiers

### **Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC)**

The Society focuses on promoting the importance of herbaria in teaching, research, and service to the community at large. Although the group has its roots in the south-eastern United States, members and the leadership are working to expand its "reach" across the nation and beyond. Members are active in the continued development of regional and/or state-level consortia and are participating in both regional efforts and the US Virtual Herbarium project. I was asked to join the Membership Committee – one of our tasks involved contacting past members to see if we could either lure them back or discover why they are no longer members.

I was unable to attend the 2013 Annual meeting of the Society at Botany2013 (New Orleans - July 27-31). The 2014 meeting will be held at Botany2014 in Boise, Idaho on July 26-30, 2014.

Richard Rabeler

### **Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP)**

In 2013 SPNHC reached out in partnership to the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, and the leadership of SVP is enthusiastic about opportunities to work together in the future. The SVP has more than 2,300 international members representing academics, students, artists, preparators, and others interested in VP. The society is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes. The object of the society is to advance the science of vertebrate paleontology and to serve the common interests and facilitate the cooperation of all persons concerned with the history, evolution, comparative anatomy, and taxonomy of vertebrate animals, as well as field occurrence, collection, and study of fossil vertebrates and the stratigraphy of the beds in which they are found. The society is also concerned with the conservation and preservation of fossil sites. SVP facilitates these goals through the work of several committees, a number of which overlap in interest with the goals of SPNHC. Specifically, the Education & Outreach and Preparators Committees have addressed issues related to training, ethics, and standards & best practices in field and museum work. The Preparators Committee organizes workshop modules to be held at SVP annual meetings, and shared in partnership with other organizations. The 2014 annual SVP meeting will be held 5-8 November in Berlin, Germany.

Matthew A. Brown

## **Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG)**

The 2013 annual meeting of the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) was held in Florence, Italy in October. The theme of the meeting was “Virtual Communities for Biodiversity Science” and an archive of the meeting website, which includes the program and links to the abstracts can be found at: <http://www.tdwg.org/conference-2013/> Highlights included a large symposium on the “Semantics for Biodiversity” and multiple sessions on “Documenting the Darwin Core.”

Of note this year has been action to revise/update the Darwin Core standard to address a broader variety of organism-based relationships, the samples made of these, and a richer ability to connect/extend to genomic data and emerging standards. At the same time, we are attempting to better document the standard terms with more detailed definitions and examples to aid users in implementing the standard. If you are interested in this process, I would urge you to sign up for the TDWG-content mailing list as this is where the core discussion on this and other standards takes place.

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 and curation.” Thus, I would suggest participating in the many topical subgroups found on the TDWG wiki. Finally, TDWG is making a strong effort to expand its base membership and I would encourage anyone who has interest in standards and informatics tools to join.

The 2014 meeting will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from November 3rd to 7th with the theme: “Applications and Data Standards for Sustaining Biodiversity.”

Respectfully submitted  
James Macklin