

THE
2012 ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

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

**OMNI Hotel
New Haven, CT, USA**

15 Jun 2012

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Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

OMNI Hotel
New Haven, CT, USA
15 Jun 2012

1. Call to order.
2. Minutes of the 2011 Annual Business Meeting.
3. Report of the Treasurer.
4. Report of the President.
5. Reports of Standing Committees.
 - a. Archives
 - b. Best Practices
 - c. Bylaws
 - d. Conference
 - e. Conservation
 - f. Documentation
 - g. Elections
 - h. Finance
 - i. Legislation and Regulations
 - j. Long-Range Planning
 - k. Membership
 - l. Professional Development
 - m. Publications
 - n. Recognition and Grants
 - o. Web Site
6. Reports of Sessional Committees.
 - a. Ethics
 - b. Mentorship
7. Reports of Representatives.

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

2011-2012 List of SPNHC Members Serving on Council and Committees

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Jean-Marc Gagnon
President-Elect	Chris Norris
Past President	Richard Rabeler
Treasurer	Barbara Brown
Secretary	Judith Price
Managing Editor	Susan Butts

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2009-2012	Debra Trock
2010-2012	Richard Sabin (temporary appointment)
2010-2013	Clare Valentine
2010-2013	Jessica Cundiff
2011-2014	Gretchen Anderson
2011-2014	Mariko Kageyama

STANDING COMMITTEES

Archives Committee

Linda Hollenberg	Chair
Lisa F. Palmer	

Best Practices

James Macklin	Co-chair
Tim White	Co-chair
Jessica D. Cundiff	Chris Norris
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Richard Rabeler
Cathy Hawks	Paula Work

Bylaws Committee

Richard Rabeler	Chair
Laura Abraczinskas	Judith Price

Conference Committee

Chris Norris	Chair
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Ottawa 2010
Deb Trock	San Francisco 2011
Tim White	New Haven 2012
Sally Shelton	Rapid City 2013

Conservation Committee

Gretchen Anderson	Co-chair
Robert Waller	Co-chair
Bethany Palumbo	
Cindy Ramotnik	Resources (RDU USA)
Kelly Sendall	Resources (RDU Canada)
Andy Bentley	Fluids Research/CBoL
Rebecca Morin	Historic Adhesives
Armando Mendez	Risk Assessment
Bethany Palumbo	Food Policy
Rebecca Newberry	Food Policy
Carolyn Leckie	Environmental
Luci Ciperá	Specifications

Elections Committee

Kelly A. Sendall	Chair
Bethany Palumbo	

Documentation Committee

Elizabeth Leith	Co-chair
Marcia Revelez	Co-chair
Margaret Landis	Citations
Greg Watkins-Colwell	NHCOL-L list manager
Tiffany Adrain	
Lori Benson	Paul Davis
Mary Catherine Boyett	Shirley Harpham
Andrew Campbell	James Macklin
Christine Chandler	Chris Norris
Jessica D. Cundiff	Sally Shelton

Finance Committee

Barbara Brown	Co-chair
Robert Waller	Co-chair
Suzanne B. McLaren	Lisa F. Palmer
Chris Norris	Tim White

Legislation and Regulations

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

Long-Range Planning

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

Membership Committee

Elena Benamy	Acting Chair
Tiffany Adrain	Chair (2012-04-19)
Barbara Brown	
Liz Dietrich	Ann Pinzi
Jane MacKnight	Cindy Ramotnik

Publications Committee

Susan Butts	Chair
Cindy Ramotnik	Assoc. Editor Collection Forum
Paula Work	Assoc. Editor Collection Forum
Janet Waddington	Assoc. Editor Collection Forum
Andy Bentley	Newsletter Editor
Lori Schlenker	Newsletter Assistant Editor
Lynn Jones	Assoc. Editor Book Reviews
Leslie Skibinski	SPNHC Leaflets
Tim White	Special Projects Editor
<u>CF Editorial Board</u>	
Richard Rabeler	Chair
Barbara Brown	Ann Molineux
Susan Butts	Cindy Ramotnik

Recognition and Grants Committee

Richard Rabeler	Chair
Suzanne B. McLaren	

Professional Development Committee

Richard Sabin	Co-chair
Jeff Stephenson	Co-chair
Elena Benamy	
Lori Benson	Robert Huxley
Linda Hollenberg	Mariko Kageyama
Bushra Hussaini	Lindsay Woodruff

SPNHC Web Site

Ann Molineux	Chair
Liath Appleton	Assistant Web Master
Lori Benson	Jane Mygatt
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Richard Rabeler
Bushra Hussaini	Janet Waddington
James Macklin	Tim White

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES**Ethics**

Linda S. Ford	Chair
Jennifer Doubt	
Kelly Goulette	
Tim White	

Mentorship

Andy Bentley	Chair
Carol Butler	
Susan H. Butts	Lisa F. Palmer
Lydia M. Garetano	Bethany Palumbo
Chris Norris	Clare Valentine

ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION

American Inst. Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC): Jude Southward
 American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH): Greg Watkins-Colwell
 American Society of Mammalogists (ASM): Suzanne B. McLaren
 American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT): Richard Rabeler
 Geological Society of America (GSA): Ann Molineux
 Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF): James Macklin
 Heritage Preservation & Heritage Emergency National Task Force: Cathy Hawks
 Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums Count: Suzanne B. McLaren
 International Council of Museums – Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC): vacant
 International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER): Carol Butler
 Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA): Clare Valentine, Miranda Lowe
 Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA): Robert Gropp
 Paleontological Society: Jessica D. Cundiff
 Registrars' Committee, AAM: Crystal Boyd
 Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC): Richard Rabeler
 Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG): James Macklin

Minutes of the Secretary: 2011

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

27 May 2011

Hotel Kabuki

San Francisco, CA, USA

Members Present: 70 members in attendance

Call to order: The President called the meeting to order at 10:37 am.

Call for Proxies: 3 proxies were held by members and 2 by the Secretary.

1. Agenda

Motion: To accept the agenda.

Moved: G. Levin; Seconded: A. Molineux

Carried

2. Minutes

Motion: To accept the minutes of the 2010 Annual Business Meeting.

Moved: D. Trock; Seconded: A. Bentley

Carried

3. Treasurer's Report: Changes to 2010 budget noted:

Line 14 Transfer from future publication fund to \$77,710

Total Income 2010 to \$100,625

Line 40 to \$5,000

Line 44 to \$9,025

Line 51 to \$3,600

Line 53 to \$18,000

Line 54 to \$1,500

Total Expenses to \$100,625

Motion: To accept the report of the Treasurer and 2011 budget as amended.

Moved: C. Norris; Seconded: J. DeMouthe

Carried

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

Moved: R. Rabeler; Seconded: C. Valentine

Carried

4. **President's Report:** J-M Gagnon reviewed the year's successes such as publication of the book, "Health and Safety for Museum Professionals". He thanks those members who contribute to the running of the Society and encouraged others to "look for what interests you and please offer to help...there's plenty of room for new people. He expressed his thanks to the Local Organizing Committee for a great opportunity to get together.

5. Standing Committee Reports

- a) **Archives:** see written report in ABM package.
- b) **Best Practices:** will have sessions at next meeting as foundation of a topical white paper.
- c) **Bylaws:** see written report in ABM package. Motion on bylaws changes to follow.
- d) **Conference:** Have great plans but always interested in new venues and new ideas.
- e) **Conservation:** Please consider bringing Resource Display Units to other conferences.
- f) **Documentation:**
- g) **Elections:** Welcomes M. Kageyama and G. Anderson as new Members-at-Large. Opens nominations until end of August for President-Elect, Secretary and 2 Members-at-Large. Notes increase in votes with electronic ballot. Please keep your email up-to-date. This year's election will be exclusively on-line.
- h) **Finance:** see written report in ABM package.
- i) **Legislation and Regulations:** Thanks Andy Bentley for his hard work on achieving Special Provision A180 within IATA regulations TDG for fluid-preserved specimens.
- j) **Long-Range Planning:** White paper will come to all members, please contribute.
- k) **Membership:** L. Palmer has stepped down, E. Benamy will serve as interim chair, invites new members and a new chair for committee

- l) **Professional Development:** Committee helping to ease winners of Fitzgerald Travel Grant into the Society. Thanks A. Neill for another successful DemoCamp. Brainstorming a new leaflet series to help borrowers properly return loans.
- m) **Publications:** Buy the H&S book! We are exploring electronic publication. Please consider publishing your talk from the meeting in Collection Forum or the Newsletter.
- n) **Recognition & Grants:** see written report in ABM package.
- o) **SPNHC Website**
Thanks J. Macklin for all his hard work as committee chair in the past, and C. Norris, L. Palmer, B. Brown for help with “teething problems” on the new site. Please send in content.

6. Sessional Committee Reports

- a) **Ethics:** Considering individual documents on hot topics such as private collections, etc.
- b) **Mentorship:** Welcomes this year’s Fitzgerald Travel Grant winner E. Freeman, notes that other awardee unable to travel to this year’s meeting. His grant will be deferred until next year. A 2 week fellowship at the Smithsonian has been secured to provide both a professional opportunity and the necessary additional funds. Working on international node program.

7. Representatives to other societies

See written reports in ABM package.

8. New Business

- a) President’s Award presentation to Andy Bentley
E. Benamy introduces the award. A. Bentley accepts with a short speech.
- b) Carolyn Rose Award presentation to John Simmons
S. Shelton introduces the award. T. White reads remarks of thanks sent by J. Simmons.
- c) Changes to SPNHC Bylaws: J. Price reviewed the proposed changes.

Motion: To accept the proposed changes to the bylaws of the Society.

Moved: R. Rabeler

Carried

- d) Upcoming Meetings: update Yale 11-16 June 2012
- e) Upcoming Meetings: Invitation from Museum of Geology and Paleontology Research Laboratory, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, SD for May 2013, in conjunction with the 10th Conference on Fossil Resources.

Motion: To accept the invitation to meet in 2013 at the Museum of Geology and Paleontology Research Laboratory, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, SD, USA.

Moved: J. Stephenson; Seconded: E. Benamy

Carried

9. Old Business

10. Announcements

Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG) annual conference October 16-21, 2011 at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel in New Orleans, LA, USA. (H. Bart)

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: R. Huxley

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Judith C. Price
Secretary, SPNHC

Report of the Treasurer

In 2011, the Society's total net assets decreased to \$ 180,115 from a total of \$188,119 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2011 totaled \$203,127. Operating income was generated from two sources: membership dues, and publication sales. Approximately \$21,240 in membership dues was received. Sales of our six publications brought in approximately \$18,560. A total of \$15,960 donations were received.

Seventy subscribers and 428 individuals, institutional, corporate and student members renewed their membership in the calendar year 2011. Of the 515 active SPNHC members, 82 joined for the first time.

Major expenses for the Society in 2011 were \$6,675 for two issues of the SPNHC Newsletter, \$21,605 for Collection Forum 24 and 25, \$6,325 towards the Website, \$22,490 towards the Health and Safety volume, \$1,700 for Logo and Pamphlets, and \$1,000 for the travel grant. Election expenses including printing and mailing of the ballots came to \$328 and \$3,829 for the SPNHC booth.

Additional expenses include approximately \$150 for annual dues in Heritage Preservation, \$300 for reprinting Museum Studies and \$1,050 for the Preventative volume, \$750 for Rachael Arenstein to travel to 2011 Pest Odyssey Conference. The Treasurer's Office incurred the following expenses: \$3,190 for insurance, \$90 for P.O. Box rental, approximately \$800 in merchant fees, \$4,150 for the 2010 financial review, tax preparation and filing.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments lost approximately \$1,950 in value and our money market and CD earned approximately \$1,428 in dividends and interest.

The first part of 2012 has seen good income activity. Thus far, approximately \$15,335 has been received from membership renewals, including 1 Life, 65 library/subscriptions, 329 individual, student, associate/institutional and corporate members. Thus far 82 new members have joined in 2012. One hundred and forty-six members who paid in 2011 have yet to renew in 2012. Please pay your dues on time.

In the first quarter of 2012 sales of all our publications total \$4,385. We have received \$25 in unrestricted donations. Thank you.

Expenses thus incurred in FY2011 include \$150 for Heritage Preservation dues, \$94 for P.O. Box rental, \$4,000 for Newsletter 26(1), and approximately \$400 in merchant fees. At the time of the writing of this report the financial review was being performed. SPNHC has paid \$1500 as a retainer to The Burdette Smith Group. The Society anticipates expenses related to publications, web redesign and the trade show booth.

Please contact the SPNHC Treasurer for further details.

For their help throughout the year, we would like to extend thanks to Andy Bentley (University of Kansas), Judith Price (Canadian Museum of Nature), Rich Rabeler (University of Michigan), Kelly Sendall (Royal British Columbia Museum), Chris Norris and Susan Butts (Yale University) and again Lisa Palmer for the many phone calls and emails this past year. The American Museum of Natural History, Department of Ichthyology provided general office support for the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Brown, Treasurer

For the 2011 financial review please see the Appendix.

FY2011 and FY2012 Donations

as of 30 April 2012

Gerald Fitzgerald

Gay Hunter

Barbara Brown

Anita Cholewa

Barbara Thiers

Margaret Reilly

Scott Thomas

Jacqueline Zak

Janet Waddington

Jean DeMouthe

Lisa Goldberg

Arnold Suzumoto

Mary Spencer Jones

John Dunphy

Janet O'Donnell

Maggie O'Reilly

Thank You.

**FY 2011 SPNHC Operating Budget
Final
01 January –31 December 2011**

	INCOME	Projected	Realized
1	Dues @ \$20, \$35, \$45, \$65, \$300	\$17,000	\$19,965
2	Life Members @\$875	\$875	\$1,275
3	Book Sales, Storage vol. 1	\$1,000	\$380
4	Book Sales, Storage vol. 2	\$1,000	\$1,521
5	Book Sales, Managing Herbarium	\$200	\$257
6	Book Sales, MuseumWise	\$100	\$114
7	Book Sales, Museum Studies Memorial	\$1,000	\$116
8	Collection Forum Page Charges	\$100	\$1,000
9	Mailing List Sales	\$350	\$0
10	Unrestricted Donations	\$250	\$270
11	Operating Account Interest	\$40	\$1
12	Advertising in Newsletter	\$0	\$150
13	Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$0	\$11,200
14	Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$79,710	\$19,965
15	Book Sales Health and Safety	\$1,000	\$16,171
	TOTAL INCOME	\$102,625	\$72,385
	EXPENSES	Projected	Realized
16	Archives Committee	\$500	\$150
17	Recognition and Grants Committee	\$250	\$0
18	Faber Research Grant	\$1,000	\$0
19	Bylaws Committee	\$100	\$0
20	Conference Committee	\$100	\$0
21	Conservation Committee	\$100	\$0
22	Refurbish Resource Display Unit (US & CDN)	\$100	\$0
23	Shipping Resource Display Unit	\$100	\$0
24	Documentation Committee	\$100	\$0
25	Professional Development Committee	\$100	\$0
26	Election Committee	\$450	\$80
27	Finance Committee	\$100	\$0
28	Membership Committee	\$650	\$2,550
29	President's Contingency Fund	\$1,000	\$500
30	Publication Committee	\$100	\$1,465
31	Collection Forum 24(1&2)	\$10,000	\$9,605
32	Collection Forum 25(1&2)	\$12,000	12000
33	Support for Managing Editor	\$2,000	\$0
34	Newsletter 25(1) + inserts	\$2,700	\$3,275
35	Newsletter 25(2) + inserts	\$2,700	\$3,400
36	Treasurer's Office	\$500	\$0
37	P.O. Box rental	\$250	\$90
38	Postage & Shipping	\$2,000	\$55
39	Treasurer's Office Support	\$3,000	\$0
40	FY 2010 CPA Financial Review/Tax Prep & File	\$5,000	\$4,510
41	Insurance	\$3,200	\$3,190
42	Merchant Card fees (Operating Account)	\$550	\$800
43	Society Business: Heritage Preservation fees	\$150	\$150
44	Web Committee	\$9,025	\$6,325
45	Best Practices Committee	\$1,000	\$0
46	Executive Contingency Fund	\$3,000	\$0
47	Sessional Committee Mentorship	\$1,000	\$0
48	Fitzgerald Travel Grant	\$3,200	\$1,000
49	Annual Meeting Loan	\$3,000	\$0
50	Sessional Committee Ethics	\$1,500	\$0
51	Copy Editing and Layout Safety Book	\$3,600	\$4,200
52	Group Committee Meeting	\$9,000	\$0
53	Printing of H&S book	\$18,000	\$18,290
54	Pest Odyssey II	\$1,500	\$750
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$102,625	\$72,385

FY 2012 SPNHC Operating Budget
01 January –31 December 2012
 (as of 10 May 2012)

	INCOME	Projected	Realized
1	Dues @ \$20, \$35, \$45, \$65, \$300	\$17,000	\$15,355
2	Life Members @\$875	\$875	\$875
3	Book Sales, Storage vol. 1	\$1,000	\$350
4	Book Sales, Storage vol. 2	\$1,000	\$850
5	Book Sales, Managing Herbarium	\$200	\$150
6	Book Sales, MuseumWise	\$100	\$70
7	Book Sales, Museum Studies Memorial	\$1,000	\$195
8	Collection Forum Page Charges	\$100	\$0
9	Mailing List Sales	\$150	\$0
10	Unrestricted Donations	\$250	\$25
11	Operating Account Interest	\$40	\$1
12	Advertising in Newsletter	\$700	\$150
13	Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$0	\$0
14	Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$33,335	\$0
15	Book Sales Health and Safety	\$5,000	\$6,420
16	Repayment of Annual Meeting Loan	\$3,000	\$0
	TOTAL INCOME	\$63,750	\$24,441
	EXPENSES	Projected	Realized
17	Archives Committee	\$500	\$0
18	Recognition and Grants Committee	\$250	\$0
19	Faber Research Grant	\$1,000	\$0
20	Bylaws Committee	\$100	\$0
21	Conference Committee	\$100	\$0
22	Conservation Committee	\$100	\$0
23	Refurbish Resource Display Unit (US & CDN)	\$100	\$0
24	Shipping Resource Display Unit	\$100	\$0
25	Documentation Committee	\$100	\$0
26	Professional Development Committee	\$100	\$0
27	Election Committee	\$400	\$0
28	Finance Committee	\$100	\$0
29	Membership Committee	\$5,000	\$0
30	President's Contingency Fund	\$1,000	\$0
31	Publication Committee	\$500	\$0
32	Collection Forum 26(1&2)	\$12,000	\$0
33	Support for Managing Editor	\$1,000	\$0
34	Newsletter 26(1) + inserts	\$3,000	\$4,000
35	Newsletter 26(2) + inserts	\$2,500	\$0
36	Treasurer's Office	\$500	\$0
37	P.O. Box rental	\$100	\$94
38	Postage & Shipping	\$1,000	\$37
39	FY 2010 CPA Financial Review/Tax Prep & File	\$5,000	\$1,500
40	Insurance	\$3,200	\$0
41	Merchant Card fees (Operating Account)	\$550	\$416
42	Society Business: Heritage Preservation fees	\$150	\$150
43	Web Committee	\$5,000	\$175
44	Best Practices Committee	\$100	\$0
45	Executive Contingency Fund	\$3,000	\$0
46	Sessional Committee Mentorship	\$100	\$0
47	Fitzgerald Travel Grant	\$5,000	\$5,000
48	Annual Meeting Loan	\$3,000	\$0
49	Sessional Committee Ethics	\$100	\$0
50	Group Committee Meeting	\$9,000	\$8,690
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$63,750	\$20,062

New Memberships Received in 2011

Institutional Members

Karen Kosasa	Melissa Islam
Julie Risser	Sharain Jones
Keely Carroll	David Schindel
Trini Sorensen	Serge Gauthier
Keely Rennie-Tucker	Jennifer Ramp Neale

Regular Members

Austin Mast	Carolyn Ferguson	Ronald Hartman
Sheldon Teare	Mark Mayfield	Phil Tonne
Julia Jacobs	Alana Gishlick	Liath Appleton
Molly Gleeson	Laura Eklund	Brandi Coyner
Rebecca Newberry	Bob Bandringa	Liz Danner
Colleen Carter	Talia Karim	Rebecca Desjardins
Robert Capers	Nickson Otieno	Barbara Gates
Roxie Hites	Christiane Quaisser	Amy Gramsey
Andrew Haycock	Janet Bala	Johanna Pirtinheimo
Tamaki Yuri	Christine Johnson	David Stemmer
Patrick Campbell	Kimberly Huntzinger	Marian Tanuz
Jonathen Ablett	Annette Garigan	Elizabeth Zacharias
Meredith Mahoney	Catherine Thomas	Roger Colton
Richard Schleicher	Emma Freeman	Rebekah DeAngelo
Frances Hayden	Patricia Coorough	Meredith Rivin
Barbara Thiers	Amanda Harbottle	Lil Stevens
Zack Murrell	Jacqueline Zak	Ann Trapaga
Angela Linn	R. Resser	Janaki Krishna
Peter Grant	Tim Lowery	

Library/Subscription Members

Keith Manthie

Student Members

Eileen Kennedy	Athena Smith
Paige Bardolph	Andrea Thomer
Taormina Lepore	Russell Dornan
Rachel Sargent	Leila Siciliano
Mireia Beas Moix	Sarah Timm
Shanan Smiley	Gina Allnatt
Victoria Wilke	Teri Barry
Giovanna Fregni	

New Memberships Received in 2012

Institutional Members

Stephanie Wezowicz
Christopher Puttock
Amy Gramsey
Raquel Perez
Patricia Roath
Gina Gould
Anne Charpentier
Camille Breeze

Regular Members

Deborah Shepard
Floyd Schockley
Penny Benson
Shuseng Hu
Donna Ruhl
Mary Ann Feist
Monica Tischler
Carl Franklin
Emma Sherlock
Gail Beiner
Heidi Mead
Bruno Pouliot
Taylor Donaldson
Julia Blyth
Dina Clark
Natalina Bonassera
Gisella Campanelli
Angela Thompson
Lindsay Palaima
Elizabeth Peterson
Violeta Mayen
Jacqualine Grant

Carol Kelloff
Maureen Zubowski
Ann Shaftel
Maura Flannery
Jody Ullmann
Chris Huddleston
Ellen Bloch
Dorothy Allard
C. Robert Lombardi
Melissa Tulig
Stephen Gottschalk
Richard Carter
Sarah Bunn
Catharine Webb
Elizabeth Homberger
Breda Zimkus
Thierry Deroin
Deborah Paul
Donna Asencio
Elin Ohlsson
Lawrence Brook
Christina Mozzicato

Anthony Kirschgessner
Benito Santos
Nichole Tiernan
Kimberly Watson
Rose Sablon
Nicole Tarnowsky
Michael Bevans
Una Farrell
Jessica Utrup
Amy Covell
Kyle Hogue
Andrew Williston
Nathan Utrup
Brenda Wichmann
Sheila Dumesh
Cory Sheffield
Adelaide Sallema
Mark Florence
Jovita Yesilyurt
Denise Laneve
Genevieve Lewis-Gentry
Nikolaj Scharff

Student Members

Nicholas Famoso
Julia Sybalsky
Curtis Schmidt
Natalie Jones
Haley O'Brien

Richard Allman Levy
Claire Wilbert
Randy Singer
Kristin Harrison

Report of the President

Updated from the March 2012 Newsletter:

Once again, the Annual Meeting gives us an opportunity to review our progress and challenges within our Society and in our field of work, natural history collections management and conservation.

As we now stand midway into 2012, I hope you were able to attend the 27th SPNHC Annual Meeting at Yale, in New Haven, CT (if you are reading this while attending the ABM, that's a *fait accompli*). This year, the subject of the conference, *Emerging Technology and Innovation in Natural History Collections Management*, provides another opportunity for sharing new information on a variety of aspects of natural history collection management and conservation. As I write this report, I am confident that it will have been an excellent meeting and the perfect opportunity to present your recent findings and learn more about your colleagues' work. You'll find out more about the conference at <http://peabody.yale.edu/collections/spnhc2012> and in the next issue of the Newsletter.

And with this year's meeting comes a change of presidency for SPNHC; two years have gone by so quickly. Chris Norris steps in as our new President at the Annual Business Meeting (June 15, 2012) in New Haven. Joining the team as President-Elect is Andy Bentley, which means that he will follow Chris Norris as President in 2014. I also want to welcome our two newest Members-at-Large: Richard Sabin and Greg Watkins-Colwell. Their three-year mandate starts at the Second Council Meeting in New Haven. Judith Price has been re-elected as Secretary and we have a newly-appointed Treasurer, Ruth O'Leary. Congratulations to all.

Of course, this periodic partial renewal of Council is always accompanied by the departure of some members (albeit, never going too far...). Rich Rabeler goes back to being a "regular member" after his 6-year cycle of presidency. Barbara Brown has served as Treasurer for six years. Thanks so much to both of you for your hard work, dedication and patience. Debra Trock finishes her 3-year term as Member-at-Large; thanks for your continuous support, especially while having the "self-inflicted pleasure" of organizing last year's annual meeting.

Getting together at Yale is an opportunity to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Society and in some cases, our profession. This year, we present the Carolyn L. Rose Award to Cathy Hawks, Tim White receives the President's Award, and Barbara Brown and Lisa Elkin receive the Special Service Award.

Otherwise, it seems like this past year was a lot quieter than the previous. True or not, I suspect that for me, not having to deal with issues resulting from the organization of the 2010 conference had something to do with it. But I also think that the global economic situation may have made many of us a bit reclusive, worrying more about issues at home and in our respective workplaces. This is certainly the case here in Ottawa where major waves of layoffs at the federal level are looming over our heads as I write these lines. Still, I fervently believe that the only way we can make decision-makers realize the importance of and invest in natural history collections and our work therein is to stand strong together. More than ever, we need to be seen and heard and it is not by retreating in our offices, labs and collection rooms that we can make ourselves indispensable. Your involvement within SPNHC, not just within the Council but within our many committees is one important way of making a difference. Anything that makes SPNHC stronger will make us all stronger. It is nice to say that SPNHC will continue to represent us and work collaboratively with other like-minded organizations to make sure that our voice is heard. But the plain reality is that SPNHC is us; it can only get things done if we each get involved and get things done for SPNHC.

SPNHC employs a number of approaches to serve its members and represent us. One way is through publications such the Newsletter, Collection Forum and specialized books. For instance, the launch of the book *Health and Safety for Museum Professionals* last summer was very well received, with a good review from ICOM (ICOM News 2011, Vol. 64, No. 3, p. 22) and an excellent one from the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (JOEM 2012, Vol. 54, No. 1, pp. 109-110). The new SPNHC Website presents a very professional and functional window into our Society. It also includes a new membership database with the convenience of being able to sign up or renew your membership on-line. Over time, we will continue to explore the potential to establish regional nodes to better serve our members outside North America. Again, none of these approaches can easily become a reality without your involvement.

Of course, SPNHC's Annual Meeting is our most interactive mean of reaching out and communicating. In that respect, the Conference Committee has worked hard over the past few years to develop an exciting program. You already know that in 2013, we will be in Rapid City, South Dakota, where we'll experience some of the most incredible natural environment and man-made scenery; the conference program is already coming together and promises to be an exciting one. As well, it looks like the conference calendar is filled until 2017. Unfortunately, we

cannot disclose the locations yet, some of which will assuredly be outside North America, until we have received confirmations and proposals have been presented to the membership.

Finally, the work done by members of our various committees and the collaborations we establish with organizations such as NSC Alliance and AIC, to name only a couple, remain a critical part of how we make a difference. The development of a Strategic Plan for the Society, a key initiative led by Chris Norris, will ensure that this collective effort is purposefully directed at better servicing our members and our profession. Many volunteers are making this possible, and so I hope you will join the team.

Have a great summer and see you soon!

Jean-Marc Gagnon

Standing Committee Reports

Archives

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.

PROCEDURE

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

CURRENT WORK

Archival supplies have been obtained (via purchase or gift) to properly house the material now being held by the committee. This material is currently being prepared for deposit in SIA.

Committee Members:

Linda Hollenberg, Chair

Lisa Palmer

Best Practices

The BP committee has been reaching out to other committees to encourage them to develop relevant best practices. Both the Documentation and Conservation committees are promoting best practices in a variety of contexts. For example, the Documentation committee continues to build on the work of previous intern Melissa Barton and the members are identifying new areas to explore for best practice development. Marcy Revelez (Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History) has again posted for a summer intern to work off the SNOMNH NSF grant to rehouse and incorporate the University of Memphis mammal collections, demonstrating a great partnership opportunity. We encourage other members to consider these kinds of opportunities to work together and help build interest in a new generation of collection professionals.

This summer at the World Congress in Herpetology/Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists held in Vancouver BC, largely through the efforts of Greg Watkins-Colwell of Yale University, SPNHC will be co-sponsoring a session: "Technology and Innovation in Herpetology and Ichthyology Collections." Janet Braun and Marcy Revelez are planning a session at the American Society of Mammalogists in 2013, and Tim White and Bruce Lieberman (University of Kansas) are planning symposiums at the Geological Society of America in 2013 and at the International Paleontological Congress in 2014. Again, more ideas welcome.

In the Fall, the new NSF Advancing Digitization for Biological Collections (ADBC) program announced that the iDigBio proposal was to be funded as the HUB for managing the massive digitization effort. The BP Committee has

been in discussion with the leaders of this important initiative and expressed interest in collaborating to develop and publish best practices in this area.

At the SPNHC 2012 annual meeting, the Committee is hosting several best practice sessions and are partners with several organizations on the development of these topical sessions. The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), Council for Library and Information Resources (CLIR) and the NSF sponsored digitization initiative iDigBio are co-sponsoring the following sessions: Storage of Museum Collections (AIC), Preventative Conservation (AIC), Archives and Special Collections (CLIR), and Digitization & Mobilization (iDigBio). In addition we are hosting a session on Cryo-collections, which is being sponsored by the Smithsonian's natural history museum. We have also identified several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that will complement our topical sessions and offer an opportunity to promote different avenues for development.

Sincerely, your Co-chairs:

Tim White

Yale Peabody Museum

James Macklin

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Bylaws

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

Bylaws: The revisions to Articles IV, V, VI, and VII of the Society Bylaws proposed last year were approved at 2011 Annual Business Meeting. No new issues were brought to the attention of the committee this year.

Leadership Manual: The committee is responsible for keeping the Leadership Manual current. Unfortunately, the goal of completing the revision of the Leadership Manual this year was *not* met. I sent a message to committee chairs on 16 November, asking them for revisions and giving them a suggested template to follow; by the 31 December deadline, responses from five of the sixteen standing committees were received. I feel that it would be in the best interest of Society operations to keep this document current, with recurrent tasks expressed in a timeline, and the text circulated to committee chairs for annual review. We need cooperation from the chairs for this to be realized.

One goal for 2012-2013 should be to synchronize the text of the Leadership Manual kept by the secretary and that displayed on the website.

R.K. Rabeler, Chair

Conference

The 2012 meeting, to be held at Yale, promises to be one of the largest meetings held by the Society to date; at the time of writing, over 350 participants had registered, with more coming.

The Society's schedule of future meetings is looking particularly healthy. In addition to the invitations already received from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (2013) and the National Museum of Wales (2014), we now have invitations in hand from the University of Florida (2015) and the Humboldt Ring institutions in Germany, for a meeting in Berlin (2016). With discussions also in progress for a prospective North American venue in 2017, this is a very healthy state of affairs for the Society.

An updated version of the Committee profile for the Leadership Manual was circulated to Committee members for comment in late 2011, and work continues on the draft Policies and Guidelines for Planning and Conducting Annual Meetings. The Committee's efforts at this year's Annual meeting will be focused on the role of annual meetings in fulfilling the goals of the Society's draft strategic plan. This will be my last meeting chairing the Conference Committee; I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their support over the past two years and pass on my best wishes to my successor, Andy Bentley.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Norris, Committee Chair

Conservation

General Information:

Gretchen Anderson attended the Strategic Planning session led by Chris Norris at Yale University, February 27- 29, 2012. Discussion included how to make standards and best practice documents more easily available to the membership and to the general public. This is an area where the Conservation Committee can help. The focus over the next year will be in developing best practices for distribution to the membership and the general public.

In line with the Societies strategic planning initiatives, the committee chairs are exploring improved methods to integrate our projects into that of the Societies. To achieve this we are planning to work more closely with the Best Practices and Web Committees, making sure that the work we do in subcommittees reaches the membership and the public. With this in mind, we are currently working at increasing the size of the Conservation Committee. Please contact the co-chairs if you are interested in joining the committee or if you are faced with

conservation/preservation challenges that need to be looked at. You do not have to be a conservator to be part of the committee! In the past year, 5 new members have joined and are already working towards our goals.

Conservation Advocates: Conservation and preservation queries to NHCOLL-L have been answered and discussed promptly and thoughtfully by SPNHC members. There is a wealth of information amongst our membership, and we generously share our knowledge and experience. In accordance with strategic planning the committee is looking at models to produce web-based documents on the standards and best practices for a wider audience.

Emergency Planning: No one contacted the chair regarding examples this year. There are several online classes available for plan preparation, new publications and user-friendly guides. There have been several emergencies at museums in recent years underscoring the ongoing need for updated emergency plans. If your collection needs guidance or would like to see some examples, please contact Gretchen Anderson.

Subcommittee Reports

Resource Display Units (RDU) Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: (US) Cindy Ramotnik ramotnik@unm.edu

(Canada) Kelly Sendall KSENDALL@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

The US Resources Display has been well used this year. It traveled to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, PA in October 2011 where it was displayed at a Preservation Fair developed to connect the community to local preservation specialists. In April 2012, the resources display was shipped to Utah for the grand opening of a new natural history museum, the Garth and Jerri Frehner Museum of Natural History at the Southern Utah University. This was the first time the display “opened” for a museum and we hope the displays are involved in other novel uses in the future. The display will be at the 2012 SPNHC Annual Meeting at Yale University in New Haven, CT.

There has been no activity with the Canadian Resources Display in the past year. We investigated the possibility of exhibiting at two upcoming venues the American Ornithological Union, and American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists to be held at the University of British Columbia in August 2012. However, the cost for a booth at each of these venues was prohibitive – ranging from \$2500 – 5000.

The Resources Displays have traditionally been a valuable resource for the membership. The displays pull together conservation-grade products useful in the storage and display of our collections and provide the membership with both a quick reference and a place to actually see and touch the materials. The Committee has long recognized that the displays, in their present configuration, have limitations. In addition we would like to make them available to a more international audience, that is, beyond the North American membership. The obstacles to this include the cost of international shipping, language barriers, and the need to use local museum supplies and materials. This is particularly challenging when the requestor is from a developing country.

To this end the US resources display will remain at Yale after the annual meeting so that products can be reviewed and updated and the display can be digitized. Tim White will oversee this process as part of Yale’s collections move project. The final product will be available through the SPNHC website, making the display more user-friendly and accessible to the international community. Members in other countries will be able to access a digitized version, add local materials, and create resource lists specific to the region. The specifics of how to do this will need to be worked out and chairs will be in contact with the web committee to see how this can move forward.

In addition, the Resource Displays are looking a little dated at this point. The resource lists have not been updated since 2000 (Canadian) and 2006 (US). The Displays are used to both inform our colleagues and to publicize the Society, so they should be both accurate and have a contemporary appearance. This will be explored as move towards a digital format.

General information on both the U.S and Canadian Resources Displays is available at <http://www.spnhc.org/49>. The product/vendor list for both the US and the Canadian Displays are found through following the .pdf link in the side bar. If you are interested in finding out more about the Resources Displays or to request a loan for collections-based meetings, conferences, and workshops, please contact Cindy or Kelly on the SPNHC website. Also, if you have a suggestion regarding content please let us know.

Historic Adhesives Subcommittee

Chair: Rebecca Morin (RMorin@calacademy.org)

The goal of the Historic Adhesives project is to gather information on the adhesives commonly used in natural history museums and collections. This information was often not written down, or if it was it is not easily accessible today. Much of the data is locked in the institutional memory of older generations of preparators. We need to begin gathering it before it is lost forever. A survey form will be developed to systematically mine the institutional memory from preparators and other sources so that we can have a move forward in gathering this data.

A team lead by Rebecca Morin and composed of interns at the California Academy have compiled a literature review. They are now in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of adhesives (brand names as well as types or varieties of adhesives) in order to craft the survey, which will be designed to systematically mine the institutional memory from preparators, and other sources so that we can have a move forward in gathering this data.

While little work on the project has been done this past year, Rebecca plans to forge ahead with renewed vigour this year.

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

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

The original goal of this committee was to compile research on the possibility of extracting DNA from formalin fixed specimens. The role of this subcommittee was to track progress in this area and to encourage and foster connections that would further this work. In 2010, Richard Sabin, The Natural History Museum (NHM) organized a two-day meeting at the NHM focussing on the issues surrounding destructive sampling, responsible and sustainable use of collections and extraction of DNA from formalin-fixed material. The meeting consisted of an afternoon meeting held at the Linnaean Society entitled "Sequencing the Red and the Dead" with a workshop "Unlocking and Developing collections for Genomic Research". www.linnean.org.

However, at this time the co-chairs feel that resolution of the subject will take extensive collaboration with private enterprise and a lot of money. This will not happen in the near future. Based on communications from Richard and Andy, the Committee recommends that we take a hiatus from this subject until some future date once these issues have been resolved.

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

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

The committee chair is collecting examples of images and case studies of damage to different collections from colleagues at the Natural History Museum and the IPM-UK group. At this point he has gathered a number of well documented cases, and is anticipating more to come. This will help establish the kind of photographic and related documentation we can expect to be available. Work to establish the requirements for an SPNHC web site documenting kinds of, and extents of damage, to specimens has yet to begin.

Mendez has informed the IPM committee at the Natural History Museum (London) and the IPM-UK working group about the project and asked them to send examples of damage to different collections. He has also received 6 well documented cases from curators within the museum that include photographs. A renewed effort to gather more cases and develop a consistent format to present the information is under way.

Food Policy Subcommittee

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

This is a new subcommittee formed since the last SPNHC meeting. The purpose of this subcommittee is to create useful strategies for best practices for the presence of food in museums. We all are faced with this issue. Food service in museums is profitable and necessary to keep our visitors satisfied. Museum staff and visitors bring food in for their own consumption. The presence of food brings its own risks, not the least of which increased pest threat. As we find ourselves increasingly pressured to open more food service, have more events, etc. to meet the bottom line, we also need to meet our commitments to best practices for collections care. Bethany Palumbo and Rebecca

Newberry agreed to take this challenge on and have developed an outline for a best practices document. They also plan to write a white paper with case studies showing both problematic and successful food experiences in museums." We are planning to have a preliminary outline by the time of the June meeting in New Haven.

Environmental Specifications and Museum Sustainability Subcommittee

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

This is a new subcommittee. Its goal is to be a forum for natural history preservation professionals to compare information on environmental specification and museum sustainability or greening initiatives. The specific goals are to

- Follow initiatives to revise long standing environmental specifications for general collections e.g. various AIC meetings, CCI meetings, ASHRAE initiatives
- Clarify specific preservation requirements for natural history collections
- Document and disseminate practical approaches taken by various natural history institutions to reduce costs and energy associated with good environmental control, while minimizing the risk to natural history materials e.g. various approaches to "zoning", assess experiments with cycling environmental controls off during the night

The chairs plan to write a SPNHC Newsletter article within the next year, summarizing the current initiatives being discussed by various preservation organizations to reconsider long standing environmental specification for general collections e.g. AIC, CAC, Europe and how they relate to natural history collections.

Respectfully submitted

Gretchen Anderson and Rob Waller, co-chairs

Documentation

The migration of the SPNHC listserve (NHColl) from ListProc to MailMan is completed. Membership numbers have not been reported recently, but will hopefully be available at the annual meeting. A keyword list is being compiled by the Citations subcommittee, and will be used to establish basic searchability tools for the list serve archive.

Standardized documents, including a SPNHC Acquisition Checklist and the Collection Assessment Survey Checklist are ready to be uploaded onto the website. The contents of the resources tab for posting documents is still being prepared, pending further consultation with the Best Practices and Web Committees.

The Citations Subcommittee still plans to upload a searchable database of all citations (including Collections Forum) as soon as the new SPNHC website is ready to accept it. The word bank is nearing completion. Margaret has just identified a new feature in the newest version of EndNote that should make it easier to eventually include all citations in past newsletters and journals (not just those submitted by the Citations subcommittee). This database will make it easier for members to access relevant references, especially older ones that are hard to find elsewhere on the internet.

The Documentation Committee continues to work closely with the Best Practices Committee (and hopefully soon with the Web Committee) in continuing to produce resources available to SPNHC members (and possibly the general public) concerning best practices, policies, and procedures relating to natural history museums. A list of general topics has been compiled, and the Best Practices Intern from 2010 made excellent headway on compiling information pertaining to Registration and Ethical/Legal Issues. Each topic will be surveyed by the committee with the purpose of providing resources to the museum community via the website. The committee looks forward to working with other standing committees and SPNHC members to accomplish these goals. The Mammalogy Department at the SNM (Norman, OK) has dedicated a portion of their NSF-funded intern (James Douglas) to continue to assist with pulling together information for this project, beginning the summer of 2012.

Networking with other discipline-related organizations is encouraged to continue in order to enhance communication and share information concerning best practices. If you are interested in advocating at your discipline-related annual meetings, and would like assistance please contact anyone on the committee for information.

The committee would like to thank all of the SPNHC committees for their support on the various projects we have been working on. We are always looking for new members and if you are interested, please contact Marcy Revelez (mrevelez@ou.edu) or Liz Leith (etereba@ou.edu).

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Revelez and Liz Leith (co-chairs)

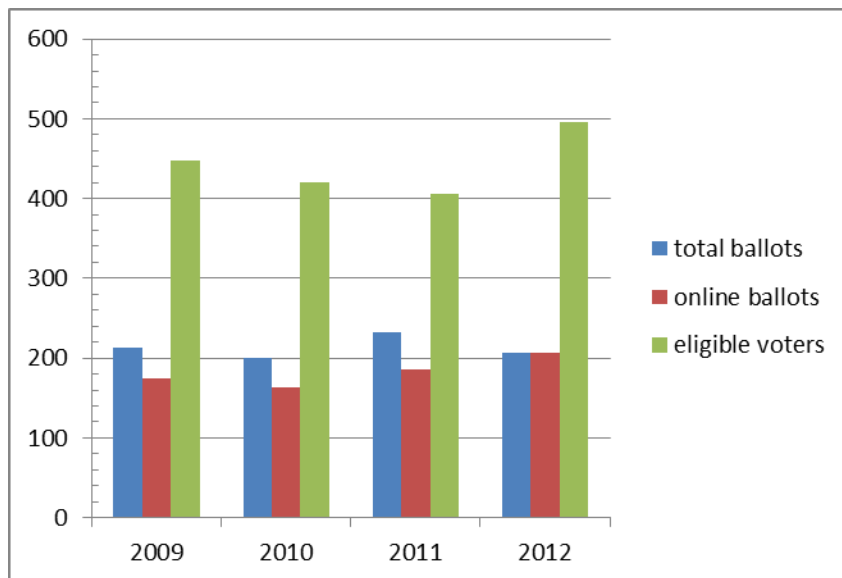
Elections

Elections Online (<http://www.electionsonline.us/>) was used exclusively this year for the first time. Although paper ballots were not available by mail, it was still available as an option in the process of voting online. The fee from Elections Online was \$348.63 Cdn.

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

PRESIDENT-ELECT **Andy Bentley, Ichthyology Collection Manager, Biodiversity Institute, U of Kansas**
SECRETARY **Judith Price, Invertebrate Collection, Canadian Museum of Nature**
MEMBER AT LARGE **Richard Sabin, Senior Curator, Mammal Group, Natural History Museum, London**
MEMBER AT LARGE **Greg Watkins-Colwell, Vertebrate Zoology, Peabody Museum, Yale**

There were 19 nominations received from 9 different members. 5 of the members nominated declined to stand. The election started with an email message sent to all members on a 'voting list' (provided to Elections Online based on the Treasurer's most recent membership list as of July 2011). A few weeks later a reminder email was sent to all members that had not yet voted online. At the close of the election on December 2, 2011 the total number of returned ballots was 206, or 41.6% of the eligible members – a decrease of 15.5% from the previous year. The table below outlines the trends over the last 4 elections.



This election was the 4th in which members could vote online. It was also the first set up to be exclusively online. Although there was a significant increase in the number of eligible voters last year (406 in 2011 to 495 in 2012), the percentage of returned ballots decreased. This is likely due to the problem of incorrect or out of date email addresses for some members. If you did not receive an email at the start of the election please check the member directory on the SPNHC site to be sure what's registered is correct.

Kelly Sendall, Chair, Elections Committee

Finance

The Finance Committee was inactive over the past year.

Rob Waller, Co-chair

Legislation and Regulations

The Legs and Regs people continue
To give SPNHC members a menu
Of dozens of laws
And their proximate cause
And, for each, the appropriate venue.

PERMIT-L gave advice to collectors,
Such as how to appease the inspectors
And which forms need out-filling
(Though the detail's less than thrilling),
And how to work in public sectors.

Andy Bentley led the effort to send
Collections to all without end.
Thanks to him, it's now logical
That most things biological
Will not be seized, burned, shot or binned.

There's still lots of work left to do.
The laws get more complex, so you
Need to know what's required
And how not to get mired
In late apps, filing fees and such goo.

No matter what things you hold dear
The agency message is clear:
If you want to ship Kermit
You must have a permit,
Or the frog will not be allowed here.

Next project: many folks want to know
What the laws say when fossils must go.
From nation to nation
There's huge variation
On sending T. rex on the road.

Or, in the less appealing version:

The Legislation and Regulations Committee continued to provide PERMIT-L as a service to the scientific collecting community. A number of issues arose this year, including CITES validation problems. Permit fees, EC and US Forest Service collecting issues, and the shipment of fluid-preserved collections. Andy Bentley continues to lead the effort to make international shipment of biological specimens sane and safe for all concerned.

The committee has heard from several people who want a compilation of fossil import and export laws worldwide. This effort has not been updated in several years, and the laws from country to country are increasingly unpredictable, with penalties ranging from none at all to capital punishment. The plan is to have a draft of this ready for the 2013 meeting in Rapid City. Interested SPNHC members are encouraged to contact the committee. This will be prepared as an online resource on the SPNHC web page rather than as a printed work.

As of January 2012, Special Provision A 180 was included in the IATA regulations allowing for the international shipment of specimens as non-dangerous goods (providing they are packaged accordingly), while recent communications with IATA and DOT officials indicate that a similar provision is in the works for hand carried and checked baggage specimens – to be ratified in January of 2013. Details will be disseminated as soon as they become available.

Sally Shelton, Chair

Long-Range Planning

In 2011, a White Paper setting out the process for developing a strategic plan for SPNHC was circulated to members for comment with the fall Newsletter. From this starting point, the Committee moved on to developing a Framework document that identified critical elements of the strategic plan. The Framework document was circulated to Committee Members in February 2012 and was discussed at a planning meeting with selected SPNHC committee chairs that took place in New Haven at the end of February, 2012.

Based on discussions at this planning meeting, and subsequent comments from the Committee, a draft Strategic Plan was produced and circulated to SPNHC committee chairs. Chairs were asked to discuss the document with their committee members in advance of the 2012 Annual Meeting and identify actions that their committee could take to deliver the goals of the plan. These actions will be clarified and focused at the Annual Meeting, with a plenary session on Monday, June 11 to allow chairs to discuss any issues arising. Input from committees will be used in the next stage of drafting the plan. This second draft will be circulated to members for comment with the fall 2012 Newsletter. In addition, a short presentation on the plan will be made at the 2012 Annual Business Meeting.

An updated version of the Committee profile for the Leadership Manual was circulated to Committee members for comment in late 2011, with the final version being submitted to the Bylaws Committee at the end of that year.

This will be Chris Norris' final meeting chairing Long Range Planning; he would like to thank his co-Chair, Clare Valentine, and all the members of the Committee for their support over the past two years and passes on his best wishes to his successor, Andy Bentley.

Respectfully submitted
Chris Norris, Clare Valentine
Co-chairs, Long Range Planning Committee

Membership

Thanks to the hard work of former Chairs Lisa Palmer and Elana Benamy, the Membership Committee is involved with the following activities: Membership profiles and biographies of the Fitzgerald Travel Grant recipients for the SPNHC Newsletter; recruitment letters for non-members attending the SPNHC meeting; liaison with the Professional Development Committee; distribution of membership kits to domestic and international undergraduate and graduate museum studies programs; and development and display of the SPNHC tradeshow booth. I thank the Committee for their support and look forward to working with them on these, and future, initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Adrain, Chair

Professional Development

No activity to report.

Richard Sabin, Jeff Stephenson, Co-chairs

Publications

Welcome to our new Book Review Editor, Lynn Jones, from Yale Peabody Museum!

Books

Health and Safety for Museum Professionals

Sales are ongoing, but tepid, so e-distribution is being considered. Note: I have received very few (2!) queries about going digital for it – an important factor for consideration.

E-book packaging: InDesign to ePub and Kindle/mobi Conversion (via Scott and Nix) is quoted at \$11,375, which is prohibitively expensive considering the book sales. We could sell a PDF, which we have. We could pay a student ~\$500 to mark it up.

Amazon: An electronic version of the book can be listed through Amazon for downloading to your Kindle or Kindle app. through Kindle Direct Publishing.

Pros	Cons
70% royalties (managed through the KDP system)	Cuts our overall profit
link to Amazon from our web page	reduced book sales possible (we have already printed 2000 books)
cross-listing with related books	security (for example, KDP allows for 'lending' to your friends and family for 14 days – this would be avoided if we chose a 65% royalty program)
more affordable pricing	

Distribution of printed books: We can list the book on Amazon and have University Press still pack up the shipments. It will mean a further cut of our profit, but will be likely to generate sales, because it will be 'advertised' to targeted audiences.

Amazon has Individual Seller Rates (\$0.99 per sale + 15% + \$1.35 = \$16.59 for H&S, net profit per book to SPNHC - \$45.16 versus \$61.75) and Professional Seller Rates (\$39.99 per month + 15% + \$1.35 – i.e. use this if you expect to sell over 40 per month). Individual Seller Rates would be a good way to test the waters.

Web: We would like to publish an updates and errata sheet for a few of the tables on the SPNHC web page, if that is possible.

STASH

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works recently received funding from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation to create the digital publication, "Storage Techniques for Art, Science, and History Collections (STASH)." As agreed, this web resource will be grounded by Storage of National History Collections: Ideas and Practical Solutions, published by SPNHC in 1992, with a second printing in 1995. The table of contents from the book will serve as the structure for STASH and the articles in it will form the initial core content. A volunteer editorial board will be created to manage new content and maintain the site.

Storage of Museum Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach

Lisa Elkin has agreed to be a Special Publications Editor specifically for this project. John Simmons, Cathy Hawks, and Rob Waller have created a Table of Contents with suggested authors, which looks great. Council has approved funding of John Simmons to write a grant for this, although upon further consideration we are questioning the potential for getting grant funding for a book project. We are looking into alternative sources of funding.

Collection Forum

Collection Forum Volume 26 had 11 articles, 4 award pieces, and one book review (143 pages) and was printed with many color figures.

E-Publication: Allen Press offers E-Publication of journals which is cost effective. The breakdown of expenses for ePub (by Allen Press) is as follows:

Website set up fee (one time)	\$3000
Copyediting (we currently use this service)	\$7150
Article hosting annual fee (charges start in second year)	\$2430
Metadata preparation	\$258
Total for e-Publication (yearly cost - for one issue)	\$9839
Additional optional services (enable Pay per view \$300 setup, \$10 per download; metadata markup and archiving)	\$814
Most recent printed volume (CoFo vol. 26)	\$15,000+

Clearly, if the membership has a favorable response to e-Publication, we will have significant savings.

On-Demand (POD) services are also offered through Allen Press as well, which can be utilized by our library/institutional subscriptions and individuals who would like paper copies. The breakdown of expenses for POD services (by Allen Press) is as follows:

POD website setup (one time)	\$595
Linking to POD website (setup)	\$375
Total cost per issue for setup	~\$200
POD website annual fee (can include back issues)	\$500
Linking to POD website (annual)	\$150
Mailing per order (domestic)	\$12
Mailing per order (international)	\$35

For an example, if a library wanted a copy of Vol. 26, it would be \$32 to print and send.

Web: We would like to list "leaflets" online with commenting. We have two submissions and other ms. Submissions that really would lend themselves well to this format.

Indexing CoFo:

Zoological Record – we will be fully listed, but it is not live yet.

BioOne – re-requested, but we missed the cut again, we are encourage to resubmit Feb/March of this year and I plan on doing that

JSTOR – We don't even qualify because you need to send your upcoming three issues.

Copyright Clearance Center (CCC):

CCC is a non-profit global rights broker materials, including millions of in- and out-of-print books, journals, newspapers, magazines, images, blogs and eBooks. CCC offers a way for rightsholders to manage and monetize

reuse of their content, driving new, bottom-line revenue for publishers and content creators. Rightsholders have immediate access to global and hard-to-reach markets, while retaining control of their content.

Rightsholders can participate in one or both of CCC’s Annual Copyright Licenses:

- The Annual Copyright License for Business allows employees to share copyrighted content from millions of information sources across their companies, and with the Multinational License, around the world.
- The Annual Copyright License for Academic Institutions makes it easy for academic institutions to lawfully reuse and distribute content in course materials and research. It allows faculty and staff, researchers and students to collaborate freely while respecting the intellectual property of others.

A user submits a request at copyright.com. Users are charged a transaction fee (based on their use as listed above). We set the fee. A transaction fee is deducted from the usage price. We do not need to provide anything (i.e. text or figures). The user would already have the material; they are just requesting the right to use. We could direct people to this service who request permission to use copyrighted materials.

We submit for approval to collaborate with CCC.

Newsletter (from A. Bentley)

Andrew Bentley has officially stepped down as Editor in Chief of the newsletter to pursue his duties as President Elect. The Editorship has been handed over to Andrew Campbell, Herpetology Collection Manager at the KU Biodiversity Institute. Lori Schlenker will stay on as Assistant Editor. This will maintain continuity and our existing ties to ProPrint in Lawrence for printing.

As part of the strategic planning initiative, mention has been made of moving over to an electronic version of the newsletter, with print on demand service. This has benefits in terms of lowering the cost of publishing the newsletter but also in terms of content with additional information being able to be embedded in the newsletter in the form of email, pdf and html links. More discussions will be had concerning this and a decision made in the near future.

Anticipated expenses

Spring 2013	CoFo (print) vol. 27/issue 1 (Prev. Conservation)	\$15,000
Fall 2013	CoFo (print) vol. 27/issue 2 (general)	\$15,000
Fall 2013	Initial outlay for CoFo ePub and POD services (includes all back issues)	\$11,000
Spring 2013	Operating budget, Publications	\$2000
Spring 2013	Web features for leaflets?	\$?
Fall 2014	CoFo (digital) vol. 28/issues 1&2	\$10,000

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Butts, Yale University

Recognition and Grants

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

We received and reviewed one nomination for a Special Service Award, one for the President’s Award, and two for the Carolyn Rose Award. The committee’s decisions on the three awards were passed to Council where they received unanimous consent.

- Carolyn Rose Award: Cathy Hawks
- President’s Award: Tim White
- Special Service Award: Lisa Elkin

The Faber Grant application received in 2010 is still pending. Revisions that were requested have not yet been received at the time of this writing (15 April 2012).

We made one change to the membership of the committee, so as to increase continuity. While the immediate Past President will continue to lead the committee, the Past President “once-removed” will also serve on the committee starting in 2012.

R.K. Rabeler, Chair

Web Site

The new web site has been functioning well, and we look forward to adding additional materials from other committees as and when they are ready. Wall-to-Wall continues to address the minor issues that have been noted as more people visit the site. All major credit cards are now accepted for the payment of membership dues.

We are still short of the annual meeting program and abstracts from 1999 and 2011. All other meetings are available on the website along with all the Newsletters and editions of Collection Forum. The most recent of the publications are accessible only to current members. We need more members-only content!

Following the idea of creating international hub editions of the web-site, Andy Bentley is discussing possibilities with Wall-to-Wall. Creation of email lists directly from the membership database is not possible, but a simple data dump and use of a service such as Constant Contact was recommended by W2W.

Given the need to provide timely material on the web page we decided to enlist an assistant webmaster who was familiar with CMS and web development. Liath Appleton, Texas Natural Science Center, kindly agreed to become that person.

Thank you to those members who have helped us with digital content and ideas.

As always please do let us know if you see errors or wish to add material to our SPNHC webpage, and send any newsworthy items to Ann Molineux, annm@austin.utexas.edu.

Respectfully submitted
Ann Molineux, chair

Sessional Committee Reports

Ethics

The Sessional Committee on Ethics has continued to gather documents on ethical issues. This material was gathered from multiple sources including museums, institutions, organizations, and professional societies. The professional organizations were defined in a SPNHC survey in 2007 and consisted of 15 major societies although more societies have been contacted. Documents received by the committee members can now be uploaded into Google documents directly in a closed forum called SPNHC Ethics group. All of the currently acquired documents are represented via a url, uploaded on Google docs, or both. The committee has created a working document that logs the point of acquisition, type of representation, and any inconsistent/unclear matters with the material acquired. A report list is also maintained that tracks outstanding issues including societies that were contacted that did not have any documents on ethical issues and societies from which documents are still needed.

Respectively submitted,
Linda S. Ford, Chair

Mentorship

We have three Fitzgerald Travel Grant awardees this year (Ann Trapaga from Berkeley, Meghann Toner from Denver Botanical Gardens and Rachel Sargent, a graduate student from the John F Kennedy University Museum Studies program in Oakland, CA). We also have Nickson Otieno attending, whose travel grant was deferred by a year to allow him time to attend to some budget issues. The Chair has been intimately involved in the initial stages of the program - finding mentors for all (and mentoring Nickson himself) while also arranging a 2 week internship for Nickson with Barcoding of Life in DC before the meeting to assist him in making it over here. BCoL was very gracious in providing the additional funds necessary to make Nickson's trip a reality. The Chair has also drafted a document outlining mentors responsibilities during the process and a checklist outlining the tasks and responsibilities of all involved.

We have not made any further progress on the expansion of the mentorship program as we are still trying to work out the kinks in the travel grant program we have already. It is important to get this all squared away before we attempt to expand it in any fashion. Our initial discussions revolved around contracting a mentorship group to run this or whether we would be better off doing this in-house. Susan Butts had looked into various such options and once we have the travel grant program taken care of our next agenda item will be another round of discussions around this subject.

We have also made little progress on the international nodes front although the Chair has continued to have informal discussions with international members whenever the opportunity presents itself to try and get feedback from them as to what they think such a system would look like and the benefits they hope to see from such a system.

The Chair will also hopefully be meeting with Wall2Wall, our web development partner to discuss ideas revolving around the deployment of such a system which will, of necessity, rely heavily on the web site and its infrastructure. It is important to find out what is feasible and doable with our existing infrastructure to allow for the segmentation/compartmentalization/translation of content which will be necessary for such an endeavor.

A number of these initiatives are highlighted in the strategic planning document and as such there is a lot of overlap in what the committee is already doing and our charge in the document.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley, Chair

Representative Reports

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

The American Institute for Conservation annual meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 8 – 11, 2012. The meeting topic, *Connecting to Conservation: Outreach and Advocacy*, sought to examine ways in which conservators can connect with a wider public community. Besides the usual specialty session, there were three days of presentations and discussion panels exploring methods for outreach. Additionally, there was an ongoing focus on environmental sustainability which included a luncheon, *Linking Environmental and Heritage Conservation*. Dr. Rob R. Waller presented his workshop risk assessment. The topic of the 2013 annual meeting is *The Contemporary in Conservation*.

Gretchen Anderson

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH)

At the 2011 meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota 6-11 July, officially 1031 herpetologists and ichthyologists (464 of which were students) from 26 different countries attended the meetings which were again held jointly with the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR), Herpetologists' League (HL) and the American Elasmobranch Society (AES). The members of the ASIH Collections Committee were approved by ASIH, SSAR and HL to hold a symposium at the 2012 World Congress in Herpetology/Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (8-14 August 2012 in Vancouver, BC, Canada). The symposium is entitled "Technology and Innovation in Herpetology and Ichthyology Collections" and is co-organized by Gregory J. Watkins-Colwell and Mark Sabaj Perez. Many of the speakers in the full-day symposium are members of SPNHC. Additionally, SPNHC agreed to sponsor the symposium as an effort to increase outreach to allied organizations and increase awareness of SPNHC. SPNHC funding will be used to help fund travel for non-North American symposium presenters and students as well as provide a membership booth in the exhibits area of the conference.

Greg Watkins-Colwell

American Society of Mammalogists (ASM)

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

Once the evaluation process has been completed, the Committee forwards its recommendations for accreditation to the ASM President for review. The President then notifies the collection's administration of the Committee's decision. If accreditation is to be conferred, the President sends a letter to that effect as well as an Accreditation

Certificate and a copy of the Final Report. Final Reports generally contain both positive observations and recommendations for improvement. The latter rarely comes as a surprise to collection staff. Rather, the Committee works with the staff to articulate areas for which they need greater administrative support. It is hoped that our recommendations will highlight the importance of the collection to the mammal research community and help to leverage greater institutional support for the collection.

During the 2011-2012 annual ASM cycle, (a) The Collection of Mammals at the Mote Marine Laboratory was awarded accreditation after the creation of a curatorial position to oversee the collection; and (b) The Museo de Zoología-Mamíferos at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador was awarded accreditation after inspection by ASM members, becoming the first collection in Ecuador to receive such recognition.

The ability to interact with other colleagues who work in mammal collections is a continually enriching experience, making this one of the most popular of the 30 ASM standing committees. The balance between ensuring that standards are being followed and finding ways to support colleagues in their collection care goals is the key to the success of the ASM mammal collection accreditation program. Current Committee Chair Bill Stanley continues to do an outstanding job of guiding the accreditation process and mentoring new committee members to fulfill this important role for the Society.

If you are interested in a recent listing of *Mammal Collections of the Western Hemisphere*, a copy of the *Basic Curatorial Standards* used by the Committee during our accreditation process or a list of the currently accredited collections, go to the ASM website and view the Systematic Collections Committee webpage at <http://www.mammalogy.org/committees/systematic-collections#tab3>

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne B. McLaren

American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT)

I serve as an ex-officio member of the ASPT Systematics Collections Committee; James Macklin is also a member of the committee. The chair of the committee leads a Curator's meeting during the annual Society meeting (St. Louis, Missouri, July 9-13, 2011). Following that meeting, the Committee sponsored a discussion session on US permit requirements for herbaria.

The Committee continues to promote regional networking of US herbaria, interfacing with participants in the United States Virtual Herbarium, Global Plants Initiative, and the NSF-ADBC program. The Committee's effort to revise a Best Practices document for herbarium operations – first proposed in 1958 and last revised in 1978 – is continuing. While I had hoped to have that document ready to present to the Society this past year, several issues, including permitting, arose that required additional research. The Committee is now reviewing the latest draft and plans to discuss it at this year's Curator's meeting.

The 2012 Annual meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with Botany2012 in Columbus, Ohio on July 7-11, 2012.

Rich Rabeler

Geological Society of America (GSA)

As an associated society of GSA, SPNHC was represented at the 2011 annual meeting which took place in Minneapolis, Nov 9-12. The SPNHC membership booth was manned for the entire meeting and there was much interest in both our publications and the Society itself. The SPNHC representative was unable to attend the meeting this year and wishes to thank Liath Appleton, SPNHC member from the Texas Natural Science Center and Rebecca Newberry from the Science Museum of Minnesota who took over the task so effectively. We are looking forward to a good meeting next year in Charlotte, North Carolina, Nov 4-7.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Molineux

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility is now in its tenth year of existence and SPNHC remains an organizational Associate Participant. Rich serves as the GBIF "Head of Delegation" for SPNHC.

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

An application for funding for the next North American nodes meeting has been submitted to the GBIF Secretariat; this is being planned for 23-24 July. Bimonthly conference calls were instituted to increase contact among the North American node managers and associate participants; Rich and James Macklin have participated in several this past year.

Respectfully submitted by Rich Rabeler

Heritage Preservation & Heritage Emergency National Task Force

Heritage Preservation

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

- Rescue Public Murals (RPM) seeks to bring public attention to U.S. murals, document their unique artistic and historic contributions, and secure the expertise and support to save them
<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/RPM/index.html>
- Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) provides a general conservation assessment of a museum collections, environmental conditions, and site via a 2-day site visit by conservation and preservation professional at minimal cost to the museum; identifies conservation priorities to help develop strategies for improved collections care, and provides a tool for long-range planning and fund-raising
<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP/index.html>
- Heritage Emergency National Task Force (discussed below)

Heritage Preservation also offers publications of interest to the SPNHC membership:

<https://www.heritagepreservation.org/catalog/default.asp>.

Heritage Emergency National Task Force

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

For US museums, the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) provides guidance for leadership and coordination among different levels of government and different agencies following a major disaster, is being introduced at stakeholder events across the country. For information on the program, visit <http://www.fema.gov/recoveryframework/index.shtm>

Various resource tools from the HENTF are available at:

<https://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/TFPlanPrepare.html>

<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/REPP/index.html> (access to some files will require sign-in, but tools are available at no charge). The outstanding disaster response "wheel" is now available as a free app for iPads and iPhones <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ers-emergency-response-salvage/id513081280?mt=8>

The extremely successful Alliance for Response program continues at various sites around the US. Information on the program, including a calendar of upcoming events is available at <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR/index.html>. A news release on some of the recent activity can be found at <http://heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/TFNewsReleases/nr120201.html>.

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a proven tool for managing disasters. It has been adapted for use by cultural institutions as described in a handbook co-published by Heritage Preservation and RescuingRecords.com, *Implementing the Incident Command System at the Institutional Level: A Handbook for Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Other Cultural Repositories*. For further information, including the purchase of the text in various formats, a disc with tabletop training exercises, and the very handy, "Pocket Response Plan" visit <http://www.rescuingrecords.com/repositories.html>.

Respectfully submitted,
Catharine Hawks

Institute of Museum and Library Services: Museums Count

As reported last year, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) undertook a project called Museums Count in conjunction with the American Association of Museums (AAM) and the White Oak Institute (WOI) based on their concern that the lack of comprehensive, reliable data about the size and scope of the museum sector in the United States is a considerable barrier to developing the type of public policy that is needed to fully realize the educational, economic, and cultural value of museums. By creating a carefully constructed questionnaire with which to census museums of all types within the United States, they hoped to build a definitive index of all museums that will set the stage for clear evidence about museums' role and contribution to public value.

The project was launched in September 2010 with SPNHC joining the effort in February 2011. President Gagnon asked Suzanne McLaren to represent the Society in the role of "Expert Reviewer, while Laura Abraczinskas, Elana Benamy and James Bryant agreed to be "Stakeholders". All four provided comments on the draft survey using SurveyMonkey in early March of 2011. In late March McLaren provided further review via the Wikispaces link that has been established for the project.

In September 2011, McLaren received a letter summarizing the work on this project. The letter indicated that WOI and AAM had completed their contract on schedule with the delivery of the Museums Count Roadmap to IMLS. The letter further advised that IMLS would be piloting the census portal very soon, and perhaps asking the Stakeholders to serve as beta testers. They believed that the full launch would occur in late autumn/early winter 2011. At the time the letter was written IMLS was adding to and, in some cases, adapting the 59 field-developed recommended questions. Their letter stated, "We undertook the IMLS Census challenge because we understood the collateral opportunity to achieve that long-sought goal: Museum Operating Data Standardization (MODS) [...with the intention of] unifying and standardizing data collection fields for the whole museum sector." The future focus of the project is to "adopt, formalize and nurture MODS." The letter concludes by stating that, "We will be in touch after we define a series of next steps, which we anticipate will include convening a meeting of museum associations and others interested in national museum data." To-date, no contact has been made with the designated SPNHC representatives.

A redacted version of the Roadmap and information on MODS can be viewed at www.whiteoakinstitute.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne B. McLaren

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

No report received.

International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)

The International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) leads the international community of biobanks in addressing relevant technical, legal, ethical and managerial issues involving biological and environmental samples. A lively listerv, annual meeting with presentations, posters, and exhibits, and publications provide members with information and opinions and a forum for discussing legal and other issues. While most ISBER members manage human tissues and samples, ISBER activities and products are relevant for natural history collections.

This year, the 3rd Edition of the ISBER Best Practices (BP) for Repositories: Collection, Storage, Retrieval and Distribution of Biological Materials for Research was published in Biopreservation and Biobanking (BIO). This edition builds on the foundation established in earlier editions, includes new areas of interest, and presents a more international perspective that reflects the growing diversity of the ISBER membership. Related to the updated Best Practices is an update to the Self-Assessment Tool that soon will be available to assist biorepositories in determining how well they follow the 3rd Edition of the ISBER Best Practices for Repositories. These products are extremely helpful in planning and operating a biorepository, regardless of the number of freezers or size of the facility.

ISBER is developing a ProficiencyTesting program aimed at evaluating and maintaining accuracy in cell viability, DNA quantification and purity, RNA integrity, and tissue assessment. The program will be available in September, 2012. For pricing and full program details, visit www.isber.org/PT .

MEETINGS.

- This year's annual meeting was held May 14-18, 2012 in Vancouver, BC.

- The European, Middle Eastern & African Society for Biopreservation & Biobanking (ESBB), an ISBER chapter, will be in Granda, Spain, November 7-9, 2012.
- The 2013 annual meetings will be in Sydney, Australia on May 6-9, 2013.

Submitted by Carol Butler

Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA)

NatSCA has had a busy year, as Natural Science collections have faced a variety of threats. Some of these have been genuinely criminal; others have only appeared so from the perspective of natural science museologists.

The funding situation has gone from bad to worse for many museums as the Museums Libraries and Archives (MLA) has been disbanded and its responsibilities passed on to Arts Council England (ACE). This has led to a major shift in the way in which museums receive support, with shortfalls in funding and the loss of posts in several museums around the country, particularly in the West and East Midlands. As a result, collections at risk have been in the forefront of our minds. We can assure you that NatSCA are taking this seriously and in our role as the UK Subject Specialist Network (SSN) for natural science collections we have met with representatives of ACE to discuss the future of natural science collections at a strategic level, with a view to understanding and combating the threats to collections.

The situation regarding theft of rhino horn to fuel the black market use in Asian medicine has also been particularly troubling, with thefts from collections around the UK and across Europe (not to mention incidents in America and South Africa). NatSCA have been active in issuing guidance on this issue and liaising with the Museums Association and press to highlight the risk to collections. We have also been in contact with the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, AHVLA with concerns over the sale of historic rhino material overseas by auction houses. We are pleased to hear that the law has recently changed in this area and such overseas sales are now prohibited - we like to think that our input has contributed to this outcome.

Continuing in a more positive vein, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded "Skills For The Future" programme, which has provided paid training for up-and-coming natural science curators, has been very successful, with further funding being offered by the HLF to continue the programme. In other training news, the NatSCA run Entomology and Herbarium seminars/workshops have been well attended and the feedback from attendees has been very positive.

Currently the majority of communication within NatSCA is through the Jiscmail distribution list; however the website is due to be overhauled in the near future on the new Scratchpad system that was launched in early 2012. Hopefully this will provide us with an opportunity to make the site easier maintain and more user-friendly. There are also plans afoot to update the FENSCORE database, which still provides useful information about natural science collections around the country. So far we have been in contact with members of the FENSCORE group from 2002 and we are exploring safe mirror hosting and a migration of the database from Perl to something a bit more up to date like MySQL.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that after considerable effort on the part of Paul Brown, we have managed to obtain the rights to reproduce the excellent Walker and Carter book Care and Conservation of Natural History Collections. We hope to be able to update sections of the book and make the whole freely available through the NatSCA website.

Report written by Paolo Viscardi (Acting NatSCA Chair)
Submitted by Miranda Lowe (NatSCA/SPNHC Rep)

Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance)

Periodically, Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance) member institutions request information about what the NSC Alliance has recently accomplished. The following provides a summary of some of the key activities and accomplishments of the NSC Alliance for the period of January 2011 to April 2012.

- Worked with other scientific organizations to demonstrate grassroots support for increased funding for the National Science Foundation. This effort resulted in increased fiscal year 2012 funding for the National Science Foundation.
- Coordinated a joint society letter to the National Science Foundation to express concerns with a proposal to alter the Collections in Support of Biological Research program.

- Provided testimony to House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support for increased funding for the National Science Foundation and U.S. Geological Survey.
- Sponsored the 2011 Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits event.
- Nominated, successfully, an individual for service on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Advisory Committee.
- Participated in the USGS Coalition, an alliance of more than 70 organizations dedicated to the continued vitality of the USGS and its programs.
- Provided regular policy and news updates to NSC Alliance members via the NSC Alliance Washington Report.
- Developed a series of issue briefs that help to articulate the importance of scientific collections.

Additionally, the organization is currently planning a science briefing for members of Congress. The briefing on digitization of biological collections will take place in the Rayburn House Office building in Washington, DC, on June 5, 2012. NSC Alliance members are encouraged to attend this briefing (see <http://nscalliance.org/?p=462>).

For more information about these accomplishments or to become more involved with the NSC Alliance, please contact Robert Gropp at rgropp@aibs.org or 202-628-1500 x 250.

Paleontological Society

The 2011 meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) was held during the Geological Society of America meeting (GSA) in Minneapolis, Minnesota October 9-12.

The next meeting of The Paleontological Society will be held during the 2012 GSA meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina November 4-7.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Cundiff

Registrars' Committee of the AAM

No report received.

Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC)

The Society focuses on promoting the importance of herbaria in teaching, research, and service to the community at large. Although the group has its roots in the southeastern United States, members and the leadership are interested in expanding its "reach" across the nation and beyond. Members are active in the continued development of regional and/or state-level consortia and are participating in both the regional SERNEC (Southeastern Regional Network of Expertise and Collections) efforts and the US Virtual Herbarium project. We are also very interested in preserving threatened or orphaned herbaria. The SHC website, www.herbariumcurators.org, focuses on providing useful information for curation.

The Annual meeting of SHC has thus far been held in conjunction with the Association of Southeastern Biologists meeting. The 2012 meeting was held 3-7 April 2012 on the campus of University of Georgia, Athens. In an attempt to become more of a national organization, the decision was made at the 2012 business meeting to change that pattern, shifting the annual meeting to the Botany2013 meeting, to be held in New Orleans, July 24 - August 1, 2013.

Richard K. Rabeler

Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG)

The 2011 annual meeting of the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) was held in New Orleans, Louisiana in October. This meeting was especially relevant to the SPNHC community, and many members were in attendance, as the focus was on digitization. An archive of the meeting website, which includes the presentations made and links to the abstracts can be found at: <http://www.tdwg.org/conference2011/>

The TDWG website is a good source for keeping track of several informatics-focused initiatives to inform members and avoid duplication of effort. These initiatives are: Biodiversity Information Projects of the World, Biodiversity Information Networks Database, and the Biodiversity Informatics Events Database. Please check to see that your projects (and your institution's) are represented (<http://www.tdwg.org>). As I continue to stress: "the standards being evaluated by TDWG, and the applications that implement them, have a direct impact on many SPNHC members

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

The 2012 meeting will be held in Beijing, China from October 22nd to 26th.

Respectfully submitted
James Macklin