

# SPNHC NEWSLETTER

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# SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

**Society for the Preservation  
of Natural History Collections**

September 2008  
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## NPS Biological Collections Forum - progress towards further cooperation

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USA

On 2 April 2008, we attended the Biological Collections Forum in Washington, DC organized by the National Park Service. The objective of the meeting was to present the issues and perceptions surrounding natural history specimens collected on NPS lands and discuss options that would lead towards a more cooperative, beneficial resolution of concerns over ownership and use of the collections that have arisen.

It was a very cordial gathering with a variety of viewpoints presented, but also with considerable consensus. There was a broad representation of National Park Service staff, ranging from individuals representing a single park up to regional directors, the Park Service museum units, and upper level Washington-based administrators, in addition to representatives from the museum community (Smithsonian, Field Museum, Missouri Botanical Garden [represented by Solomon], Museum of Northern Arizona) and related societies (SPNHC [represented by Rabeler], NSCA, AIBS, American Society of Mammalogists, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and the Ornithological Council). The meeting was guided by an outside facilitator.

As President-Elect of SPNHC, I (Rabeler) had been asked to present information from the museum perspective on the importance of ownership of the collections. Even as the participants made introductory remarks, it was clear that everyone present had a similar goal in mind - biological specimens collected on Park Service land must be properly cared for to ensure long-term preservation and that they need to be made available to answer a wide variety of appropriate research questions. Although coming from different constituencies, it was also clear that all were concerned with taking actions that would ensure access to the collections and the information derived from them.

It was clearly articulated that the Park Service cannot have specialists in all fields at all collections facilities, nor do they have the resources to store and curate all of the specimens collected on NPS lands. It is imperative that the NPS collaborate with outside users to meet the Service's research and management goals and information needs. Several NPS personnel noted the importance of having researchers work in the Parks so that information from their research can help NPS

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in managing Park resources; this is an important benefit to the NPS that many researchers probably do not often consider.

It was also agreed that there needs to be better communication between the Park Service, researchers and the institutions that they represent with regards to how specimens will be handled. From some of the examples presented by both NPS personnel and museum representatives, it was also clear that more uniformity across Park units on the conditions under which collecting is permitted and the subsequent curation of biological specimens would greatly help in establishing a more cooperative atmosphere.

One of the key elements of the discussion was a general need to move away from the question of "ownership", *per se*, and to focus on creative ways in which the Park Service can partner with other organizations to accomplish the goals of all parties. A representative from the Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior presented a summary of the legal basis for the NPS having to retain ownership of collections made on NPS lands. Other possible models that were discussed included a concept of "permanent right of possession", repository agreements, and customized cooperative agreements between park units and individual museums.

Near the end of the meeting, we discussed the importance of "getting the word out" to the collections and research community. To this end, I (Rabeler) organized a discussion session at the recent SPNHC meeting in Oklahoma City where six of the attendees (in addition to ourselves, Carol Butler [Smithsonian Inst.], Hans-Dieter Sues [NSCA], Bert Frost [NPS], and Greg McDonald [NPS]) addressed the audience (over 40) on their perceptions of the meeting and also fielded comments. We also conducted a similar discussion session at the Botany2008 meeting in late July in Vancouver, BC, Canada to bring the message to members of the botanical community.

Since the meeting was convened under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, no formal action could be taken on any individual proposals. Hopefully, the positive dialogue that took place was just the first in a series that will expand to reach a collaborative working relationship between the National Park Service, research scientists and museums that will benefit all the parties involved. We plan to report to the membership as progress occurs.

### ***This space could be yours.....***

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (ABentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2009.

## Did you notice SPNHC has a new logo?



We modernized our look with a simple, professional design that will help identify SPNHC as the go to source for information on collections care and management. Our new logo is at the core of our brand identity and is an important step to unify our approach to building and promoting the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. We will be using the logo on letterhead, pamphlets, brochures, publications, posters, meeting banners, and the website. We hope you find the new SPNHC look pleasing.



### **Museum labels for wet collections**

A material long used in the harsh world of chemical drum labeling has properties that are beneficial to the way collections are tagged and identified. Alpha Systems has brought this exciting material to the museum environment. Now collection tags can be printed on demand and submerged in ethanol, methanol, formaldehyde, and other chemicals for an indefinite period of time. The image is excellent quality plus the tag itself is extremely durable – temperature, chemical, tear, scratch and smear resistant. Alpha Systems provides the complete collection package of thermal transfer printer, preservation tag stock and ribbon.

**Alpha Systems, 13509 East Boundary Road,  
Midlothian, Virginia 23112.**

**Tel: (804) 744-9870**

**Email: [info@alphasystemsva.com](mailto:info@alphasystemsva.com)**

**On the web at [www.alphasystemsva.com](http://www.alphasystemsva.com).**

# Presidential Report

*Rich Rabeler*

**Senior Collections Manager and  
Assistant Research Scientist**  
University of Michigan Herbarium,  
3600 Varsity Drive, Ann Arbor, MI  
48108-2228 USA



Richard K. Rabeler was born in Oneonta, New York. His interest in natural history collections began in 1971 at Hartwick College, where he designed an Independent Student Program in Botany and worked in the Hoysradt Herbarium for most of his undergraduate years. After he graduated from Hartwick, he entered graduate school at Michigan State University, where he completed his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant systematics. Along the path to completing his Ph.D., he also taught biology at Lyman Briggs College (a residential college at MSU) and served briefly as Assistant Program Manager for the Systematic Biology Program at the National Science Foundation.

In 1987 Rabeler came to the University of Michigan, initially working at both the University Herbarium and Matthaei Botanical Gardens. He became a Collections Manager at the Herbarium, where he has been involved in collections care and facilities oversight for the past 20 years. He played key roles in both the compactor installation in 1995 and moving the collection to an off-campus facility in 2002.

Rabeler has been active in SPNHC since 1995 and is a member of six professional botanical societies. He is a specialist in the Caryophyllaceae (the Pink family), interested in North American floristics involving both native and introduced taxa. Another activity is his involvement in the Flora of North America project, where he is a member of the Board of Directors and is a lead editor for two forthcoming volumes. He is married to Karen E. Studer-Rabeler, Vice-President for Business Development, Coy Laboratory Products. They share their home in Grass Lake, Michigan, with two cats.

SPNHC came into my life in 1995 when I learned about the symposium on Herbarium Management that followed the Toronto meeting. Having just completed overseeing installation of a compact storage system and other facilities upgrades, that sounded like a nice venue to share some of what I had experienced. Attending that symposium was a great decision. I was hooked on SPNHC! The collegial, welcoming atmosphere, even from folks I'd never met (including the current secretary!), convinced me that this was a special band of professionals. As I noted recently when I took over the Presidency from Tim White at the annual business meeting in Oklahoma City, the people of SPNHC really are the key – they make the society go.

Speaking of Oklahoma City, the 23<sup>rd</sup> SPNHC meeting was hosted by the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (SNOMNH) and held at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City on 13-17 May 2008. This was our third joint meeting with the Natural Science Collections Alliance; we also were joined by the Oklahoma Association of Museums and several of our botanists held a joint Curators meeting with the Texas Oklahoma Consortia of Herbaria (TORCH). About 200 delegates from nine nations attended the meeting. The theme "Collection Stewardship: Challenges in a Changing World" included two days of sessions focused on challenges posed by policy, politics, and funding; environmental challenges; professional development; electronic stewardship; shipping dangerous goods; and collection stewardship. The talk that Michael Mares (President of NSCA) gave entitled "University Museums and the Art of War" was one of the most

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The **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections** was formed in 1985 and is recognized as a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] in the United States. SPNHC members receive *Collection Forum*, a biannual journal of reviewed technical information, and two issues of the *SPNHC Newsletter* each year. The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is a multidisciplinary organization composed of individuals who are interested in development and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections include specimens and supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data, and similar archives. The Society actively encourages the participation of individuals involved with all aspects of natural history collections.

The **SPNHC Newsletter** (ISSN 1071-2887) is published twice a year, March and September, by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, c/o Division of Ichthyology, Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Dyche Hall, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045-7561, USA.

**Changes of address** should be directed to SPNHC Treasurer, Planetarium Station, PO Box 526, New York, NY 10024-0526, USA.

**Submissions** are welcome. Please forward announcements, articles and notes to the Newsletter Editors by mail or email.

**Deadline** for the next Newsletter is February 1, 2009.

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.....Presidential Report

memorable presentations – being affiliated with a university museum, some of his points were far too easy to visualize. The first “Best Practices” symposium, one of our deliverables from the NSF-sponsored Research Collection Network headed by Alan Prather (Michigan State University) and Hank Bart (Tulane University), was held in Oklahoma. We plan to continue these symposia over the next several years, each of which will be focused on a particular topic.

While Past President Tim White handled most of the tasks for the past year (for which we all owe him a debt of thanks!), there is one event that I must mention. On 2 April 2008, I was privileged to represent SPNHC at the Biological Collections Forum in Washington, DC, that was organized by the National Park Service. Approximately 30 people, including NPS personnel and representatives from five scientific societies and four natural history museums, met to discuss the issues and perceptions surrounding natural history specimens collected on NPS lands. It was a very enlightening meeting for all parties and it was agreed that information from the meeting needs to be shared with the greater museum community. With that thought in mind, I led a discussion about the Forum at the SPNHC meeting with the assistance of four SPNHC members and two NPS staffers. An article about the meeting appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Annual meeting also brings change to people and events in the operations of SPNHC. Two new Members-at-Large, Andy Bentley (University of Kansas) and Ann Molineux (University of Texas), were elected this past year. Joining them as new faces on Council is Deb Trock (California Academy of Sciences) who was appointed to fill out the term of Jean-Marc Gagnon, our new President-Elect – all three are to be congratulated on being willing to help lead the society. I also wish to recognize the two Members-at-Large who completed their terms this year; Lisa Elkin (American Museum of Natural History) and Linda Ford (Harvard University) – thanks for your dedication to our group!

There are several changes involving sessional committees as well. The Legislation and Regulations Committee has been converted to a Standing Committee - Sally Shelton has agreed to continue chairing this group. Two new initiatives were also started under the auspices of new Sessional Committees. The Ethics Committee will work with NSCA to assist with the American Association of Museums Natural History Code of Ethics project; Linda Ford (Harvard University) will chair this group. We also now have a Sessional Committee on Scholarships and Grants. Chris Norris (American Museum of Natural History) will chair this group, investigating funding possibilities for establishing a scholarship program aimed at either meeting attendance or mentorship for participants from developing countries.

Plans are now underway for our second trip to Europe! SPNHC will be meeting with several European associations on 6-11 July 2009 in Leiden, The Netherlands. Our hosts will be the

National Museum of Natural History Naturalis and the Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC). Watch the SPNHC website and NHCOLL-L for more information – a website for the meeting itself will debut soon.

If you are new to SPNHC, welcome! If you have been with us for many years, I hope that you will find the next two years exciting as SPNHC continues to face the challenges of natural history collections management.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Archives Committee

#### BACKGROUND

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) houses the archives of SPNHC. From 1993 to 2007, SPNHC deposited 16 groups of material totaling 23.5 cubic feet and spanning the years from 1981 through 2007. 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.

#### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The oldest files (SIA # 93-100) were examined as part of a conservation assessment of the SPNHC archives. This material, deposited in 1993, is 3 cubic feet in volume and covers the years 1981 to 1993. These files are representative of the deposited material and its conservation issues. These issues were ranked as high, medium, or low priority.

#### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In consultation with SIA staff, a multi-phase approach is being developed for dealing with the conservation issues for the SPNHC archives. As appropriate, various supplies will be purchased for rehousing some material. Conservation issues that were ranked as high should be mitigated in the next year.

The committee will continue to receive, list, and transfer material to the Smithsonian Institution Archives. As some SPNHC archives may need to be rehoused prior to transfer to SIA, all material that has been received since the last deposit is currently being held by the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Hollenberg, Chair

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### Conference Committee

Ten members attended the 2008 meeting of the Conference Committee. After a flurry of activity last year to approach

possible future venues, committee activity was a bit lighter this year, mostly responding to questions from venue planners about meeting details. Many thanks to the Oklahoma Local Committee for the great meeting they hosted!

We are working on a complete revision of "Information for Planning and Conducting Annual Meetings of SPNHC", the multi-page detailed listing of the "nuts and bolts" behind holding a SPNHC meeting. Last revised in 2000, there are many items that need updating. Gretchen Anderson is overseeing this effort, based in part on her recent experiences from the 2007 St. Paul meeting.

We have added two people to the Conference Committee to help with continuity in communication and programming. Marcy Revelez will now work with the local committees and serve as our primary contact with our vendors. She will also be reviewing sponsorship levels. Clare Valentine is serving as a Program Liaison with the Leiden Local Committee – this is also seen as a continuing role between meetings.

2009 Annual Meeting – the theme and dates for our gathering at Leiden, The Netherlands have been released: "Bridging Continents - New Initiatives and Perspectives in Natural History Collections" will take place on 6-10 July, 2009, with workshops scheduled on 11 July. Watch for their website describing more about the meeting.

2010 - A presentation on the 2010 meeting, our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, in Ottawa, Ontario, was made at the Annual General Meeting. This is the first joint meeting with a taxonomic society (the Canadian Botanical Association). Discussions and preparations are well on the way and it looks like it will be as close to a joint meeting as one can get. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Subcommittee has been activated to assist with planning.

Future meetings: 2011 – two tentative "feelers" have been sent; no decisions have been made yet. The Peabody Museum, Yale University, has expressed interest in either 2011 or 2012 as well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Rabeler, outgoing Chair  
Jean-Marc Gagnon, incoming Chair

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## Conservation Committee

### General Information

Jude completed her term as co-chair in May. After serving as co-chair of the Conservation Committee for eight years, she will continue to contribute by chairing the Adhesives Historical Research Committee. Thank you Jude!

Oversight of the Citations Subcommittee has been moved to the Documentation Committee.

Conservation Advocates are individuals with particular expertise who are willing to give practical advice to colleagues when queried

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## Membership

Membership applications for Individuals (US\$35), Student, certified (US\$20), Subscription or Library (US\$45), Corporate/Commercial (US\$300) or Institutional (US\$65) may be submitted to:

*SPNHC Treasurer  
Planetarium Station  
P.O. Box 526  
New York, NY 10024-0526  
USA*

Be sure to include the following information:

*Name, Discipline Specialty, Institution  
Address (Street, City, State/Province, Country, Zip/  
Postal Code)  
Voice, Fax, E-mail address*

Payment may be made by cheque, money order, Visa or Mastercard.

Membership application/renewal form by portable document (Adobe Acrobat Reader required) and by Word file available at: <http://www.spnhc.org/files/renewal-2008.pdf>.

## Life Membership

The SPNHC Life Membership is a special membership category for those interested in the long-term financial stability of our organization. Life membership monies are invested towards the future goals of the Society. SPNHC life memberships are available for US\$875. The fee is 25 times the Individual Membership rate, currently US\$35. Life Memberships may be paid in one of three ways:

- (1) one-time payment of US\$875;
- (2) two-year installments of US\$474/1<sup>st</sup> year and US\$400/2<sup>nd</sup> year;
- (3) three-year installments of US\$420/1<sup>st</sup> year, US\$280/2<sup>nd</sup> year and US\$175/3<sup>rd</sup> year.

Please contact the Treasurer should you require further information about life memberships.

*Treasurer*

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.....*Conservation Committee*

about preservation and conservation. If you have expertise in a particular area and are willing to have questions forwarded to you, please contact Victoria Book. You don't have to be a Conservator to be a Conservation Advocate.

Update your **Emergency Plan!** If you need guidance, would like to see some examples, or have a plan that may be helpful to other collections and institutions, please contact Victoria.

### **Resources Display Units Subcommittee**

Subcommittee Co-chairs: Cindy Ramotnik (US); Kelly Sendall (Canada)

The US RDU was at the Museum of the North, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK, from April 21-25 for the Department of Interior Curating Natural History Collections class, and in Oklahoma City, OK, for the annual SPNHC meeting, 13-17 May.

General information on both the USA and Canadian Resources Display Units is available at <http://www.spnhc.org/resource/index.html>. A detailed list of the products on the Canadian Resources Display Unit is available at <http://www.spnhc.org/opencms/opencms/spnhc/resource/linkedddocuments/CDNresources.htm>. 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 Cindy or Kelly at the addresses above. Also, if you have a suggestion regarding content please let us know.

We are beginning to research feasibility of a European unit. Considerations will include a European location to house the unit and someone who can easily keep up with products and availability in European countries.

### **Adhesives Historical Research Subcommittee**

Subcommittee Chair: Jude Southward

Topics for a survey of adhesive use in natural history collections have been identified. A pilot survey is in development.

### **Fluids Historical Research Subcommittee**

Chair: Andy Bentley

No progress to report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Book, Chair

## **Documentation Committee**

The Documentation Committee met during the 2008 NSCA/SPNHC Meeting in Oklahoma City. A total of 11 people attended: Julie Droke, Marcia Revelez, Liz Leith, Terri Jordan, Mary Catherine Boyett, Jessica Cundiff, Lori Benson, James Macklin, Judith Price, Laura Abraczinskas, and Rich Rabeler.

The committee would like to acknowledge Kelly Goulette and take this opportunity to thank her for her service to the committee. She has stepped down to devote more attention to her institution's expansion. The committee would like to welcome Marcia Revelez as the new co-chair. She is a collection manager in the Dept. of Mammalogy at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

The Citations Subcommittee, formerly of the Conservation Committee, was transferred from and is now under the guidance of the Documentation Committee. Please see below for subcommittee report.

Discussions at this year's committee meeting focused around (1) the SPNHC website, (2) resource building, (3) the list serve, and (4) bridge-building between other organizations, particularly discipline-related ones.

The committee is interested in utilizing the website as a resource point for documents, forms, etc., to be used as standards for the natural history museum community. These materials would be available to anyone, free, and downloadable as pdf documents. James Macklin commented that he is open to modifying the website in any way that would allow it to be more resourceful and useful to the members of the society. The committee has begun compiling a list of relevant materials (especially checklists) and would be interested in any documents or ideas SPNHC members have to offer.

James Macklin is looking into a way to create a system that would allow the listserv archives to be searchable. The possibility of creating a forum or discussion board on the website would also allow members to be more interactive in topic discussions.

Anyone interested in joining the Documentation Committee or contributing ideas should not hesitate to contact the co-chairs, Julie Droke ([jdroke@ou.edu](mailto:jdroke@ou.edu)) or Marcy Revelez ([mrevelez@ou.edu](mailto:mrevelez@ou.edu)).

### Citations Subcommittee Report – Chair Liz Leith

First and foremost, it was decided at the 2008 NSCA-SPNHC meeting in May that the Citations Subcommittee be moved from the Conservation Committee to the Documentation Committee. The Subcommittee thanks the members of the Conservation Committee for all of their help and looks forward to working with the Documentation Committee! This move will hopefully facilitate more avenues for the Citations Subcommittee to better serve the members of SPNHC!

Along these lines, Marcy Revelez is moving on to bigger and better things as co-chair of the Documentation Committee, although she will continue to serve on the Citations Subcommittee. She will be missed and is commended for her extraordinary service to this group! Liz Leith has agreed to step up as the new chair, and will continue to work closely with Marcy within the Documentation Committee. Our membership is

starting to wane, though, so if you are interested in assisting this committee with our bi-annual publications search, please contact Liz Leith (etereba@ou.edu or (405) 325-1199). Most recently we have lost Lisa Palmer, whom we would like to thank for her many years of contributions!

Finally, in addition to the usual installment of "Publications of Interest" in the SPNHC Newsletters, the subcommittee decided at the SPNHC meeting to proceed with importing all publications listed in the SPNHC newsletters onto the SPNHC website. Yes, folks, it is going to happen this time (I know Marcy has been promising it for a few years now)! The goal is to have it posted on the web sometime in August. At this time, the volume of the database (we are using EndNote X1) is larger than expected (over 1,500 entries and growing), so the August install will not be as awe-inspiring as we hoped. Members will be able to search all of the fields (author, title, journal, etc). In future installs, we hope to have all journal titles, author names, etc., standardized, add keywords for ease in searching topics, and add abstracts for added searching capabilities (where available). We hope this addition to the website will help all of you, so keep your eyes open for its arrival!

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Revelez and Julie Droke, Co-chairs

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## Education and Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee's meeting in Norman clarified what our projects will be, most of which relate to information gathered from the membership and community surveys. We expect to have workshop evaluation forms sent for Council review by the end of the calendar year so that they are available for use at the next annual meeting, and workshop ideas were discussed with members of the organizing committee for the upcoming Leiden meetings. Leaflets and the "how-to" series may be shifted to electronic form for distribution via the SPNHC website. We discussed on-going project ideas that draw upon the information gathered from the survey conducted previously. These include:

- 1) a welcome package for museum studies students;
- 2) a "raising awareness" PowerPoint tuned with SPNHC expertise and perspective, to be available for use by all members.

We are soliciting ideas and contributions for both projects. Please send items and suggestions to the committee co-chairs, Jeff Stephenson (jstephenson@dmnh.org) or Carol Butler (butlercr@si.edu).

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Stephenson and Carol Butler, Co-chairs

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## Election Committee

### Election 2008 Summary

Positions to be filled were President-Elect, Secretary and two Members-at-Large. The Chair opened the call for nominations (closing on 31 October 2007) announced via NHCOLL and the SPNHC Newsletter. Direct messages to Council and to all members were not sent this year.

Nine nominations for the two Member-at-large positions, one for the position of Secretary, and three for the position of President-Elect were received. Two of the nominees for Member-at-large and one for President-Elect declined, reducing the field to ten confirmed candidates. All nominees were notified of their nomination by me via email. Once I received confirmation from each stating they were willing to stand for election, an official letter was sent.

The packets bound for destinations other than the USA were distributed in late January to all eligible voters (Regular, Life, and Associate members) by the Chair using address labels generated from a list provided by the Treasurer. The same list, along with packets for the USA members were shipped to Margaret Landis at SNOMNH in one box for her team to ready and mail out to all USA members.

The closing date of the election was 4 April 2008. Votes were counted by members of the Ballot Counting Subcommittee. Results of the election were forwarded to the Chair by both factions of the subcommittee.

### Elections Results

President-Elect - Jean-Marc Gagnon, Canadian Museum of Nature

Secretary - Judith Price, Canadian Museum of Nature

MAL elect - Andrew Bentley, Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Center, University of Kansas

MAL elect - Ann Molineux, Texas Natural Science Center, University of Texas

The idea of developing a system of electronic voting is being explored with the intention of implementing in this year's election process.

Nominations are open and encouraged until October 31, 2008 for 2 Members-at-Large (MAL). The term for an MAL is 2 years starting on the date of the Annual General Meeting in Leiden next July. If you would like to nominate someone please check with the person first. If she/he is willing to stand for election, notify me *via* email or fax.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Sendall, Chair

## Finance Committee

During 2007, the Finance Committee continued to assist the transition of the Treasurer's office from Washington, DC, to New York, NY. In early October 2007, the State of New York certified SPNHC to do business in New York, and with that news, the DC office immediately commenced closing its office. The DC office officially closed early in January 2008. All snail mail sent to the PO Box office in Washington has been automatically forwarded to the New York address.

SPNHC long-term investments are changing with market fluctuations. Among several other financial activities, the Finance Committee will research alternative investment options.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Palmer and Rob Waller, Co-chairs

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## Membership Committee

Membership Committee activities during 2007 were status quo and mainly comprised advising the Treasurer's office on transition and membership matters.

Our Committee has several proposed product-focused projects that we hope to commence in 2008. Among projects to be implemented are: developing a membership recruitment plan aimed to attract current museum professionals to SPNHC; developing a membership profile page for the SPNHC Newsletter (see separate column in this Newsletter); and developing an organizational package for distribution to both undergraduate and graduate museum studies programs.

Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Palmer, Chair

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## Publications Committee

The Publications Committee meeting at the SPNHC annual meeting was a busy and productive one. The co-chairs of the Education & Training Committee, Carol Butler and Jeff Stephenson, attended and both the "how to" series and the web site contents were discussed. Jeff is coordinating the "how to" series and has a number of them lined up for publication in the newsletter. He is seeking ideas and authors for future topics in this series.

The Museum Safety book, which is being edited by Cathy Hawks, has been delayed for several reasons. In order to get this project back on track, the committee asked for (and later received at the Council meeting) funding to provide Cathy with some clerical and editorial support.

Last year's sessional committee on the future of Collection Forum produced a report that suggested a number of changes in the way production of the journal is done, from reviewers down to the printing itself. Committee chair Jean DeMouthe proposed a preliminary plan that involves the hiring of a part-time person for clerical support. This person will maintain a list of reviewers, which will also be available to other SPNHC publications such as the "how-to" series and the web site. The editorial assistant will also keep track of all papers that are out for review. The role of Associate Editor will change, but specific duties have not yet been assigned. Their primary jobs right now will be to solicit manuscripts and contribute to the list of reviewers. They will also act as reviewers themselves.

One of the suggestions of the sessional committee was the establishment of the Editorial Board, which will support the activities of the editor and this committee in general. Membership of this board is the past president (Tim White), managing editor (DeMouthe), treasurer (Barbara Brown), one associate editor (Cindy Ramotnik), and one member-at-large (Ann Molineux). The role of this group has not yet been defined, but discussions will continue during the coming months.

A comprehensive index to Collection Forum will hopefully be included as one issue of volume 25. Collection Forum volume 22, #1 & 2 is currently in the mail.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean F. DeMouthe, Chair

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## Web Committee

The web committee continues to make progress on the website both to increase functionality and to add content. This fall, the website will be ported to a new server, as part of a larger project, that will maintain a high level of reliability and industry-standard backup and security. Also this fall, members will be able to log in and update their contact information and automatically print renewal membership forms on-line. At this time we will not be able to accept payment on-line but we are exploring the possibility. In the next year we plan to redesign the site based on the new SPNHC logo so check back often.

If anyone is interested in helping the committee to add or maintain content for the site please contact the webmaster James Macklin (jmacklin@oeb.harvard.edu) or the content editor Ann Molineux (annm@mail.utexas.edu).

Respectfully submitted,  
James Macklin, Chair

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<http://www.spnhc.org>

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## SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Best Practices

This committee was created last year to focus on best practice for natural history collections with the goal of organizing this important information for the membership. The committee's first role was to organize a symposium in association with the National Science Foundation's Research Coordination Network (RCN) called Collectionsweb (see [www.collectionsweb.org](http://www.collectionsweb.org)), which was held at an afternoon session at the annual meeting in Oklahoma and moderated by James Macklin of Harvard University Herbaria and Tim White of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. Four invited presentations were followed by six openly solicited ones. The four invitees included Elizabeth Merritt who discussed ethics in natural history; Robert Huxley reported on the European Synthesis Project; Suzanne McLaren detailed mammal collection accreditation; Christopher Norris discussed best practice in integrated pest management. Topics in the second half of the symposium highlighted a variety of best practices in invertebrate paleontology, rapid image processing, plant genebanks, language collections, and digitization bottlenecks.

The committee will continue to organize sessions on best practice for at least five years, which may also include hands-on workshops. Content from these sessions will soon be presented on the SPNHC website along with other pertinent information and links. We are also excited to have the opportunity to employ several summer interns to work with us over the next few years sponsored through the Collectionsweb RCN. These interns will work with chosen mentors to research an aspect of best practice in natural history collections and produce content for one or many SPNHC publication outlets: the SPNHC website, Collections Forum, newsletter, poster or presentation at an annual meeting.

If you are interested in contributing to this initiative or for more information please contact the committee chairs: James Macklin, Harvard University Herbaria, [jmacklin@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:jmacklin@oeb.harvard.edu) or Tim White, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, [tim.white@yale.edu](mailto:tim.white@yale.edu)

Respectfully submitted,  
James Macklin, Chair

### Long Range Planning

At the 2006 Annual meeting, the Long Range Planning Sessional Committee was created, with the objective of developing a five-year plan for the Society, beginning in 2007 through 2012. The Committee is composed of the President-Elect and the six Members at Large.

The Committee was much less active since the St. Paul meeting. A summary of the 2007 surveys was published in the September 2007 SPNHC Newsletter. Rich Rabeler and Laura Abraczinskas presented a talk at the 2008 meeting entitled "The 2007 surveys and future directions for SPNHC".

Our 2008 meeting focused on targeting five major areas for further development during this year:

- How can we increase our memberships and the benefits of membership?
- Improving professional development opportunities
- Developing SPNHC as a resource for Best Practices
- Improve our international presence
- Increase collaborations with other organizations

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Rabeler, outgoing Chair  
Jean-Marc Gagnon, incoming Chair

## Herbarium Curators TORCH meeting

SPNHC members joined colleagues from the Texas Oklahoma Consortia of Herbaria (TORCH) for a joint Herbarium Curators meeting at the University of Oklahoma Herbarium on Saturday, May 17. The 20 people in attendance heard presentations at the meeting including:

- Josephine Milne (Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne): describing the Australian Virtual Herbarium
- Michael Giddens (Silver Biology): demonstrating SilverCollection collections software
- Sula Vanderplank (Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden): describing current efforts of the Consortia of California Herbaria

Sula also reported on behalf of the Society of Herbarium Curators and their plans to increase coordination with SPNHC and the American Society of Plant Taxonomy.

The meeting concluded with lunch and a tour of the OU Herbarium.

Rich Rabeler (SPNHC) and Wayne Elisens (TORCH)

*This space could be yours.....*

**SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley ([ABentley@ku.edu](mailto:ABentley@ku.edu)) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2009.**

## SPNHC Membership Categories and Rates

Last autumn, when you received your 2008 membership renewal notice, you more than likely noticed a few changes: an increase in the amount of dues for each existing membership category and the addition of two new membership categories called Student and Corporate/Commercial. These changes were approved by Council during the 2007 annual meeting in St. Paul as a result of recommendations made by the Publicity and Outreach (P&O) Sessional Committee.

During 2006-2007, P&O investigated a variety of membership concerns including current membership dues and categories. Because SPNHC dues had not changed in over 20 years, the P&O community felt it was time to increase the amount of dues that SPNHC members were charged. The P&O explored options through discussions with SPNHC members as well as through community surveys of 11 professional societies related to natural history museums.

Based upon an analysis of the gathered information, the P&O Committee recommended two major actions to be taken by the Society. The first was to increase dues across all membership categories in two installments over the next five years, of which the first installment was implemented for this past calendar year. The second was to add two new membership categories, student and corporate. SPNHC Council unanimously supported P&O's recommendations during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting in St. Paul.

P&O also asked that the Membership Committee review of all membership categories to ensure each category is well defined. After initial review, the Membership Committee has deemed that there is a lack of distinction among some of the categories in regards to eligibility requirements and membership benefits. A point to bear in mind is that as most of the original membership categories are described in the Society's Bylaws, any changes to those categories in particular, will need to be submitted, not only to Council for approval, but for further approval by US nonprofit regulatory authorities. Over the next six months, the Membership Committee intends to review all membership categories, original and new, to ensure that each category is clearly defined. Recommendations will be made to SPNHC Council for further action.

The current membership categories are Student, Regular, Associate, Subscribing, Commercial, Life and Honorary Member. Please refer to the table below for their current description and benefits:

| <i>Category</i>                  | <i>Current: Who is Eligible for this Category</i>  | <i>Ability to Vote</i>        | <i>Ability to Hold Office</i> | <i>Receive Publications</i> | <i>Discount at annual meeting</i>                                 | <i>Reduced rates for Newsletter advertising</i> |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Student</i>                   | any full-time undergraduate or graduate student in an accredited educational program   | YES                           | NO                            | YES                         | Discretion of the local committee, typically YES                  | NO  |
| <i>Regular (Individual)</i>      | any individual including museum professional such as curators, collections managers, conservators, registrars, professionals in private practice; retirees, etc. | YES                           | YES                           | YES                         | Discretion of the local committee, typically YES                  | NO  |
| <i>Subscribing Library</i>       | libraries at university departments, institutions, private organizations, corporations.  | NO                            | NO                            | YES                         | Discretion of the local committee                                 | NO  |
| <i>Associate (Institutional)</i> | government departments, university departments, corporations, private institutions   | Appoint ONE delegate to vote. | NO                            | YES                         | Discretion of the local committee, typically YES for one delegate | NO  |
| <i>Corporate (Commercial)</i>    | for-profit private organizations, corporations, business   | NO                            | NO                            | YES                         | Reduced rate for meeting and vendor display                       | YES   |
| <i>Life</i>                      | any individual, same as regular membership   | YES                           | YES                           | YES                         | Discretion of the local committee, typically YES                  | NO  |
| <i>Honorary Member</i>           | Individuals in recognition of outstanding contributions to natural history collections or to the Society.  | YES                           | YES                           | YES                         | Discretion of the local committee, typically YES                  | NO  |

## SPNHC Membership Profile

*With this issue we are introducing a new section to the Newsletter called Membership Profiles. Our members play many different roles from collection management and conservation to databasing and informatics to research and education. Many of our members come from a traditional research background while many of our new members are coming into the field from the museum studies field. Our hope is to introduce our membership to a variety of individuals who are playing very dynamic roles in their museum's activities. We will cast our net broadly and select individuals from institutions of all sizes and backgrounds.*

### SNAPSHOT:

**What is your name?** Jane MacKnight

**What is your position?** Registrar

**Where do you work?** Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC)

**How many years have you been working in this capacity?**

10 years at CMC and 13 years in museums

**When did you join SPNHC?** 1993 (or 94) while I was in graduate school (through Cathy Hawks and Carolyn Rose)



### IN-DEPTH:

**What drew you to the natural history field?** Long ago I played with Japanese beetles in my mother's rose garden so when I started college I had visions of being a forester or a botanist. In the end, I graduated with a BA in biology from George Washington University followed by a MA in museum studies (also from GWU). Before working in museums, I spent 10 years with World Wildlife Fund-US where I was a program officer for plant conservation and later conservation projects in Guyana and Suriname.

**Describe the nature of the collections you work with.** Cincinnati Museum Center has roughly 2 million cultural history artifacts and natural history specimens. The cultural history collections include archives, books, photographs and broadcast archives, ethnographic artifacts, archaeological materials, historical artifacts and fine art. Natural history collections include over 300,000 lots of invertebrate fossils, 40,000 vertebrate fossils and a small number of paleobotany specimens. Zoology collections are 45,000 ornithology specimens, mostly study skins but many mounts, several hundred eggs and an ever expanding tissue collection; CMC has recently received an NSF grant to develop a DNA sequencing lab. Other zoology collections include malacology, entomology, mammalogy, herpetology and ichthyology.

**What are your responsibilities for them?** As the registrar, I work with all the collections to manage acquisitions, loans for research, exhibits and educational programs, permits and shipping, security and pest management as well as overseeing the collection management database. Our museum has no collections managers so day to day work is managed collaborative between the curatorial and registration departments with much of the actual work done by our excellent volunteers. I am also the building manager the Geier Collections and Research Center which is CMC's offsite storage building where the majority of collections are housed with several laboratories.

**Describe some of your activities.** I am the liaison between the collections department and other museum departments. I work with the exhibits staff to clean artifacts and specimens in the permanent exhibits so I vacuum the polar bear and Aldabra tortoise once a year. I coordinate the review and accessioning of about 250 new acquisitions or lots of objects/specimens annually with our collections staff, vice presidents and our board collections committee. Our review process follows our Collections Policy and I ensure that new acquisitions meet the guidelines, have appropriate documentation, were legally acquired and other policy-work type stuff! As a large museum, we have an active temporary exhibit program for which I with a team of preparators and curators, write condition reports, install and take down artifacts and provide weekly monitoring during the run of the exhibit. In the past year, we've been fortunate to add to two positions in the registration department - a database administrator to oversee the conversion of the database and most recently an assistant registrar to help manage our collections better.

*Continued on page 12*

Continued from page 11:  
.....Membership Profile

**What do you find most interesting about your work?** Diversity of the tasks that I may do in a day, my colleagues at CMC and working with the collections. There are few jobs where at the end of the day, you can say you've installed Egyptian artifacts or sacred objects from the Vatican to preparing a bird loan for shipping to the Philippines.

**What accomplishments are you most proud of?** About eight years ago, CMC was fortunate to build a dedicated collection storage facility about a mile from the main museum. I was part of the team that designed the building to meet professional standards that would provide our collections staff with an excellent working environment.

**What do you find most fulfilling about your work?** I enjoy the sense that our collections team is succeeding getting the collections better organized, more accessible and that our natural history collections have become a vital resource again in both the local community and beyond.

**What have you learned from SPNHC that has proved to be particularly helpful? How has SPNHC helped you?** The publications, journal and newsletter articles were my first introduction to SPNHC and were especially useful when I was a student and I continue to refer to the publications in my work. But ultimately it is the SPNHC membership, networking and good/interesting/fun people that I have met through SPNHC. In the past few years, I'm delighted that natural history registrars have coalesced into a subgroup as documentation and policies have become more complex this group has been very helpful for me.

## COLLECTION FORUM

### Manuscripts Needed!!

Have you invented a new way of doing something in your collections? Documented something like a collections move or disaster recovery? Share your expertise and your experiences with your fellow SPNHC members by writing it down and submitting it to [Collection Forum](#), the ideal venue for publishing on natural history and collections topics. Papers can be of any length.

Instructions to authors are available on the SPNHC web site. If you would like to discuss your ideas for possible papers, or if you have one ready to submit, contact the managing editor Jean DeMouthe at (415) 379-5258 or [jdemouthe@calacademy.org](mailto:jdemouthe@calacademy.org).

### Reviewers Wanted!!

[Collection Forum](#) needs reviewers! Are you willing to read and comment on papers submitted for the SPNHC journal, [Collection Forum](#)? It is an interesting task that will allow you to use your vast knowledge of natural history and collections care for a very worthwhile cause.

If you are interested, please contact Collection Forum managing editor Jean DeMouthe at (415) 379-5258 or [jdemouthe@calacademy.org](mailto:jdemouthe@calacademy.org).



## SPNHC Newsletter Advertising

### Why Advertise in the SPNHC Newsletter?

Members of SPNHC are the people who use your products and services. They are often the decision makers about products and procedures that will be used in their institutions. These people want to know about products and services that will help them do their jobs more effectively. They are interested in the latest techniques and materials available, as well as educational and travel opportunities, new publications, and events and programs related to natural history and collections.

All advertisements should be submitted as .tif or .pdf files, formatted for a PC. Ads can be placed in one sixth, quarter, half or full page. It is recommended that image resolution be 300 dpi. Electronic files may be e-mailed or sent on a disk to the newsletter editor, at [abentley@ku.edu](mailto:abentley@ku.edu). Any necessary printers charges will be billed to the advertiser. Payment must accompany the insertion order and tear sheets will be sent after publication.

There is limited space in each Newsletter (maximum two full pages of advertising total), and space will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Ad placement is at the discretion of the editor. So do not delay, and send your ad today! More information can be found on the SPNHC website - [www.spnhc.org](http://www.spnhc.org).

***This space could be yours.....***

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BRIDGING CONTINENTS 2009

. naturalis



LEIDS UNIVERSITAIR MEDISCH CENTRUM

SPNHC is coming to Europe!

It is with great pleasure that the National Museum of Natural History Naturalis and the Leiden University Medical Center LUMC announce that for the second time in history the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections is coming to Europe.

Four years after the first conference in London, Leiden will bring together curators and managers in natural history collections from different continents.

The LUMC and Naturalis will host the

24th annual meeting of SPNHC

## BRIDGING CONTINENTS

### **New Initiatives and Perspectives in Natural History Collections**

6 - 11 July 2009

Leiden, The Netherlands

Join us to make it the largest event in Europe dedicated to natural history collection preservation, management, and strategies.

**Bridging Continents** will present new, large-scaled infrastructure projects in natural history collections, the state-of-art in collection care and best practice, the latest on digitization of collections and much more.

Come and meet old friends and new colleagues from natural history museums all over world. Share your ideas and experiences with us.

Don't miss it!

**[www.spnhc2009.org](http://www.spnhc2009.org)**

## Presidents Award Citation - Lisa Palmer

Remarks made during the introduction of Lisa Palmer as the 2008 President's Award recipient from the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections.

Lisa Palmer has served as Treasurer for SPNHC for nearly a decade. Her tenure has provided the Society with an important level of stability. There is really no office, including that of SPNHC President that is more demanding than the role of the Treasurer.

In addition to the day-to-day demands of the office, Lisa has been integrally involved in the development of investment strategies. Year after year Lisa has also been careful to interface with each committee whose activities have an impact on the SPNHC budget. Her decision to engage the services of a Certified Public Accountant has taken our financial management to a new level of rigor.

Lisa has done all this while taking care of the world's largest fish collection, conducting fieldwork and research on South American fish, preparing publications and participating in grant-funded preservation. Oh, and did I mention that she also co-taught graduate classes in collection management at George Washington University, training our next generation of museum professionals?

The Society has been truly blessed to have someone with such dedication, professionalism and unquestionable ethics serving as our Treasurer. The fact that she has agreed to follow this work by becoming Chair of the Membership Committee is remarkable. I guess it means we have not burned her out yet!

**Please join me in congratulating Lisa on this much deserved recognition.**



## ... and from Lisa in response

In 2002, for his work in the entertainment industry, Harrison Ford received the Cecil B. deMille Award. On accepting his award, Ford said, "In anticipation of tonight, I wrote two speeches, a long one and a short one. I'll give you the short one: 'Thank you.' But it seems there might be enough time for the long one as well, which is: 'Thank you very much.'"

Thank you for awarding me the SPNHC President's Award. Back in March when I received Tim White's phone call of congratulations, I was speechless. I am glad to have the opportunity here in Oklahoma to let you know that I am extremely honored to receive this award for my tenure as SPNHC Treasurer. I thank all of you who nominated me and SPNHC Council for their consideration.

My life as Treasurer began in 1996 in the hallway near my office just outside our staff cafeteria at the Smithsonian's Natural History Building. On that fateful day, as I was walking to my office, Carolyn Rose pulled me aside and asked if I would like to be involved with SPNHC. Because of my work and interest in fluid collections, I rather naively assumed she meant for me to participate on the Conservation Committee, and I enthusiastically agreed. A few days later, Grant Hughes, then SPNHC President, phoned me to discuss the Treasurer's position. Obviously, we all know the results of that discussion, and I remain grateful that I was placed into the heart of this wonderful professional organization. I would like to thank both Carolyn and Grant for their complete confidence in my abilities.

As with many positions, there is a steep learning curve to understand the scope of the Treasurer's work and I was fortunate in that there were two pairs of hands to guide me. I would like to thank my predecessors, Julia Golden and Sue McLaren, for paving the way and smoothing my transition.

Thanks are also due to Jane MacKnight and Lori Schlenker for managing the 1999 DC meeting finances; to Sue McLaren, Steve Williams and Rob Waller for acting as a sounding board from which to bounce off financial ideas; to Tim White, for helping to modernize the Treasurer's office; and to Kate Shaw Moots and Janet Waddington, who, in addition to their own workloads as Managing Editors, found immeasurable ways to help me such as moving the sales of our books from the Treasurer's office to a third party. I would also like to thank Barbara Brown who has relieved me of my former duties by taking on the enormous workload of Treasurer.

Lastly I would like to thank all of you who served on Council during my tenure. The fiduciary responsibility of SPNHC lies on the shoulders of Council. I appreciate the implicit trust that Council had in my judgment to proceed with their "annual" instructions. Over the years, Council made numerous decisions both routine such as approving the annual budget, and non-routine, e.g. hiring a CPA firm to perform our annual finan-

cial review and file our taxes according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). I appreciate Council's dedication and transparency in making their decisions. Thank you, Council.

Receiving the President's Award is a privilege I share with only eight other members of SPNHC. I am flattered by the magnitude of receiving the President's Award and am deeply honored that you chose to recognize my efforts this way. SPNHC is a great organization and hope that I may continue to do good work for you in other capacities. Thank you all very much.

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## Carolyn L. Rose Award Citation - Stephen L. Williams

Remarks by Catharine Hawks

I first met Steve Williams when I came to the Carnegie Museum as a conservation intern nearly 26 years ago, which clearly means we were both children at the time. Steve had arranged a project to introduce museum conservation into the natural sciences. The person who was supposed to take the position declined at the last moment (took a powder) and Steve ended up stuck with me. Steve was, as he has been for so many of you, a wonderful teacher. I rapidly became "hooked" on the idea of natural history conservation.

For me, this has led to an endlessly fascinating career. However, the really great outcome was that when I conned the late Carolyn Rose into allowing me to pursue this as a conservation specialty, she and Steve met one another for the first time. Their collaboration not only helped found SPNHC, it also opened doors to funding for care of natural science collections by agencies that otherwise would never have considered this. So, if your institution has ever benefited from grants from IMLS, NEH, SAT, the Getty, the Bay Foundation, or the Pew Charitable Trusts, among others, you owe more that you realize to that incredible combination of Steve's ideas and Carolyn's vision and connections.

Steve has remained a remarkably patient and supportive mentor to numerous students - quietly, but firmly showing them what it means to be a museum *professional*. All this and more, while still finding time to produce 134 publications, at least 80 of which are major contributions to the body of knowledge about collections care and management.

Like Carolyn, Steve could see pathways long before anyone else even knew there was a reason to be going somewhere. Carolyn would have been delighted that the first presentation of this award under her name would be in celebration of the achievements of a colleague she admired greatly.

It is a privilege and an honor to present the Carolyn L. Rose Award for outstanding contributions to the Society and our

profession to Dr. Stephen L. Williams. Thank you, Steve, for all you've done.



### *... and from Stephen in response*

It has been a long time since I have spoken to the membership at the Annual General Business meeting. In contrast to previous award announcements, I was notified months in advance instead of being a recipient that is surprised at the last minute. In retrospect this was very good. As a result, there has been a lot of time for me to reflect on the significance of the award, the history of SPNHC (including Carolyn Rose), and how my career has fit into this picture. I must admit that for many reasons this special occasion has brought a wide range of emotions, and I hope that I can effectively communicate some of my feelings to you. The opportunity to reflect on the past resulted in several philosophical exercises. However, these exercises kept returning to two significant points.

The first point was the fact that this recognition has become a very humbling experience for me. As I started remembering the individuals that have been "players" in my "life-time achievements", it was almost overwhelming. First, I realized my family was critical in providing support and allowing this to happen. I realized that my career began when my mentors set the foundations of my career. Then there are all of the colleagues, collaborators, and co-authors that were involved in scholarly discussions and important projects. Also, one cannot forget the editors and (unknown) reviewers that participated in so many publication processes. Finally, several institutions were equally important in providing opportunities and support. I will not attempt to identify any of the individuals that have been players in my career for fear of not listing everyone. The bottom-line is that we would not be here today for this occasion if all of these individuals had not been involved. For this I am very grateful.

The second point involves the "what ifs". Realizing that the museum community is characterized by individuals that often spend an entire career at one institution and that many colleagues fall into this pattern, I often have wondered about the

*Continued on page 16*

costs and benefits of changing institutions during my career. For instance, "what if" I had stayed at Carnegie Museum for my entire career; how would have things been different? I recognized that my moves to different institutions were important to my career. The 14+ years at Carnegie Museum was a time for learning and researching collection management and care. The move to Texas Tech for five years involved an opportunity to teach, thus it was necessary to organize what was known about collection management and care. Finally, the move to Baylor University for 12+ years involved much more teaching. However, because the teaching primarily involved students from the humanities, there was a need to educate first by incorporating theoretical concepts. The sacrifice realized with these moves was that they took me further and further away from the fieldwork and natural history research that attracted me to the field . . . Carnegie Museum involved one large research collection . . . Texas Tech involved multiple vertebrate research collections of smaller size . . . and Baylor University involved even smaller collections, including both natural history and cultural history objects having minimal use for research. This brings up the second point of my philosophical realizations. When my career was taking me further from the things that attracted me to the field, SPNHC and its members remained the one "constant" that provided purpose and direction for my career. For that I am also very grateful.

In closing, I believe natural history collections are critical to preserving the museum concept and extremely important in addressing global issues that face us today. As a result, I have the highest regard for those individuals that directly or indirectly contribute to the long-term use and care of these valuable resources. Also, I am very proud of SPNHC and what its members have accomplished over the past 20+ years. It has been a real privilege to have been a part of this organization's history, and it is a true honor to have my lifetime accomplishment be recognized by the SPNHC membership with the awarding of the Carolyn Rose Award. This very special recognition means so much to me. Thank you very much for everything.



## NSCA & SPNHC 2008 Annual Meetings

Collection Stewardship:  
Challenges in a Changing World.

May 13-17, 2008  
Skirvin Hilton Hotel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Jean-Marc Gagnon  
Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections was held this year at the luxurious Skirvin Hotel, in downtown Oklahoma City. It was organized by the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, in association with the Natural Science Collections Alliance.

The organizing committee did an incredible job at preparing a very interesting technical program, accompanied by a variety of field trips early on in the conference, social events throughout and workshops on the Saturday. Of particular importance was the significant success in attracting vendors and sponsors for the conference. In addition to the very nice hotel setting, all participants were fed copiously throughout the conference, thanks in good part to these sponsors and vendors. The close proximity of Bricktown, a revitalized commercial district, also provided ample opportunities to sample local food and brew.

On Thursday, after a great day in the field or visiting museums in Oklahoma City, the technical program was kick started with an excellent keynote address by Dr. Don Wilson, Curator of Mammals (Bats) at the Smithsonian Institution. The following technical presentations and posters covered a variety of subjects pertaining to museum and collections challenges, particularly from the points of view of politics, policies, procedures, environmental issues, and professional development. The workshops offered an in-depth look at some of these challenges and provided some practical solutions. A complete program is available at [http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/nsca-spnhc/documents/NSCA\\_SPNHC\\_Program.pdf](http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/nsca-spnhc/documents/NSCA_SPNHC_Program.pdf).

The banquet took place on Thursday night in the Great Hall of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman. It provided many participants the opportunity to visit some of their exhibits and have a quick peek at their new (not completely finished, at the time) Paleozoic Gallery. While guests were enjoying a delicious meal, they were treated to great music by the very talented guitarist, Edgar Cruz. And of course, a SPNHC conference would not be the same without its traditional, eclectic rock & roll dancing by its members, which kept the security staff at the Museum busy and entertained until the very, very end.

On a more serious note, four SPNHC members received awards at the meeting. Janet Braun and Marcia Revelez were given Special Services Recognition for their efforts in leading the Local Committee for the OKC meeting. Lisa Palmer was the recipient of the President's Award this year. This award recognizes a member for superior, prolonged service to appointed offices, committees, and/or ongoing activities of SPNHC. Steve Williams received the Carolyn Rose Award for his significant contribution to the objectives of the Society.

All in all, a successful, productive meeting that will be remembered for a long time, thanks to the dedicated members of the local organizing committee. (See the back page for some selected images from the conference)

## Publications of Interest

This section is from the Citations Sub-Committee of the Documentation Committee and is chaired by Elizabeth A. Leith. Citations were submitted by: Victoria Book (VB), Larissa Busch (LB), Diana Dicus (DD), Terri Jordan (TJ), Elizabeth (Liz) Leith (EL), Barbara Moore (BM), Ann Pinzl (AP), Cindy Ramotnik (CR), Marcia Revelez (MR), and John Simmons (JES). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Liz Leith, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave, Norman, OK 73072; (405) 325-1199 (voice); (405) 325-7699 (fax); etereba@ou.edu.

- Aagard-Hansen, J. and M.V. Johansen. 2008. Research ethics across disciplines. *Anthropology Today* 24(3):15-20. (EL)
- Anon. Tropical renaissance. Gilded Age retreat gets Save America's Treasurers grant. *Common Ground* 13(1):10-11. (JES)  
— Report on renovations of the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami, Florida.
- Anonymous. 2008. Useful website addresses. *Natural History Collections Working Group Newsletter* 16:19-21. (AP)
- Appelbaum, B. 2007. *Conservation treatment methodology*. Butterworth-Heinemann. 464 pp. (MR)
- Aullington-Jones, L. 2008. A new method for the restoration of paleontological specimens mounted in Canada balsam. *NatSCA News* 14:28-32. (JES)
- Ayre, C., H. Bishop, H. Fothergill, and J. Freedman. 2008. Collecting life: field collecting littoral marine animals for museum collections. *NatSCA News* 14:33-40. (JES)
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- Bentley, A. 2008. Shipping and handling of natural history specimens in dangerous goods. *Natural History Collections Working Group Newsletter* 16:3-7. (AP)
- Boersma, F. 2008. "Where's the fire?" Teamwork for integrated emergency management. *The Getty Conservation Institute Newsletter* 23(1):20-23. (MR, JES)
- Braadbaart, F. and I. Poole. 2008. Morphological, chemical and physical changes during charcoalification of wood and its relevance to archaeological contexts. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35(9):2434-2445. (EL)
- Breitkopf, S. 2008. Indiana Jones is dead - the Field Museum in a smaller world. *Museum News* 87(1):54-61, 78-79. (AP)
- Budrugaec, P. and M. Miu. 2008. The suitability of DSC method for damage assessment and certification of historical leathers and parchments. *Journal of Cultural Heritage* 9(2):146-153. (EL)
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- Cheung, A. YK, WF Lai, A. CH Tsang. 2008. Study of natural history specimens using X-ray fluorescence spectrometry. *Natural History Collections Working Group Newsletter* 16:14-17. (AP)
- Child, R., and D. Pinniger. 2008. Using anoxia to kill insect pests. Methodologies and methods. *Natural History Collections Working Group Newsletter* 16:17-18. (AP)
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- Cuno, J. 2008. *Who owns antiquity?: Museums and the battle over our ancient heritage*. Princeton University Press. 256 pp. (MR)
- Donahue, J. and E. Trump. 2006. *The Politics of Zoos: Exotic Animals and Their Protectors*. Dekalb, Illinois, Northern Illinois University Press. 224 pp. (AP)
- de Moraes-Barros, N. and J.S. Morgante. 2007. A simple protocol for the extraction and sequence analysis of DNA from study skins of museum collections. *Genetics and Molecular Biology* 30(4). (MR)
- Diefenbacher, E.H. and V.L. Wiggins. 2008. Rapid new protocol for clearing and staining of specimens for osteological examination. *Herpetological Review* 39(1):54-55. (CR)
- Druzik, J. 2007. Research on museum lighting: a project update. *The Getty Conservation Institute Newsletter* 22(3), Fall 2007. (MR)
- DuPont, A.-L., C. Cucci, C. Loisel, M. Bacci and B. Lavédrine. 2008. Development of LightCheck® Ultra: a novel dosimeter for monitoring lighting conditions of highly photosensitive artefacts in museums. *Studies in Conservation* 53(1):49-72. (VB, BM)
- Eastaugh, N., V. Walsh, T. Chaplin, and R. Siddall. 2008. *Pigment compendium: A dictionary and optical microscopy of historic pigments*. Butterworth-Heinemann. 960 pp. (MR)
- Edwards, S.V., S. Birks, R.T. Brumfield, and R. Hanner. 2005. Future of avian genetic resources collections: Archives of evolutionary and environmental history. *The Auk* 122(3):979-984. (MR)
- Endo, R., K. Kamei, I. Iida, and Y. Kawahara. 2008. Dimensional stability of waterlogged wood treated with hydrolyzed feather keratin. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35(5):1240-1246. (EL)
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Continued from page 17:

.....Publications of Interest

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- Gosden, C. and F. Larson. 2008. *Knowing things: Exploring the collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum 1884-1945*. Oxford University Press. 296 pp. (MR)
- Griffin, D. 2008. Advancing museums. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 23(1):43-61. (EL)
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- Hebda, R.J. 2007. Museums, climate change and sustainability. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 22(4):329-336. (MR)
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- Hubard, O.M. 2007. Negotiating Personal and Cultural Significance: A Theoretical Framework for Art Museum Education. *Curator* 50(4):401-416. (EL)
- Jarzemowski, E. 2008. Preserving waterlogged wood with sugar. *NatSCA News* 14:26-27. (JES)
- Kelly, K. 2008. Rethinking Crescent City culture: New Orleans two and a half years later. *The Getty Conservation Institute Newsletter* 23(1), Spring 2008. (MR)
- Killion, T.W. (ed.). 2008. *Opening archaeology: Repatriation's impact on contemporary research and practice (advanced seminar)*. School for Advanced Research Press. 296 pp. (MR)
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- Lawler, A. 2008. Archaeology: Preserving Iraq's Battered Heritage. *Science* 321(5885):28-30. (EL)
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- Lucas, A.M. 2008. Disposing of John Lindley's library and herbarium: the offer to Australia. *Archives of Natural History* 35(1):15-70. (EL)
- Maisano, J.A. 2008. A protocol for clearing and double-staining squamate specimens. *Herpetological Review* 39(1):52-54. (CR)
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- Pool, M. 2008. Health and Safety. Some chemical things considered: Bisphenol A. *AIC News* 33(4):11-15. (DD)  
— "A clear presentation of characteristics, history, hazards. Now considered a toxic chemical, BPA is found in coatings on cans for foods and beverages, in dental sealants, dental retainers, syringes, eye-glass lenses, plastic beverage, food and laboratory containers and in epoxy resins and putties used in the field of conservation."
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- Rayward, W.B. and M.E. Bowden (eds.) 2004. *The history and heritage of scientific and technological information systems: Proceedings of the 2002 conference*. Information Today. 423 pp. (TJ)
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- Reilly, M. and D. Russell. 2008. The nest collections of the Natural History Museum & of the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow: Developing a UK nest collection resource. *NatSCA News* 14:51-54. (JES)
- Rentschler, R. and A. Hede. 2007. *Museum marketing: Competing in the global marketplace*. Butterworth-Heinemann. 296 pp. (MR)
- Ripley, A. 2008. *The unthinkable: Who survives when disaster strikes*. Random House Books. 288 pp. (DD)  
— "A look at how the body and mind react to a disaster. Could be useful for an institution, such as a collection-holding institution, staff to read and discuss."
- Scott, E. and E.M. Luby. 2007. Maintaining relationships with native communities: The role of museum management and governance. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 22(3):265-285. (MR)
- Shashoua, Y. 2008. *Conservation of plastics: Materials science, degradation and preservation*. Butterworth-Heinemann. 300 pp. (MR)
- Shouyong, P. 2008. Museums and the Protection of Cultural Intangible Heritage. *Museum International* 60(1-2):12-19. (EL)
- Siegel, J. 2008. *The emergence of the modern museum: An anthology of nineteenth-century sources*. Oxford University Press. 408 pp. (MR)
- Smith, M. 2007. Using the cuvette technique to store vertebrate microfossils and other small natural history specimens. *Conserve O Gram* 11/14:1-4. (JES)
- Springer, S. 2008. UV and visible light filtering window films. *WAAC Newsletter* 30(2):16-23. (DD)  
— "An analysis of UV and Visible Light Filtering Window Films."
- Stocking, B. and F. Queyroux (eds.) 2006. *Encoding Across Frontiers: Proceedings of the European conference on Encoded Archival Description and Context (EAD and EAC), Paris, France, 7-8 October, 2004*. Routledge. 286 pp. (TJ)
- Stone, R. 2008. Intellectual Property: Chinese Province Crafts Pioneering Law to Thwart Biopiracy. *Science* 320(5877):732-733. (EL)  
— Officials in southern China's Guizhou Province are hoping to head off future attempts at "biopiracy"—the plunder of natural resources—by enshrining the protection of indigenous knowledge into law.
- Swain, H. 2007. *An introduction to museum archaeology*. Cambridge University Press. 392 pp. (MR)
- Tallon, L., and K. Walker (eds.). 2008. *Digital technologies and the museum experience: Handheld guides and other media*. Altamira Press. 226 pp. (MR)
- Thompson, H.H. 2008. International Law and its Vision of the Ideal Museum. *Curator* 51(1):5-10. (EL)
- Townsend, A. 2008. Making a three-quarter cast of an Atlantic Tripletail fish. *Natural History Collections Working Group Newsletter* 16:10-13. (AP)
- Townsend, J. 2008. *Conservation Science 2007*. Archetype Books. 320 pp. (MR)
- Tran, L.U. and H. King. 2007. The professionalization of museum educators: The case in science museums. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 22(2):131-149. (MR)
- Tse, S. 2007. *Guidelines for pH measurement in conservation*. Canadian Conservation Institute, Technical Bulletin, No. 28. 23 pp. (VB, MR)
- Usai, P.C., D. Francis, A. Horwath, and M. Loebenstein. (eds.) 2008. *Film curatorship: museums, curatorship and the moving image*. Wallflower Press. 180 pp. (MR)
- Utrainen, J., J. Poikolainen, J. Piispanen, and E. Kubin. 2007. Stabilizing temperature and RH conditions in dry storage facilities. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 22(1):79-90. (MR)
- Valentine, A., and T. Cotterell. 2008. Project to investigate the environmen-

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- ..... Publications of Interest
- tal conditions required for the initiation of pyrite decay. *Natural History Collections Working Group Newsletter* 16:7-9. (AP)
- Valentine, C., S. Long, and C. Collins. 2008. Assessing standards of collection care in a multi-discipline institution. *Natural History Collections Working Group Newsletter* 16:9-10. (AP)
- Wagner, B., E. Bulska, and W. Sobucki. 2008. Magnesium distribution in paper subjected to deacidification investigated by means of Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectroscopy. *Journal of Cultural Heritage* 9(1):60-65. (EL)
- Wakeham, P. 2008. *Taxidermic signs: Reconstructing aboriginality*. University of Minnesota Press. 280 pp. (MR)
- Waterhouse, D. 2008. Anoxia seminar. *NatSCA News* 14:8-12.  
— Reviews and comments on five presentations at a seminar on anoxic pest treatments held at the Natural History Museum, London. (JES)
- Watson, S. 2008. Museums, Nations, Identities: Wales and its National Museums. *Journal of the History of Collections* 20:156-157. (EL)
- Wegener, C. and M. Otter. 2008. Cultural property at war. Protecting heritage during armed conflict. *The Getty Conservation Institute Newsletter* 23(1):4-9. (MR, JES)
- Welter-Schultes, F.W., R. Klug and A. Lutze. 2008. Les figures des plantes et animaux d'usage en medecine, a rare work published by F.A.P. de Gardault in 1764. *Archives of Natural History* 35(1):118-127. (EL)
- Wilder, A. and T. Morris. 2008. 'Locals within locals': Cultural sensitivity in disaster aid. *Anthropology Today* 24(3):1-3. (EL)
- Wisely, S.M., J.E. Maldonado, and R.C. Fleische. 2004. A technique for sampling ancient DNA that minimizes damage to museum specimens. *Conservation Genetics* 5(1):105-107. (MR)
- Wright, A. 2007. *Glut: Mastering information through the ages*. Joseph Henry Press. 296 pp. (TJ)
- Xiejun, C. 2008. The Conservation of Shanghai's Diverse Cultural Heritage. *Museum International* 60(1-2):100-107. (EL)
- Yuqin, D. 2008. The Role of Natural History Museums in the Promotion of Sustainable Development. *Museum International* 60(1-2):20-28. (EL)

## Calendar of Events

*The Calendar of Events is maintained by Christine Chandler of the Documentation Committee. Application deadlines, conferences and symposia relevant to collection management, computerization and conservation of natural history collections are listed. Notices may be submitted to Christine at Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804; (563) 324-1054 ext. 226; chandler@putnam.org or dinoceras@juno.com.*

### 2008

#### August 2008

August 4-6, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Photographic Collections I**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; registrations@campbellcenter.org; http://www.campbellcenter.org.

August 4-8, 2008. **126<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union**, Portland, Oregon, USA. **Joint meeting with the Cooper Ornithological Society & the Society of Canadian Ornithologists**. Go to <http://www.aou.org> for more information.

August 4-29, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Applying Numbers to Collection Objects**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

August 4-29, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Found in the Collection: Orphans, Old Loans and Abandoned Property**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

August 4-September 12, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Museum Artifacts: How they were made and how they deteriorate**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

August 7-9, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Photographic Collections II**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 7-9, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Computer Software for Collections Management**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 11-14, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Paper Artifacts**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 11-15, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Collection Management in Storage**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 18-20, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Oversized Paper Artifacts**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

August 25-29, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online short course, **The Problem with Plastics**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

August 25-29, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Microscopy for the Conservator**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; registrations@campbellcenter.org; <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

#### September 2008

September 2-26, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Museum Cleaning Basics**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

September 2-26, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Fundamentals of Museum Volunteer Programs**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

September 2-26, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Museum Management**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

September 2-October 31, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Disaster Plan Research Writing**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

September 2-November 14, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Collections Management Policies for Museums and Related Institutions**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

September 3-5, 2008. William Hunter Conference: **William Hunter and the Art and Science of Eighteenth Century Collecting**, Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland. For further information, contact Geoff Hancock: 0141-330-2194; [g.hancock@museum.gla.ac.uk](mailto:g.hancock@museum.gla.ac.uk). To book a place, contact Roslyn Purss: 0141-330-4384; [r.purss@museum.gla.ac.uk](mailto:r.purss@museum.gla.ac.uk).

September 3-6, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Textiles I**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; [registrations@campbellcenter.org](mailto:registrations@campbellcenter.org); <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 8-11, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Textiles III**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; [registrations@campbellcenter.org](mailto:registrations@campbellcenter.org); <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 8-11, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Exhibit Design for Small Museums with Limited Resources**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; [registrations@campbellcenter.org](mailto:registrations@campbellcenter.org); <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 12, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies workshop, **Exhibit Lighting**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; [registrations@campbellcenter.org](mailto:registrations@campbellcenter.org); <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

September 12-18, 2008. **Annual Conference of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums**, Milwaukee County Zoo, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. See <http://www.aza.org> for more information.

September 15-18, 2008. **The Digital Curation of Cultural Heritage, ICOM/CIDOC Annual Conference**, Athens, Greece. For more information, see the conference web site, <http://www.cidoc2008.gr>.

September 15-19, 2008. **Conservation & Access, 2008 IIC (International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works) 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress**, London, England. Register at <http://www.iiconservation.org>.

September 17, 2008. **IIC Round Table on Climate Change and Museum Collections**, London, England. See <http://www.iiconservation.org> for more information.

September 17-21, 2008. **2008 WAM Annual Meeting**, Anchorage, Alaska, USA. More Information: [http://www.westmuse.org/future\\_conf.htm](http://www.westmuse.org/future_conf.htm).

September 22-26, 2008. **Diversity in Heritage Conservation: Tradition, Innovation and Participation, ICOM-CC Triennial Meeting**, New Delhi, India. For more details, visit <http://www.icom-cc2008.org/secretariat@icom-cc.org>.

September 22-26, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Collection Protection – Are you Prepared?** For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

September 23-25, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Care of Ethnographic Collections**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; [registrations@campbellcenter.org](mailto:registrations@campbellcenter.org); <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

## October 2008

October 1, 2008. **Conservation Project Support Grants deadline**. Contact the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for more information: [imlsinfo@imls.gov](mailto:imlsinfo@imls.gov) or <http://www.imls.gov>.

October 3, 2008. **After a Disaster: Saving and Salvaging Collection Materials and Artifacts**, Saint Cloud, Minnesota, USA. Contact Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums for more information: [cokatomuseum@cmgate.com](mailto:cokatomuseum@cmgate.com).

October 4-9, 2008. **Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America**, Houston, Texas, USA. For more information: <http://www.geosociety.org>.

October 6-9, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Repair & Maintenance of Book Collections**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; [registrations@campbellcenter.org](mailto:registrations@campbellcenter.org); <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

October 6-10, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Biofilms for Conservators**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; [registrations@campbellcenter.org](mailto:registrations@campbellcenter.org); <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

October 6-31, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **First Aid for Finds: Archaeological Collections Care**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

October 6-November 14, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Integrated Pest Management for Museums, Libraries and Archives**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

October 6-November 14, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Exhibit Fundamentals: Ideas to Installation**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

October 8, 2008. **NatSCA Adhesives workshop**, Natural History Museum, London, England. For more information: [http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted\\_sites/natSCA](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/natSCA).

October 10, 2008. Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course, **Water and Collection Spaces: a Structural Drying Overview**. For more information, contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 203 East Seminary, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; (815) 244-1173 Phone; (815) 244-1619 FAX; [registrations@campbellcenter.org](mailto:registrations@campbellcenter.org); <http://www.campbellcenter.org>.

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October 15, 2008. **Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grants deadline.** Contact the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for more information: [imlsinfo@imls.gov](mailto:imlsinfo@imls.gov) or <http://www.imls.gov>.

October 15-18, 2008. **68<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology**, Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Information available at <http://www.vertpaleo.org>.

October 18-21, 2008. **Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) 2008 Annual Conference**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Conference information: <http://www.astc.org/conference/future.htm>.

October 27-November 22, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Collection Inventories**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

#### November 2008

November 3-28, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Care of Textiles**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

November 3-28, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Materials for Storage and Display**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [Helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:Helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

November 3-28, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **Preservation Environments**. For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

November 6-7, 2008. **Lessons in Anatomy Made Easy: Anatomical Models in Scientific and Cultural Context**, Museum Boerhaave, Leiden, The Netherlands. For more information, go to <http://www.museumboerhaave.nl/anatomy/>.

November 8, 2008. **After a Disaster: Saving and Salvaging Collection Materials and Artifacts**, Bismarck, North Dakota, USA. Contact North Dakota Governor's Conference at [mnsnyder@nd.gov](mailto:mnsnyder@nd.gov) for more information.

November 10-14, 2008. Northern States Conservation Center online course, **The Mission Statement: Is it really important?** For more information, contact Helen Alten at [helen@collectioncare.org](mailto:helen@collectioncare.org) or go to <http://www.collectioncare.org>.

November 18, 2008. **Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA) Adhesives Seminar**, London, England. To book, contact Dr. Tony Irwin, Cur. Nat. Hist., Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service, The Shirehall, Market Ave., Norwich, Norfolk NR1 3Jq; [tony.irwin@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:tony.irwin@norfolk.gov.uk).

#### December 2008

December 1, 2008. **Conservation Assessment Program Grants deadline.** Contact the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for more information: [imlsinfo@imls.gov](mailto:imlsinfo@imls.gov) or <http://www.imls.gov>.

December 10, 2008. **ICON Pest Management in Practice 2008**, Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland.

### 2008–2009

**Enhancing the Interface between Collections and Systematists**, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee, date & location to be determined. For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

**New Research Opportunities Emerging from Integrating Data across Different Taxonomic Collections**, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee, date & location to be determined. For more information, go to:

<http://collectionsweb.org>.

### 2009

#### April 2009

April 8-12, 2009. **Joint Meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

April 24, 2009. **Going Green: Towards Sustainability in Conservation**, The British Museum, London, England. For further details, go to [http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats\\_on/events\\_calendar/going\\_green.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/events_calendar/going_green.aspx).

April 30-May 4, 2009. **103<sup>rd</sup> Annual American Association of Museums (AAM) Meeting and MuseumExpo**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Go to <http://www.aam-us.org> for more information.

#### July 2009

July 6-11, 2009. **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Annual Meeting**, Leiden, The Netherlands. For more information, see <http://www.spnhc.org>.

July 22-27, 2009. **Joint Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists, the Herpetologists League, and the society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles**, Portland, Oregon, USA. See <http://www.dce.ksu.edu/conf/jointmeeting/schedule.shtml> for more information.

#### August 2009

August 11-15, 2009. **127<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Go to <http://www.aou.org> for more information.

#### October 2009

October 31-November 3, 2009. **Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) 2009 Annual Conference**, Fort Worth, Texas, USA. Conference information: <http://www.astc.org/conference/future.htm>.

Date TBD, 2009. **Dangerous Collections: Chemical Poisons in Native American Materials, A Midwest Art Conservation Center workshop**, The Science Museum of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Contact MACC at (612) 870-3128 or [info@preserveart.org](mailto:info@preserveart.org).

### 2009–2010

**Strengthening Connections between the Collections Community and database Initiatives and Programs**, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee and The Natural Science Collection Alliance (NSCA), date & location to be determined. For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

**Developing New Strategies for Integrating Collections into Education**, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee, date & location to be determined. For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

### 2010–2011

**Enhancing the Relationship between Collections and Stakeholders**, a workshop organized by the Research Coordination Network (RCN) Steering Committee and the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), in Washington, DC, USA (date to be determined). For more information, go to: <http://collectionsweb.org>.

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**Visit SPNHC at [www.spnhc.org](http://www.spnhc.org)!**

## **SELECTED IMAGES FROM THE SPNHC 2008 MEETING IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**



***"Banquet Hall" - Sam Noble Museum***



***Pre-conference excursion***



***"The Village People"***



***Relaxation after a hard day!!***



***Banquet dance floor***



***Policies and Procedures Workshop***