

SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

Application for Travel Grants

Application deadline: **1st March 2014**

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is offering grants up to \$750 for travel expenses associated with attendance of the SPNHC Annual Meeting. Participants are required to make all their own travel arrangements, including application and requests for visas, if required. The SPNHC Annual Meeting Host Committee can provide a letter of support verifying registration/participation in the meeting. Applicants should be members of the Society or apply for membership before the application will be accepted. Preference will be given to graduate students or emerging professionals in fields related to the management and conservation of natural history collections. Applicants from the institution(s) hosting the meeting will not be eligible. Awardees are required to make either an oral or poster presentation at the meeting and to be first author on the presentation. Receipt of the grant is contingent on the acceptance of the applicant's abstract by the local committee for the meeting. A letter of support from your advisor, supervisor, or professional mentor should be submitted to the SPNHC Annual Meeting Host Committee (electronically) together with this application.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Name | <u>Heather Falkner</u> | | |
| Institution | South Dakota School of Mines and Technology | | |
| Personal Address: | 1220 Estes Park Court #308 | | |
| City | Rapid City | | |
| State/Province | South Dakota | | |
| Zip Code | 57701 | | |
| Country | United States of America | | |
| Email | falkner_heather@yahoo.com | | |
| Phone Number | 727-481-3384 | | |
| Country of Residence | United States of America | | |
| Anticipated travel dates | June 24-27, 2014 | | |
| Are you receiving any additional funds to attend this meeting? | Y | N | |
| Are you a current member of SPNHC? | Y | N | |

Please explain in the space provided below, the benefit that attending a SPNHC meeting will afford you.

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections conference will be an opportunity to delineate the findings of my efforts to stabilize the Florrisant paper shale. Sharing these results will be beneficial to other preparators who are working with similar sediments and fossils as they strive to better preserve these fragile specimens. It will also afford an opportunity for me to meet and network with other fossil preparators and conservators to further my experience and knowledge in this field.

Please provide an estimate of anticipated expenses (in US\$):

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Transportation (air fare, train fare, ground transportation) | \$1800 |
| Lodging | \$161.59 |
| Meals | \$70 |
| Additional expenses (list individually) | \$ |
| Total | \$2031.59 |

Please submit your application julian.carter@museumwales.ac.uk to the SPNHC Annual Meeting Host Committee. **Electronic submission is preferred, but hard copies will be accepted** at the address below.

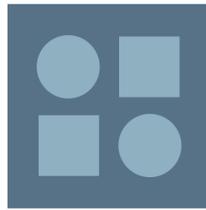
Julian Carter
Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff, UK
CF10 3NP

Checklist:

- ✓ completed application form sent to host committee
- ✓ letter of recommendation sent to host committee
- ✓ enrolled as current member in SPNHC
- ✓ abstract submitted for poster or oral presentation at SPNHC annual meeting

Introduction into the Stabilization and Preservation of the Preparation and Lithology of Paper Shale Fossils of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Colorado
Heather L. Falkner

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and the Museum of Geology, SDSM&T are conducting a study to determine which consolidants are best suited for stabilizing the fossils preserved in paper shale. The deposits have been dated to the late Eocene (34.8 mya) and originated in a lacustrine setting. The paper shale itself is smectite clay weathered from volcanic ash and is interlayered with diatomite. Each layer is 0.05-2 mm in thickness and contains carbonized fossils of plants and insects, preserved with microscopic details, such as compound eyes, antennae, coloration and venation intact. These fragile fossils are susceptible to cracking and loss from even minor environmental changes, so stabilization is vital. The consolidants tested were Butvar B-76, Butvar B-98, Paraloid B-72, Primal WS24, Paleobond pre-prep field penetrant, Paleobond penetrating consolidant, and Devcon 2-ton epoxy. The Butvars and Paraloid were dissolved into acetone, ethanol and toluene at concentrations of 2, 5 and 10% (weight/weight ratio). Preliminary testing results and a proposed preservation regimen will be presented. .



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| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Name | Rebecca Kaczowski | | |
| Institution | Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation | | |
| Personal Address: | 425 New Jersey Ave, SE, Apt. B | | |
| City | Washington | | |
| State/Province | DC | | |
| Zip Code | 20003 | | |
| Country | USA | | |
| Email | Becky683@gmail.com | | |
| Phone Number | 412-512-2730 | | |
| Country of Residence | USA | | |
| Anticipated travel dates | 22-28 June | | |
| Are you receiving any additional funds to attend this meeting? | Y | X | N |
| Are you a current member of SPNHC? | Y | X | N |

Please explain in the space provided below, the benefit that attending a SPNHC meeting will afford you.

As a third-year fellow in a conservation-training program, I am mindful of my upcoming transition from student to emerging conservation professional. As my graduation approaches, I am increasingly interested in contributing to the conservation community and forging meaningful relationships with both new and seasoned conservation and collections professionals. Specifically, I have a great interest in the preservation and conservation of natural history collections and have been honing this interest as my specialty in objects conservation during my third-year internship at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC under the mentorship of Catharine Hawks. I am particularly excited about the opportunity that attending the SPNHC 29th Annual Meeting presents, especially as a first-time attendee and possible presenter. My participation in the conference will increase my awareness of current trends in the preservation (both direct and indirect) of natural history collections and I will have the unique opportunity to expand my networking with other professionals *globally* involved in natural history collections.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of my participation in the conference is the potential to increase my own skills with research, scientific investigation, and presentation of my work with peers by way of a poster. Through the initial research conducted this spring and presented at the conference, I will be building the foundation for further investigation into alternative means for conserving natural history specimens at NMNH and elsewhere. I intend to further share my research by way of supplemental presentations for the local conservation community in Washington, DC, a talk for the NMNH Collection Managers, and a talk on November 18, 2014 for the first-year fellows in the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation.

The meeting's theme—Historic Collections: Future Resource—is the ideal forum for presenting my preliminary investigation of conservation techniques adapted for use with the natural sciences. Specifically, I have begun research into the application of emerging precision technologies on fossilized material for the removal of coatings, jacketing residues (i.e. crosslinked resins, plaster, metal foil, etc.) and accretions, with the goal to provide an alternate tool and methodology when traditional materials and techniques prove too coarse or ineffective. This research includes the limited, but important work regarding these methods and natural science collections that have been published to date; further, I will be visiting the Conservation of Sculpture & Objects Studio, Inc. in Chicago this April to work with Bartosz Dajnowski, Vice Director, on the use of various lasers and parameters to determine material thresholds and potential challenges. Through small-scale investigations into the use of this technology and assessing the results via analytical techniques readily available at the Smithsonian Institution, I hope to expand the repertoire of conservation materials and techniques available to natural sciences conservators and preparators and forge stronger ties with objects conservators in other disciplines facing similar challenges.

Please provide an estimate of anticipated expenses (in US\$):

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Transportation (air fare, train fare, ground transportation) | \$1,725.00 |
| Lodging (dorm room at Cardiff University) | \$148.00 |
| Meals (including banquet) | \$300.00 |
| Additional expenses (list individually) Student Member Registration Fee | \$182.00 |
| Total | \$2,355.00 |

Please submit your application julian.carter@museumwales.ac.uk to the SPNHC Annual Meeting Host Committee. **Electronic submission is preferred, but hard copies will be accepted** at the address below.

Julian Carter
Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff, UK
CF10 3NP

Checklist:

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SPNHC 2014 CARDIFF

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Send all completed abstract forms to: SPNHC2014@museumwales.ac.uk

A copy of **DemoCamp abstracts** should be sent to the session organizer, Amanda Neill - aneill@brit.org

iDigBio and the Small Collections Network (SCNet) symposium abstracts should be sent to: <http://tinyurl.com/RecruitingRetainingSymposium>

Deadline for abstract submission:

25th April 2014 – DemoCamp,

5th May 2014 – All other presentations

POSTER PRESENTATION

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR EMAIL: becky683@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Maximum of 250 words (not including author and address details), Ariel Font, size 12.

See <http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/spnhc2014/submissions/> for format details.

Laser Technology in Natural Sciences Conservation: Selecting Appropriate Parameters and Techniques

Rebecca A. Kaczowski¹ & Bartosz A. Dajnowski²

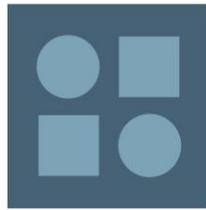
¹ Winterthur/University of Delaware, Wilmington, DE
National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
email: beckyk@udel.edu; kaczowskir@si.edu

² Conservation of Sculpture & Objects Studio, Inc., Chicago, IL
email: bdajnowski@csosinc.com

Despite being a firmly established technology in other scientific and cultural heritage disciplines, laser technology and its applications to the conservation of natural science specimens are presently limited in the USA. The use of lasers in the wider field of museum conservation continues to gain momentum due to the level of unmatched precision and control that laser ablation offers for removing coatings, corrosion, and contaminants from surfaces without the need for chemicals or abrasive media. The possibility of cleaning a

surface without mechanically touching it presents new possibilities for treating friable and fragile surfaces. Such precision would be an asset in the natural sciences for the removal of aged or disfiguring coatings, field preparation materials, or other deposits where traditional methods prove coarse or ineffective. Laser parameters such as wavelength, fluence, and pulse duration need to be fine-tuned to achieve optimal cleaning of organic and inorganic surfaces. Depending on laser parameters chosen, a range of photomechanical, photochemical, and photothermal phenomena may be observed. Selecting the ideal parameters for minimizing physical or chemical change to a specimen while optimizing cleaning effects, however, can be daunting and are not universal to all materials or applications.

This research explores the effects of modifying various laser parameters such as wavelength, fluence, pulse duration, and frequency on the surface of fossil material to determine material sensitivity, damage thresholds, and to help identify optimal settings for safe cleaning protocols. The effects of wet and dry ablation are compared as well.



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| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Name | Mr. Wichai Srisuka | | |
| Institution | Entomology Section, Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden (QSBG) | | |
| Personal Address: | Entomology Section Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden, P.O. Box7, Maerim, Chiangmai, Thailand | | |
| City | Maerim | | |
| State/Province | Chiangmai | | |
| Zip Code | 50180 | | |
| Country | Thailand | | |
| Email | wsrisuka@gmail.com | | |
| Phone Number | +6693 2461236 | | |
| Country of Residence | Thailand | | |
| Anticipated travel dates | | | |
| Are you receiving any additional funds to attend this meeting? | Y | | |
| Are you a current member of SPNHC? | Y | | |

Please explain in the space provided below, the benefit that attending a SPNHC meeting will afford you.

I am the only curator of the Entomology Section of Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden (QSBGE). The Entomology Section was established in 2005; during 9 years the museum collection has grown to ~ 93,900 insect specimens including 149 holotypes and 1380 paratype specimens. Our vision is to become the National entomological collection in Thailand and an important reference center of worldwide importance to scientists, students or others who interesting an insects. The main benefit to me of attending the SPNHC meeting will be to gather more experience and new ideas that will come from the interchange of ideas etc with others in similar positions around the World. Thailand is a developing country with only limited resources and so far, I have had little opportunity to interact with the wider community of museum curators etc. The meeting will be a great opportunity for me to enhance my ability on curation techniques in support of my efforts to develop and maintain our collections and in support of insect conservation /biodiversity. The meeting will be a good opportunity to promote of international research cooperation between QSBGE with other institution worldwide.

Please provide an estimate of anticipated expenses (in US\$):

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Transportation (air fare, train fare, ground transportation) | 2,732.00 \$ |
| Lodging | \$ |
| Meals | 240.00 \$ |
| Additional expenses (list individually) | \$ |
| Total | 2,963.00\$ |

Please submit your application julian.carter@museumwales.ac.uk to the SPNHC Annual Meeting Host Committee. Electronic submission is preferred, but hard copies will be accepted at the address below.

Julian Carter
 Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
 Cathays Park
 Cardiff, UK
 CF10 3NP

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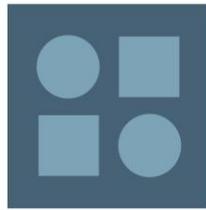
Building the Thailand National Insect Collection- Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden, Entomology Section (QSBGE)

Wichai Srisuka

Entomology Section Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden, P.O. Box7, Maerim, Chiangmai, Thailand.

email: wsrisuka@gmail.com

The Entomology Section at Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden (QSBGE) was established in 2005 with the objective of becoming Thailand's premier National collection and to provide a sound taxonomic platform for biodiversity conservation in Thailand. Since then the collection has grown to a total of 93,900 specimens (including 149 holotypes and 1380 paratypes) housed in modern facilities within the Botanic Garden complex in Chiangmai, northern Thailand. Much of the growth of QSBGE has been achieved through world-wide collaboration and partnership leading to capacity-building in the facility. A synopsis of past and ongoing collaboration is presented showing how these have supported the development of the skills-base, taxonomic infrastructure and facilities. Building through collaboration and partnership is a model that QSBGE is enthusiastic to further develop.



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| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Name | Daniel B. Wylie | |
| Institution | Illinois Natural History Survey | |
| Personal Address: | 1402 Briarwood Drive | |
| City | Champaign | |
| State/Province | Illinois | |
| Zip Code | 61821 | |
| Country | USA | |
| Email | dwylie@illinois.edu | |
| Phone Number | 6056956207 | |
| Country of Residence | USA | |
| Anticipated travel dates | June 20-28th | |
| Are you receiving any additional funds to attend this meeting? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you a current member of SPNHC? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please explain in the space provided below, the benefit that attending a SPNHC meeting will afford you.

As a young professional, attending SPNHC gives me the opportunity to further enhance my knowledge of collections management, ensure my institution is up to date on the latest management methods, network with other collections professionals from around the world, and learn new and novel techniques applicable to the collections I manage. It will also allow me to share the methods and techniques I have used managing wet collections of over 1.5 million specimens in my 2 years as ZCM at the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS). In 2013, I was elected as the INHS representative by our collections committee and attended my first SPNHC meeting. The presentations in Rapid City were extraordinarily helpful in identifying areas to improve our natural history collections; particularly for providing better access to our data and increasing our web presence. As the ZCM at the INHS I am responsible for shipping scientific specimens both nationally and internationally. Keeping my institution informed regarding shipping standards and procedures is a very important component of my job. Attending the workshop on shipping preserved animals and tissue would be extremely beneficial as our collections receive loan requests monthly, and in a given year may loan out over 1,000 specimens. The opportunity to attend SPNHC is invaluable to me, but unfortunately with budget restrictions and the high cost of travel to Wales, I may not have the ability to attend without travel assistance. As I have only been a collections manager for 2 years, the opportunity to learn from others at SPNHC is essential for me to continue my career path.

Please provide an estimate of anticipated expenses (in US\$):

| | |
|--|--------|
| Transportation (air fare, train fare, ground transportation) | \$1500 |
| Lodging | \$600 |
| Meals | \$350 |
| Additional expenses (list individually) Registration | \$320 |
| Total | \$2770 |

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Insights into saving orphaned collections

Daniel B. Wylie

Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois, USA

Email: dwylie@illinois.edu

Due to budget cuts and lack of administrative interest, many smaller natural history collections at North American institutions are being neglected, abandoned, or given away. This is concerning due to the potential loss of valuable information contained in these collections. Over the past two years the Illinois Natural History Survey has rescued collections from three taxonomic groups: ichthyology, herpetology and astracology. Over 23,000 specimens were accessioned; these collections not only contained many threatened and endangered species, but also novel distributional data. Rescuing collections involves considerable financial and time commitments. In this presentation I will discuss the specific time and monetary resources used in the accessioning of orphaned collections and problems encountered with improper preservation and curation.