

THE  
**33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
OF THE  
**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**



**SPNHC**

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

**“Collections and Data in an Uncertain World”**

**Otago Museum  
and  
University of Otago  
Dunedin, New Zealand**

**August 31, 2018**

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# **Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting**

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

**31 August 2018**

**Castle 2 Lecture Theatre, Otago University  
362 Leith Street, North Dunedin, New Zealand**

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1. Call to order.
2. Agenda.
3. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Business Meeting.
4. Report of the President.
5. Report of the Treasurer.
6. Reports of Standing Committees.
  - a. Archives
  - b. Best Practices
  - c. Bylaws
  - d. Conference
  - e. Conservation
  - f. Elections
  - g. Emerging Professionals
  - h. Legislation and Regulations
  - i. Long-Range Planning
  - j. Membership
  - k. Professional Development
  - l. Publications
  - m. Recognition and Grants
  - n. Web Site
7. Reports of Sessional Committees.
  - a. International Relations
  - b. US Federal Collections
  - c. Web Redesign
8. Reports of Representatives (23)  
Due to time constraints, please refer to the printed reports.
9. New Business.
10. Old Business.
11. Announcements.
12. Adjournment.

# 2017–2018 List of SPNHC Members Serving on Council and Committee

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Linda S. Ford
President-Elect	Barbara Thiers
Past President	Andrew Bentley
Treasurer	Ruth O'Leary
Managing Editor	Marcia Revelez
Secretary	Cindy Opitz

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2015–2018	Bethany Palumbo
2015–2018	Rusty Russell
2017–2019	Melinda Peters (filling rest of Tomajko's term)
2016–2019	Miranda Lowe
2017–2020	Amanda Lawrence
2017–2020	Deb Paul

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Archives Committee

Linda Hollenberg*	Co-chair
Carol Kelloff	Co-chair
Lisa F. Palmer	

### Best Practices Committee

Jessica D. Cundiff	Co-chair
Breda Zimkus	Co-chair
Lori Benson	Dirk Neumann
Andrew Bentley	Matthew Pace
Emily Braker	Melinda Peters
Michelle Coyne	Marcia Revelez
Carrie Eaton	Thomas Schlossleitner
Magdalena Grenda-Kurmanow	
Cathy Hawks	Randy Singer
Gabriela Hogue	Hayley Singleton
Miranda Lowe	Genevieve Tocci
Meredith Mahoney	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Armando Mendez	Amy Weiss
Amanda Millhouse	Andrew Williston
William Moser	Dan Young

### *Citations Subcommittee of Best Practices*

Margaret Landis	Chair
Mariko Kageyama	Janet Waddington
Ann Pinzl	

### Bylaws Committee

Andrew Bentley	Chair (Past President)
Laura Abraczinskas	Cindy Opitz
Chris Norris	

### Conference Committee

Barbara Thiers, Chair (President-Elect)	
Paul Mayer, Sponsor Liaison, N. America	
Clare Valentine, Sponsor Liaison, Europe	
Angela Morrow	Chicago, 2019
Robert Morris	Dunedin, 2018
Melissa Islam	Denver, 2017
Christiane Quaisser	Berlin, 2016

### Conservation Committee

Rebecca Newberry	Co-chair
Fran Ritchie	Co-chair
Gretchen Anderson	RDU USA
Stephanie Black	RDU Asia
Julian Carter	RDU Europe
Mariana Di Giacomo	RDU South Amer.
Luci Cipera	Envir/Sustainability
Carolyn Leckie	Envir/Sustainability
Robert Waller	Value Change Est.
Andrew Bentley	Fluid Collections
Bethany Palumbo	Food Service
Fran Ritchie	Food Service
Lori Benson	Mark Renczkowski
Suzanne B. McLaren	Clare Valentine
Armando Mendez	Tim White
Cindy Opitz	

### Election Committee

Bethany Palumbo	Chair
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### Emerging Professionals Committee

Kari Harris	Co-chair; Membership Com
Mariana di Giacomo	Co-chair; Intl Relations Com
Fran Ritchie	Best Practices Committee
Katie McComas	Blog Editor, Publications

\*Deceased

**Legislation and Regulations Committee**

Stephanie D. Carson	Co-chair
Dirk Neumann	Co-chair
Matt Brown	Diane Pitassy
Carol Butler	Richard Rabeler
Mariel Campbell	Rusty Russell
James Erdman	Thomas Schlossleitner
Peter Giere	Hayley Singleton
Chris Huddleston	Skip Skidmore
Shelly James	Jeremiah Trimble
Esther Langan	Greg Watkins-Colwell
Elise LeCompte	David Werneke
Christopher Milensky	Andrew Williston
Bill Moser	Robert Wilson
Patricia Nutter	Breda Zimkus
Andrew Bentley, Transport of Dangerous Goods	

**Long-Range Planning Committee**

Barbara Thiers	Chair (President-Elect)
Suzanne Ryder	Co-chair
Laura Abraczinskas	Debra Trock
Bethany Palumbo	

**Membership Committee**

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

**Professional Development Committee**

Jeff Stephenson	Co-chair
Jennifer Strotman	Co-chair
Elise Le Compte	Travel Grant Sub-chair
Travis Marsico	Mentorship Sub-chair
Meghann Toner	Mentorship Sub-chair
Elena Benamy	Travis Marsico
Christina Byrd	Gil Nelson
Kari Harris	Rusty Russell
Linda Hollenberg*	

**Publications Committee**

Marcia Revelez	Chair, Ed. Collection Forum
Matt Brown	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum
Yemisi Dare	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum
Mariana di Giacomo	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum
Janet Waddington	Assoc. Ed. Collection Forum
Liath Appleton	Editor, SPNHC Connection
Lori Schlenker	Asst. Ed., SPNHC
Connection Katie McComas	Advertising, SPNHC Conn.
Ann Pinzl	Bk Reviews, SPNHC Conn.
Lisa Elkin	Special Publication Editor
Christopher Norris	Special Publication Editor
(Open)	Editor, Technical Leaflets

**Recognition and Grants Committee**

Andrew Bentley	Chair (Past President)
Jean-Marc Gagnon	Suzanne B. McLaren
Christopher Norris	

**SPNHC Web Committee**

Liath Appleton	Co-chair
Ann Molineux*	Co-chair
Lynn Jones	Social Media
Jessica Utrup	NH-COLL-list Mgr., Wiki Rep.
James Macklin	

\*Deceased

**SESSIONAL COMMITTEES****International Relations**

Sue Ryder	Chair
Mariana Di Giacomo	EPG Liaison
Deborah Paul	Armando Mendez

**Website Redesign**

Barbara Thiers	Chair
Andrew Bentley	James macklin
Jessica Cundiff	Ruth O'Leary
Linda S. Ford	

**US Federal Collections**

Matt Brown	Chair
Carol Butler	Chris Norris
Terry Childs	Sally Shelton
Janaki Krishna	

## ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION

**Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC):** Erica Wheeler  
**American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC):** Gretchen Anderson  
**American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH):** Randy Singer  
**American Society of Mammalogists (ASM):** Suzanne McLaren  
**American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT):** Richard Rabeler  
**Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS):** John E. Simmons  
**Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG):** James Macklin  
**Collections Stewardship Professional Network, AAM (CS-AAM):** John E. Simmons  
**Entomological Collections Network (ECN):** Dan Young  
**Geological Curators' Group (GCG):** (Open)  
**Geological Society of America (GSA):** Chris Tacker  
**Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF):** James Macklin  
**Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF):** Catharine Hawks  
**Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio):** Deborah Paul  
**International Council of Museums—Committee for Collections of Natural History (ICOM-NATHIST):** Gretchen Anderson  
**International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER):** Breda Zimkus  
**Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA):** Roberto Portela Miguez  
**Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA):** Robert Gropp  
**Paleontological Society (PaleoSoc):** Jessica D. Cundiff  
**Scientific Collections International (SciColl):** Barbara Thiers  
**Small Collections Network (SCNet):** Anna Monfils  
**Society of Herbarium Curators (SCH):** Richard Rabeler  
**Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP):** Matthew Brown

**Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**  
**Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting**  
**23 June 2017**  
**Curtis Denver Hotel, 1405 Curtis Street**  
**Denver, Colorado USA**

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**Members Present:** 129

**1. Call to Order 11:14am, by Linda S. Ford**

**2. Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda (found on page 3 of the ABM packet).

Moved: Andy Bentley ; Seconded: Carol Kelloff

Vote: All in favor: ; Opposed: 0 Motion carried

**3. Minutes**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting, held on 24 June 2016, Andel's Hotel Conference Center, Berlin Germany (found on page 7 of the ABM packet).

Moved: Jeff Stephenson ; Seconded: Gretchen Anderson

Vote: All in favor: ; Opposed: 0 Motion carried

**4. President's Report**

Linda S. Ford: See written report starting on page 10 of the ABM packet. Very productive year, enjoyed working with committee chairs; SPNHC members urged to contact committee chairs and get involved.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

- R. O'Leary presented written report (found on page 13 of the ABM packet)

- Thanked Council, Tim White, AMNH Paleontology Division, Susan Butts; donors, and admonished delinquents to pay their dues. Expressed thanks.

**Motion:** To accept SPNHC new members for 2016 and 2017.

Moved: Elana Benamy ; Seconded: James Macklin

Vote: All in favor: ; Opposed: 0 Motion carried

**Motion:** To accept the report of the Treasurer and 2017 budget.

Moved: Elise LeCompte ; Seconded: Ann Molineaux

Vote: All in favor: ; Opposed: 0 Motion carried

**6. Reports of Standing Committees**

a. Archives – Carol Kelloff: Please refer to written report.

b. Best Practices – Jessica Cundiff: Please refer to written report.

c. Bylaws – Andy Bentley: Bylaw amendments emailed to membership, some grammatical errors corrected; amended version on p. 47 in ABM packet. Discussion invited.

**Motion:** To accept changes to the SPNHC Bylaws.

Moved: Rich Rabeler ; Seconded: Deb Harding

Vote: All in favor: ; Opposed: 0 Motion carried

d. Conference – Barbara Thiers: Please refer to written report.

e. Conservation –Rebecca Newberry: Please refer to written report.

f. Elections – Cindy Opitz (committee chairs Bethany Palumbo, Kelly Sendall not present)— Please refer to written report on p. 22 of the ABM packet. New Members-at-Large elected are Deb Paul and Amanda Lawrence. Floor opened for nominees for President/Secretary/2 MaLs; send nominations to Bethany Palumbo by 8/31, for election in Fall.

g. Emerging Professionals – Kari Harris: Please refer to written report.

- h. Legislation and Regulations - Stephanie Carson: Please refer to written report.
- i. Long-Range Planning – Barbara Thiers: Please refer to written report.
- j. Membership – Tiffany Adrain: Please refer to written report. Reminded that committee is always looking for volunteers to help with membership booth at conferences, who might get free registration.
- k. Professional Development – Jeff Stephenson: Please refer to written report. One addition: subcommittee on mentorship: Elise LeCompte: last year recommended to remove travel grant program from LOC to Professional Development Mentorship subcommittee: 2017 recipients: James Erdman, Katie Estes-Smargiassi, Stephanie Leon, Rachel Poutasse, and Kelly Martin (who was individually sponsored by Edinburg University Press); thanked mentors: Jeff Stephenson, Ann Molineux, Katharine Hawks, Elana Benamy.
- l. Publications – Christine Johnson: In addition to written report, Ann Pinzl and Linn Jones are editors of newsletter book reviews, so suggest books to them for review; in newsletter, forming new section featuring institution contacts, loans, permits, policies, etc. Johnson is stepping down 8/1, reaching out to replacements, and has one potential that will work well; Johnson will continue to work on book project through end of year; enjoyed working on publications committee.
- m. Recognition and Grants – Andy Bentley: Please refer to written report, and please nominate colleagues for awards, all encouraged to apply for Faber Research Grant for \$1000 to get research projects going; noted awards to be handed out later in the Annual Business Meeting.
- n. Web – Liath Appleton (also SPNHC newsletter editor): Please refer to written report.

## **7. Reports of Sessional Committees**

- a. International Relations – Suzanne Ryder: Please refer to written report.
- b. US Federal Collections – Matthew Brown: Please refer to written report.

## **8. Representative Reports (21)**

For expediency - See written reports in ABM package. Ford noted that 21 societies are represented.

## **9. New Business**

### **a. Awards:**

Note that the society has the privilege to recognize individuals who make contributions to the society and our professional field:

- 1. Special Service Award –  
Award is presented in recognition of an individual or individuals for special efforts leading to the success of an important event or activity of the Society. This year, we have two to present:
  - Presented by Linda S. Ford, to 2017 LOC chairs, one plaque for each of two organizations.  
Kelly Tomajko, of Denver Museum of Nature and Science, expressed thanks, saying it has been a fun week and a pleasure to partner with Denver Botanical Gardens, acknowledged other LOC members in room, including Carla and Kai at registration desk all week.  
Melissa Islam (Denver Botanical Gardens): thanked Society, noting that working with Kelly means she doesn't have to do so much, as Kelly is the ringleader, and organizing the meeting was really easy with all of her planning; champagne bottle presented.
  - Presented by Andy Bentley, to iDigBio, Deb Paul, Gil Nelson, David Jennings, et al, a fantastic group of folks that has done a great job, with webinars, workshops,



wiki content, best practices, TCN projects, and funding toward digitization, domestically and internationally.

Deb Paul expressed thanks, noting it has been a pleasure to be able to serve in this way and give Society a voice around the world

2. Vendor Recognition Award –

Award is a new award this year and is intended to recognize long-term support of the Society and/or the Society's annual meetings by commercial organizations.

- Presented by Tim White to Bruce and Brett Danielson of Delta Designs, Ltd. White noted that it is a pleasure to be here and to do this for Delta Designs, who have been a regular participant at annual meetings from SPNHC's very early years, lead sponsors at platinum or diamond levels, one of first companies to support other SPNHC activities, discipline groups, collection care meetings (one member even solicited support for a golf tournament, to raise money to send someone to a SPNHC meeting), makes early commitment to annual meetings, whose presence has encouraged other companies to join our exhibits show; far beyond dollars and sense, Delta does more than just build cabinets but are friends, advise on marketing/branding our product of advancing collection care. Accepting the award as president, Bruce Danielson said: don't change SPNHC, though you're quirky, don't change it; that kind of thing makes SPNHC stand out in the field; as demonstrated in poster sessions, partnerships with many institutions; it's a privilege to accept this honor for Delta. Bruce Danielson. Thank you, 30 years went by pretty fast; remembers those early meetings when vendors got to see visitors for just 10 minutes 3 times a day; saw passion of people in the field, and didn't have to wear a tie; learned a lot from all of you, friendships gained from working with all of you.

3. LOC Awards –

Lastly, we have a couple of awards this year that the LOC would like to present

- (presented by Kelly Tomajko): everything Tim White said and, DMNS would also like to recognize Bruce for his work, which you'll see at the Avenir Collections Center this afternoon; and he feels like family; in recognition of his retirement, Bruce Danielson (Delta) presented with poker chips and two decks of cards: KC Royals and KC Chiefs (Bruce: the only two professional teams that exist).
- (presented by Kelly Tomajko): another thank you to Elise LeCompte from the Florida meeting in Gainesville, who really helped the Denver LOC figure out what to do and how to do it; presented with DMNS gift card, because she likes museum gift shops; LeCompte: it's an honor and pleasure, but she doesn't want to do it again anytime soon! Being in this field, it's all about sharing, and she was glad to do that.

b. **Upcoming Meetings**

2019: Rusty Russell (Field Museum, Chicago): noted that rats and trees in the streets were the natural history in his Baltimore childhood; he gradually spent more and more time in botany; was initially one of a handful of people at NMNH with a college degree, and much has changed in 42 years; now at Field Museum in Chicago, he wants to elevate collections there and thought the best way to do that is to host SPNHC; the professionalism of the profession itself has grown remarkably; Russell read the first paragraph of the Field's invitation, showed video, pointed out that half of slides are pictures of staff working with public in a wide variety of ways.

**Motion:** That the membership accepts the invitation from the Field Museum in Chicago, IL, USA to host the 2019 annual conference of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections.

Moved: Kelly Tomajko ; Second: Jean-Marc Gagnon  
Vote: All in favor: ; Opposed: 0  
Motion carried

2018:

- a) Robert Morris (Otago Museum, Dunedin, New Zealand): kai ora; thank you, to SPNHC and TDWG; the meeting will run from 8/24 to 9/2, the first time for SPNHC to be held in that region of the world and first time for collaboration with TDWG; Dunedin is NZ's oldest city, with population of 150,000—small but rich in culture and nature; very much a university town. Otago museum founded in 1868, celebrating sesquicentennial in 2018; hosting conference is important element of celebration; the university was founded in 1869, opened in 1871 with staff of just 3 professors; the museum works closely with various university departments; located in zone of intense volcanic activity, the pacific ring of fire, with more than half of the world's active volcanoes above sea level there; sustained staggering damage to museum collections and data; reconstruction well underway and can share what we have we learned, how we can mitigate threats. Joint sessions will stimulate discussion, on image management, collection management and data managers; opportunities for collection and data specialists to identify issues and explore ideas; rich overlap for SPNHC and TDWG; program will loosely follow SPNHC format; modified to accommodate TDWG; field trips, workshops, sessions, social activities; joint sessions program will be finalized; Castle Street complex will be meeting site; Otago museum can host welcome event, icebreaker, adjacent to galleries; listed venue spaces; other venues in town for other social events; Dunedin home to Emmerson's brewery! Pleasantly surprised by number of people expressing interest in attendance; website is now live, will try to survey interest; abstract submissions likely open December through March; accommodations will be available for range of budgets
- b) James Macklin – to promote the TDWG partnership in 2018 New Zealand: as deputy chair of TDWG, Macklin is looking forward to the joint event, has been thinking about it for a number of years—digital curation and the merger of users with tool-makers and standards-providers really makes sense; will work with conference committee and Robert Morris; Holly Little at Smithsonian Institution; was persuaded to lead symposium at this year's TDWG meeting on why we should work together; first week of October in Ottawa CAN; contact Holly or James, or Deb for more information on that meeting.

## 10. Old Business

## 11. Announcements

- L. Ford: Want to thank our 2 outgoing MaLs, whose terms are ending—Julian Carter (2014–2017) & Melinda Peters (2016–2017); unfortunately neither could make it.
- Want to welcome our 2 new MaLs—Deborah Paul, Amanda Lawrence (AL could not make the meetings)—whose 3-year terms are now beginning (2017–2020).
- Christine Johnson stepping down as managing editor, will really miss her professionalism, has done fantastic job, and should be very easy to hand off because she's organized it so well. Round of applause.
- K. Tomajko: join us this afternoon for tours of DMNS Avenir Collection Center; buses leaving at 12:30, attendees will get map of Avenir Collection Center, which we'll visit open-house style, wander around, welcome to stay as long as we like; invited to enjoy public side of museum as well; shuttle buses will start back at 3pm, different bus stop from last night; last bus at 5:15; also noted that Denver Botanic Gardens will be open until 9pm, but we're on our own for transportation for the 2-mile journey.

## 12. Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn the ABM.

Moved: Gregory Watson-Colwell

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Opitz, SPNHC Secretary

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## Report of the President

It is with surprise that I realize that it has been a year since our last meeting and that my two-year presidential term is almost at an end! Numerous goals have been met for the Society and I am proud of what has been accomplished in the last two years as SPNHC has become a substantial and dependable resource providing support, advice and partnership nationally and internationally. I specially recognize the group effort in these achievements. None of this would have been possible without the committed work and the dedicated service of the SPNHC Executive and Council, the Committee Chairs and their members, and the Representatives/Liaisons. At the end of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in Dunedin, New Zealand I will be handing the presidency over to Barbara Thiers. The Society will be in good hands.

SPNHC recently held elections for President Elect, Secretary and for two Members at Large. I am pleased to announce that the following positions were filled:

President-Elect: Debra Trock (California Academy of Sciences);

Secretary: Cindy Opitz (University of Iowa Museum of Natural History);

Members at Large: Talia Karim (Colorado University Museum of Natural History) and Fran Ritchie (American Museum of Natural History).

Please join me in congratulating them on their election to SPNHC office and thank you for voting. All of the newly elected terms will begin at the end of the ABM.

I would like to thank the members, who completed terms of service or stepped down this past organizational year: Bethany Palumbo (Oxford University Museum of Natural History) and Rusty Russell (formerly Field Museum of Natural History), who will be stepping down at the end of their terms as Members-at-Large. Also, owing to retirement, Kelly Sendall (formerly Royal BC Museum) stepped down as the Co-Chair of the Elections Committee and as the Representative/Liaison to both the AMHMC (The Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada) and the ICOM-NATHIST (International Council of Museums - Natural History). Kelly served as a Chair on the Elections Committee for many years and was instrumental in helping the Society run its affairs. Greg Watkins-Colwell (Yale Peabody Museum) also stepped down as the Representative/Liaison to the ASIH (American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists). All of these positions are important to the Society and I truly appreciate these members for their active dedication and involvement in furthering the goals of our Society.

In addition, it is with great sadness that I note that we lost several treasured friends since we last met (in alphabetical order): Jean DeMouthe (formerly California Academy of Sciences), Linda Hollenberg (National Museum of Natural History), and Ann Molineux (University of Texas). All of them were respected role models and all were amazingly active members and strong advocates of SPNHC with committed involvements including service on numerous important committees. Jean was a former Managing Editor, while Ann and Linda were active Co-chairs of the Web and Archives Committees, respectively, at the time of their passing. All three are and will be deeply missed, not only for their dedication to our Society but also as friends.

This organizational year, there were several changes in our Society's leadership and committee structures.

Kelly Tomajko stepped down as a Members-at-Large in order to concentrate on a separate career and Melinda Peters was appointed to complete the remaining years of Kelly's term as

MaL. There also were changes in committee leadership as three Committee Co-Chairs shifted to Chairpersons: Bethany Palumbo of the Elections Committee (with the stepping down of Kelly Sendall), Liath Appleton of the Web Committee (with the passing of Ann Molineux), and Carol Kelloff of the Archives Committee (with the passing of Linda Hollenberg). Several Representative/Liaison positions for SPNHC also changed this past year with the appointment of Randy Singer for ASIH and Gretchen Anderson for ICOM-NATHIST.

After the Executive Committee determined that a new SPNHC website was needed to continue our role as an international venue for support and advice, an Ad Hoc Website Redesign Committee was named. The Committee was given the ambitious charge to obtain quotes, select a winning bid, and begin to implement the redesign of the SPNHC website before our annual meeting in New Zealand. I congratulate the Committee and President-Elect Barbara Thiers, the Committee Chair, for keeping the project on track.

In 2016, I appointed an informal subcommittee (consisting of Robert Waller, John E. Simmons and Paul J. Morris) to promote equity for fluid collections with respect to fire-code interpretations across the USA. This subcommittee has continued a fruitful dialog with the National Fire Protection Association's task group that is responsible for NFPA-909 Cultural Resource Properties. This year, the subcommittee noted:

We have been developing information on the range of storage conditions in fluid collections to describe a couple of typical cases of storage conditions (shelving types, shelving capacity, container sizes, container types, container capacities, etc.) to meet the NFPA task group's needs for understanding typical natural science collections fluid storage conditions. This is likely to be a long-term conversation, and the process might benefit by a more formal treatment of the work within Legislation and Regulations.

Based on these recommendations and the agreement of all parties, this informal subcommittee will continue its important work as a bona fide subcommittee under the Legislation and Regulations Committee. This move will happen at the end of the ABM.

SPNHC continues to be a major partner in the Biological Collections Network (BCoN), an RCN grant funded through NSF BIO that is tasked with building a broader community to advance and sustain digitization of biocollections. The Steering Committee approved multiple invitational workshops designed to promote and develop a community of practices to further our goal to make digitized biocollections available to researchers, educators, informed decision-makers and the public. I, as well as President-Elect Barbara Thiers and Past President Andy Bentley, each organized one of these workshops. You can see more on these activities at [https://bcon.aibs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/BCON\\_Flyer.pdf](https://bcon.aibs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/BCON_Flyer.pdf). An update to the BCoN initiative submitted by RCN grant co-PI Rob Groppe is included as an addendum to the President's ABM report.

SPNHC's advocacy continued to be strong and unabated this year. Along with the achievements noted in the ABM Committee reports, I would like to highlight some of the Society's activities this past year.

SPNHC contributed to numerous significant actions that communicated and further advanced the general interests of the Society. These actions included:

- Writing a letter to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the United Nations Environment Program expressing our concern regarding the motion to include digital sequence information (DSI) under the scope of the Nagoya Protocol for Access Benefit Sharing (ABS). We noted how this would be counterproductive by making information unavailable to global scientific access and how this action would threaten basic progress towards our understanding of the natural world. In response, the CBD placed SPNHC on the List of IPLC (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and relevant stakeholders) Organizations, enabling us to receive CBD communication directly as the discussion on this issue continues.

- Endorsing a joint statement with 66 (so far) total signatories on the issues of Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) obligations on digital sequence information (DSI). SPNHC, along with these other societies, continues to work diligently to get our voices heard on these issues.
- Sponsoring the 10th annual Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). As a result, SPNHC members are invited to interact with US lawmakers during the summer. This national initiative, which was advertised via the SPNHC listserv NHCOLL, is an opportunity for science professionals across the country to meet with their federal and/or state elected officials in order to showcase the people, equipment and facilities that are required to support and conduct scientific research based on and promoted by natural history collections.
- Responding to a call for comment on the US Environmental Protection Agency proposal to repeal the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Clean Water Rule (CWR). As co-signatories, SPNHC and the NSCA (Natural Science Collections Alliance) opposed the proposal, advocating instead for the value of ecosystem services provided by wetlands, for the importance of biodiversity resources collected from US waterways, and for the opportunity of stakeholders to consider the best available science and data when engaged in any revision of WOTUS.
- Representing SPNHC, I was honored to attend the inaugural meeting of the Working Group on Materials for Collection Storage, Transport and Display (The Materials Working Group) sponsored by the Smithsonian's National Collections Program, Museum Conservation Institute, and National Museum of Natural History. The meeting was focused on the development of bibliographic resources, materials testing, specifications and standards, plus an electronic resource for dissemination.

SPNHC continued its mission to support natural history collections and their staff worldwide, which included:

- Working in collaboration with the New Zealand LOC, SPNHC received US\$8,500 from the JRS Foundation to support the attendance of the 2018 SPNHC conference by three attendees from African countries. They are Adu-Gyamfi Anthony from Ghana, Boikhutso Lerato Rapalai from Botswana and Yvette Umurungi from Rwanda. This was a wonderful opportunity for SPNHC to increase direct participation by our African colleagues in our meetings and to continue in our mission to disseminate the SPNHC Strategic Plan as widely as possible.
- Writing a support letter in collaboration with the NSCA to Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi in São Bráz, Belém Brazil, addressing a report of significant and potentially devastating budget cuts and lending our collective support to help the Museum make the case for the continued viability of their collections as an irreplaceable component of the Brazilian natural heritage and the international collections network. The Director of the Goeldi Museum responded that the letter was appreciated and that it would be used in helping to make his case against the projected additional 40% cut to the 2018 budget.
- Providing letters of intent for collaborative support on behalf of SPNHC for grants submitted to the NSF and the IMLS for funding this year. These grants included collection oriented topics involving best practices for the treatment of historic taxidermy and informal STEM learning in museums. The SPNHC letters expressed the Society's intent to collaborate if the grants were funded.

Lastly, I want to enthusiastically thank the Local Organizing Committee who, under the leadership of Robert Morris, worked hard to assure the success of the New Zealand meeting. Since this is the first SPNHC meeting in this region of the world and also our first joint meeting with the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG), it's shaping up to be another significant milestone for our organization.

It has been a great honor and a pleasure to represent our Society for the last two years and this upcoming meeting is a wonderful way for me to finish out my presidency.

Respectively submitted,  
Linda S. Ford

## **ADDENDUM to the Report of the President:**

### **Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN) Update**

During 2018, BCoN is hosting a series of webinar programs to share outcomes of BCoN meetings and to gather community input to help guide future BCoN workshop deliberations. Information about the webinar, including recordings of past programs is available on the BCoN website (<http://bcon.aibs.org>). Additionally, BCoN has organized a series of workshops on data integration and attribution and legal issues associated with digitized collections, which used the Nagoya protocol as a case study. In the fall, BCoN will convene another workshop to explore potential future directions related to digitization of collections and the use of digitized collections (and data) in research and education. BCoN also partnered with iDigBio earlier this year to conduct a community survey to gather data that will be used to help inform the fall meeting. These data were also shared with the community during a June webinar.

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## **Report of the Treasurer**

In 2017, the Society's total net assets increased to \$336,421 from a total of \$261,121 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2017 totaled \$356,571. Operating income was generated from three sources: membership dues, publication sales, and advertising in the Newsletter. A total of \$36,310 in membership dues was received. Sales of our six publications plus royalty payments brought in \$6,857. Advertising in the Newsletter generated \$2,900 in income. A total of \$42,804 in donations was received.

Fifty-two subscribers and 615 individuals, institutional, corporate and student members were active for the year 2017. Of the 699 SPNHC members in 2017, 186 joined for the first time.

Major expenses for the Society in 2017 were \$11,664 for *Collection Forum* Vol 30 (2016), \$3,960 for the Best Practices Wiki, \$3,942 for the Christine Allen grant and the Fitzgerald Travel grants, \$2,268 for annual hosting fees for the SPNHC website plus upgrades to the website database, \$1,689 for membership booth accessories and transportation to meetings, and \$1,025 for two issues of the SPNHC Newsletter.

Additional expenses include \$811 in costs related to the upcoming Storage book, \$750 for the sponsorship of annual congressional district visits, \$688 for two online elections, \$359 for conference ribbons, and \$275 for the annual fee to Cross Ref.

The Treasurer's Office incurred the following expenses: \$5,500 for the 2016 financial review, tax preparation and filing, \$3,475 for insurance, \$1,024 in merchant fees, and \$174 in annual fees for QuickBooks.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments saw a market value gain of \$11,849 while the money market account earned \$6,457 in dividends and interest. The CD account earned \$61 in interest.

The first part of 2018 has seen good income activity. By April 30, \$28,510 has been received from membership dues, including deferred dues paid in 2017. As of April 30, 2018 we have 551 active members, including Life members.

Membership renewals included 25 student, 347 individual, 47 library/subscriptions, 36 institutional and 4 corporate renewals. As of April 30, 60 new members have joined for 2018, of which 15 are student memberships, 8 are institutional, and the remainder are individual. By April 30, 220

members who paid in 2017 had yet to renew for 2018.  
Please pay your dues on time.

In the first quarter of 2018 sales of all our publications totaled \$1,275. Additionally, by April 30, we received \$238 in royalties from Copyright Clearance Center. We have received \$325 in unrestricted donations and \$3,205 in restricted donations. A sincere thank you to all.

Expenses incurred in 2018 as of April 30 include \$5,660 to Burdette, Smith & Bish for the 2017 financial review, \$1,500 for the new Storage book, \$900 for membership booth rental at meetings, \$540 in merchant fees, and \$483 for online hosting of the Spring 2018 Newsletter. The Society anticipates expenses related to publications, travel grants, insurance premiums, the Best Practices Wiki, the trade show booth, a loan to the Field Museum LOC for the 2019 annual meeting, a new website, and 2018 online election.

Please contact the SPNHC Treasurer for further details.

For their help throughout the year, I would like to extend thanks to Linda Ford (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University), Andy Bentley (University of Kansas), Barbara Thiers (New York Botanical Garden), Cindy Opitz (Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa), Marcy Revelez (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), and Chris Norris and Tim White (Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History). The American Museum of Natural History, Division of Paleontology provided general office support for the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth O'Leary, Treasurer

**For the 2017 financial review, please see Appendix 1.**

## **FY2017 Donations**

Since May 1, 2017

Anonymous  
Andy Bentley  
Matthew Brown  
Patrice Corneli  
Denver Museum of Nature and Science  
Deborah Harding  
Frederick Koether  
Catherine Leard  
Casey Mallinkrodt  
Robert Morris  
Chris Norris

Jane O'Donnell  
Larry Page  
Lisa Palmer  
Fran Ritchie  
Deborah Shepard  
Arnold Suzumoto  
Barbara Thiers  
Robert Waller  
Mark Wetter  
Jacquelyn Whisenant  
Wendy Zomlefer

Thank You

## **FY2018 Donations**

As of April 30, 2018

Anonymous  
Rachael Arenstein  
Rebecca Desjardins  
James Erdmann  
Maureen Flannery  
Lisa Goldberg  
Gaylord  
Hollinger Metal Edge  
Patricia Holroyd  
Elise LeCompte  
Meredith Mahony  
Kathryn Makos  
Teresa Mayfield

Christopher Milensky  
Jessica Nakano  
Patricia Nutter  
Deborah Paul  
Rusty Russell  
Nikolaos Schizas  
Hannah Selvey  
Theresa Smith  
Julianne Snider  
Alexandra Synder  
Janet Waddington  
University Products

Thank You



<b>FY 2017 SPNHC Operating Budget</b>			
<b>01 January–31 December 2017</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$32,000	\$36,310	<b>\$4,310</b>
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$500	\$0	<b>(\$500)</b>
(3) Publication Sales	\$6,400	\$6,857	<b>\$457</b>
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$750	\$400	<b>(\$350)</b>
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$150	\$0	<b>(\$150)</b>
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$700	\$39,503	<b>\$38,803</b>
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$2,000	\$3,301	<b>\$1,301</b>
(8) Operating Account Interest	\$8	\$11	<b>\$3</b>
(9) Advertising in Newsletter	\$3,200	\$2,900	<b>(\$300)</b>
(10) Repayment of Annual Meeting Loan	\$5,000	\$5,000	<b>\$0</b>
(11) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$33,275	\$56,050	<b>(\$89,325)</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$83,983</b>	<b>\$38,232</b>	<b>(\$45,751)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(12) Archives Committee	\$125	\$0	<b>(\$125)</b>
(13) Election Committee	\$1,000	\$688	<b>(\$312)</b>
(14) Executive Contingency Fund	\$999	\$0	<b>(\$999)</b>
(15) Membership Committee	\$2,500	\$1,689	<b>(\$811)</b>
(16) Publication Committee	\$49,399	\$13,951	<b>(\$35,448)</b>
(17) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$4,000	\$3,942	<b>(\$58)</b>
(18) Treasurer's Office	\$11,000	\$10,425	<b>(\$575)</b>
(19) Web Committee	\$5,000	\$2,268	<b>(\$2,732)</b>
(20) President's Contingency Fund	\$2,500	\$1,309	<b>(\$1,191)</b>
(21) Best Practices Committee	\$7,460	\$3,960	<b>(\$3,500)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$83,983</b>	<b>\$38,232</b>	<b>(\$45,751)</b>

<b>FY 2018 SPNHC Operating Budget</b>			
<b>01 January–31 December 2018</b>			
(as of April 30, 2018)			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(1) Dues @ \$20, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$350	\$30,000	\$28,510	<b>(\$1,490)</b>
(2) Life Members @\$1,125	\$500	\$0	<b>(\$500)</b>
(3) Publication Sales	\$34,725	\$1,513	<b>(\$33,212)</b>
(4) Collection Forum Page Charges	\$400	\$0	<b>(\$400)</b>
(5) Mailing List Sales	\$150	\$0	<b>(\$150)</b>
(6) Unrestricted Donations	\$650	\$325	<b>(\$325)</b>
(7) Temporarily Restricted Donations	\$2,000	\$3,205	<b>\$1,205</b>
(8) Operating Account Interest	\$50	\$4	<b>(\$46)</b>
(9) Advertising in Newsletter	\$3,000	\$1,560	<b>(\$1,440)</b>
(10) Transfer from Future Publication Fund	\$22,839	\$0	<b>(\$22,839)</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$94,314</b>	<b>\$35,117</b>	<b>(\$59,197)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Variance</b>
(11) Annual Meeting Loan	\$5,000	\$0	<b>(\$5,000)</b>
(12) Election Committee	\$400	\$0	<b>(\$400)</b>
(13) Executive Contingency Fund	\$999	\$0	<b>(\$999)</b>
(14) Membership Committee	\$2,500	\$900	<b>(\$1,600)</b>
(15) Publication Committee	\$45,000	\$1,983	<b>(\$43,017)</b>
(16) Recognition and Grants Committee	\$9,395	\$0	<b>(\$9,395)</b>
(17) Treasurer's Office	\$11,000	\$6,390	<b>(\$4,610)</b>
(18) Web Committee	\$13,000	\$0	<b>(\$13,000)</b>
(19) President's Contingency Fund	\$2,500	\$0	<b>(\$2,500)</b>
(20) Best Practices Committee	\$4,520	\$0	<b>(\$4,520)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$94,314</b>	<b>\$9,273</b>	<b>(\$85,041)</b>

## **New Memberships Received in 2017**

Since May 1, 2017

### **Corporate Members**

Aurora Storage Products, Inc.  
Improve Group

### **Institutional Members**

Smithsonian Institution, DC, USA  
National Museum/Narodni Museum, Prague, Czech Republic  
National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research, Wellington, New Zealand  
University of Denver Museum of Anthropology, CO, USA  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD, La Jolla, CA

### **Regular Members**

Ian Bishop  
Heather Cole  
Amy Cole  
Patrice Corneli  
Michelle Côté  
Diane Davis  
Stephen Dornbos  
Brian Grace  
Cricket Harbeck  
Ashley Hintz  
Nancy Khan

Frederick Koether  
Richard Lariviere  
Jennifer Lenihan  
Kristen MacKenzie  
Casey Mallinckrodt  
Leanna McMillin  
Jordan Metzgar  
Paul Narguizian  
Matthew Pace  
Jeff Phegley  
Heritiana Ranarivelo

Sandra Rehan  
Trina Roberts  
Shannen Robson  
Diana Sawatzky  
Michaela Schnull  
Beverly Sensbach  
Susumu Tomiya  
Erica Wheeler  
Violetta Wolf  
Charles Zimmerman

### **Student Members**

Natalia Agostini Schneider  
Andrea Blaser  
Anna Chinn  
Dianna Krejsa  
Catherine Leard  
James Mitchell

Melissa Murray  
Rachel Osborn  
Sarah Rubin  
Jeremiah Trimble  
Sophia Warsh  
Kristen Watson  
Chloe Willett

## **New Memberships Received in 2018**

As of April 30, 2018

### **Institutional Members**

Auckland War Memorial Museum, Australia  
Georgia College & State University, GA, USA  
Museums Victoria, Australia  
Northern Territory Herbarium, Australia  
Ralph C. Clark Interpretive Center, CA, USA  
The Field Museum of Natural History, IL, USA  
Utah Valley University Herbarium UVSC, UT, USA  
Western Australian Herbarium, Australia

### **Regular Members**

Lindsay Abrams	Villalobos	Zachary Rogers
Erika Anderson	Katherine Maslenikov	George Rotramel
John Atwood	Thomas McElrath	Scott Rufolo
David Brouillette	Amanda McGee	Nikolaos Schizas
Elizabeth Burton	James Mickley	Julie Shapiro
Emmy Engasser	Jess Miller-Camp	Julia Snyder
Irene Finkelde	Jessica Nakano	Gayathri Sreedharan
Christine Garcia	Fabian Neisskenwirth	Lise Stork
Geert Goemans	Margaret Oliver	Jenny Stratton
Lisa Herzog	David Orlovich	Chris Tacker
Deborah Hutchinson	Suzanne Peurach	Sarah Tassell
Benjamin Keck	Victoria Purewal	Miranda Zwingelberg
Rebekah Kim	Rebecca Ratchford	
Adriana Lopez-	Eric Rickart	

### **Student Members**

Anthony Adu-Gyamfi	Lucy Haddock
Marie Angel	Hannah Selvey
Kathleen Aston	Evan Waite
Rafael Borges	Jacki Whisenant
Vanessa Delnavaz	Anna Whitaker
Annmarie Fearing	Ryan Whitehouse
Erica Fischer	Jonna Wüstefeld
Meghan Grizzle	

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## Member-at-Large Reports

### AMANDA LAWRENCE

Throughout this past year, I've been tasked with working with the Conservation Committee to help digitize and update the information from the old Resource Display Unit and publish it through the wiki. Another goal of this committee is to produce a mobile product display. I have been in contact with the head of the group and hope to make progress on this project soon.

### DEBORAH PAUL

*Collections Digitization and Human Resources and Needs – Near and Far.* In the background, work continues on updating the digitization pages on the SPNHC Wiki. One challenge is to make these pages dynamic. What might represent current/better/recommended/best practice for digitization and collections data quality is a moving target. These pages will thrive only with SPNHC-member feedback and member-added content. These pages are meant as a discovery tool to find links to existing resources for collections digitization, mobilization, and collections data use.

At the moment, I'm also working with Sue Ryder on the International Committee and very much looking forward to seeing those of you who can make it to the NZ meeting. It is a perfect opportunity to discuss current activities and develop strategies for increasing the worldwide reach of SPNHC. If you have ideas – but can't make it to New Zealand, you can still share, and we will make sure your voice gets heard. Now is the time to contribute, so we can plan events for SPNHC 2019 and SPNHC 2020 that result in broadening the international scope of SPNHC.

**Members-at-Large not reporting:** Miranda Lowe, Melinda Peters, Rusty Russell

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## Standing Committee Reports

### ARCHIVES

#### BACKGROUND

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

#### PROCEDURE

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

#### CURRENT WORK

Although SPNHC is publishing electronically, printed copies of the SPNHC newsletters and Collection Forum are being deposited in SPNHC's archives. The chair received no requests for archived information in the past year. Carol Kelloff and Meghann Toner provided images from the 2017 SPNHC annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, USA. Material for deposit was received from Ruth O'Leary.

It is with great sadness to report here that Linda Hollenberg, SPNHC Archivist for over eleven years, passed away on 21 April 2018. Carol Kelloff will now be handling all the SPNHC material to be deposited at SIA.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carol Kelloff, Co-Chair  
Meghann Toner, Co-Chair  
Lisa Palmer

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## BEST PRACTICES

The Best Practices Committee continues to add valuable new content to the SPNHC wiki (<http://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki>). We hope that the wiki will soon begin to be the first place that members search for best practice information before they ask for answers and opinions via NH-COLL. A page on Numbering Natural History Collections, a topic that is regularly discussed on NH-COLL, is now available. The page includes information about numbering systems for natural history collections. A page on Field Preparation, which contains information about how to prepare for fieldwork that includes collecting specimens, is also now available.

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) Collections Committee will be partnering with SPNHC to edit and add content to wiki pages associated with fluid collections. A number of pages already exist that were created as a result of a fluid collections workshop hosted at the 2016 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH).

The Best Practices Committee co-chairs have been involved with discussions on updates to both the SPNHC website and the SPNHC Wikipedia page. One of the BP co-chairs is currently serving on the SPNHC Ad Hoc Website Redesign Committee, which is working to review our current website and make suggestions about what might be best for future design and management. The Best Practices Committee is also examining the sustainability of the wiki in the long term and determining the most effective way to get committee content online. Long-term plans will likely include more committee involvement, including new roles of wiki liaison for each committee. Rachael Arenstein will be reaching out to committee chairs to coordinate discussions about possible content that might be appropriate for the wiki and to gather data regarding the possible effectiveness of wiki liaisons.

The Best Practices Committee coordinated with members of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) to develop a session for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. (April 11-15, 2018). The forum session was organized around collaboration in collections care. Hayley Singleton, a member of the Best Practices Committee, represented SPNHC, and other societies/organizations shared valuable cross-discipline resources and innovative solutions for archaeology specimen care and data management. Many thanks to Roger Colten and Terry Childs for organizing such a successful session. We hope that both societies will find more ways to collaborate in the future.

The Citations Subcommittee is not currently collecting citations, as the Citations Subcommittee Chair is in the process of migrating the citations database from End Note to Zotero. Once the migration process is complete and the Citations Subcommittee has reviewed all citations, they will be released to the wider SPNHC audience.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Cundiff and Breda Zimkus, Best Practices Co-chairs

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## BYLAWS

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

Bylaws: A couple of additional changes have been suggested since the recent bylaws update initiated during the Leadership manual update process and these will be discussed at the Council meeting in Dunedin and, if approved will be enacted and voted on by Council in the near future.

Leadership Manual: Work continues on updating the Leadership Manual for consistency and content, led by committee member Laura Abraczinskas. Committee chairs and officers as well as Executive Council have been engaged to provide updated materials and these are in the process of being incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Bentley, Chair

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## CONFERENCE

The 2018 joint meeting of SPNHC and TDWG in Dunedin, New Zealand is just around the corner! Early registration has closed, as has abstract submission, and regular registration ends on 4 July. The program is now available on the conference website. The meeting will be held from 25 August–1 September 2018, hosted by the Otago Museum in collaboration with the University of Otago.

The Field Museum is busy planning the 34<sup>th</sup> annual SPNHC conference in Chicago. The meeting will be held 25–31 May 2019 at the Chicago Hilton near the Museum. The proposed theme for the meeting is “Making the Case for Natural History Collections.” Paul Mayer is heading the Local Organizing Committee.

An official proposal has been received from the Edinburgh Botanic Garden and the National Museum of Scotland to host the 35<sup>th</sup> annual SPNHC conference in July 2020, and planning for this conference has begun. Look for their information booth in Dunedin—they’ll have information to help you start planning your trip to Scotland. We are currently looking for an offer to host the 2021 conference preferably to be held in North America.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara M. Thiers, Chair

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## CONSERVATION

### **Food in Museums Panel at American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Annual Meeting**

The Food subcommittee presented a panel at the AAM meeting in Phoenix, AZ in May. The panel, entitled “Can one food policy unite us all?” included thoughts on food management policies from the points of view of a conservator, special events coordinator, and museum director. Participants then discussed a food-based event scenario that challenged multiple viewpoints and shared their conclusions with the larger group. Just when we think we have used all possible avenues to promote this work, another opportunity presents itself. We’ll see what the next one will be!

### **Natural History Session at American Institute for Conservation (AIC) Annual Meeting**

The AIC annual meeting in June in Houston, TX included an afternoon session devoted entirely to natural history talks. Papers presented covered a range of topics: moving diorama backgrounds, preserving all diorama materials, dye light-fastness testing, challenges of travelling natural history exhibits, archiving field notebooks, and conserving moa eggs. There were also natural history-related talks throughout the conference, including best practices in labelling. If you missed the conference, keep an eye out -- some of the talks will be featured in upcoming AIC blog posts.

### **Materials Working Group**

As a result of discussions at the 2017 SPNHC Annual Meeting in Denver, a group of conservators created a Working Group on Materials for Collection Storage, Transport and Display (referred to as the Materials Working Group) that is currently nestled within AIC. The group is focused on effectively making resources available to describe and recommend best practices in choosing materials for storage, transport, and display that suit the required demand and are long-lasting and non-damaging. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on February 8-9, 2017, sponsored by the Smithsonian’s National Collections Program, Museum Conservation Institute, and National Museum of Natural History. To begin investigating this topic the 2018 Working Group participants were divided into three groups - Materials Specifications, Materials Testing and Standards, and Resources and Dissemination. Information can be found on the AIC wiki, [http://www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Materials\\_Working\\_Group](http://www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Materials_Working_Group). We in the SPNHC Conservation Committee look forward to following along and/or participating in this effort over the next few years.

### **Upcoming SPNHC Meeting**

There are a couple of conservation-related workshops being held before the upcoming SPNHC meeting in Dunedin in August. We hope to reach a new and broader audience in this hemisphere.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Newberry and Fran Ritchie, Co-Chairs

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## ELECTIONS

Elections Online (<http://www.electionsonline.us/>) was used again exclusively this year. The fee from Elections Online was \$363.28.

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

**PRESIDENT-ELECT—Debra Trock, California Academy of Sciences.**

**SECRETARY—Cindy Opitz, University of Iowa Museum of Natural History.**

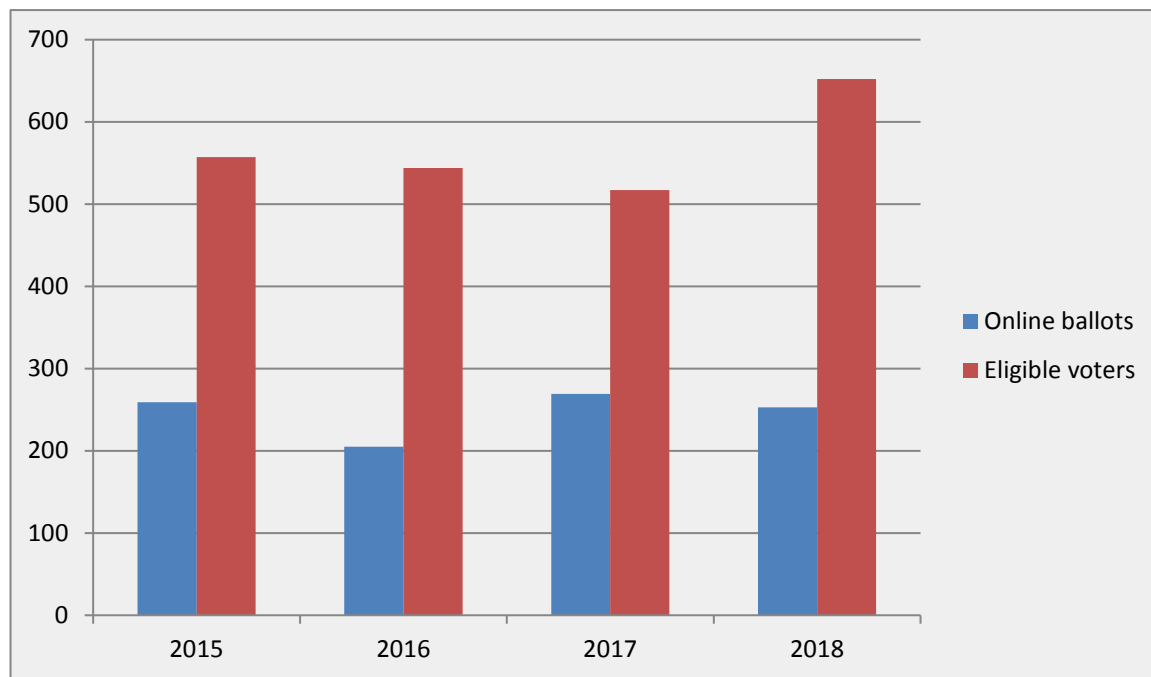
**MEMBER AT LARGE—Talia Karim, CU Museum of Natural History.**

**MEMBER AT LARGE—Fran Ritchie, American Museum of Natural History.**

There were 5 nominations for President Elect and 2 agreed to stand. There were 2 nominations for Secretary and 2 agreed to stand. There were 8 nominations for MAL and 5 agreed 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 November 2017). At the close of the election on December 31, 2017, the total number of returned ballots was 253 or 38.80% of the eligible members- a decrease of 13.32% from the previous election.

The table below outlines the trends over the last 4 elections.



Although reminders were sent twice from the electionsonline website, the number of voters overall decreased.

The results of this election were emailed to the membership and via NHColl by the Elections Committee Chair in January 2018. They will also be included in the next SPNHC Newsletter.

This report was submitted for the 2018 Council meeting on January 3, 2018.

Addendum: It's time to call for nominees for two Members-at-Large. The nomination deadline is September 30, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany Palumbo

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## EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

Our committee launched a survey in mid-January to get to know our members better. We received 90 responses and are currently analyzing the data. So far, we can say we have recorded responses from 15+ countries!

Conversations have started with the LOC in Dunedin, New Zealand, to organize our EPC Luncheon during the SPNHC+TDWG 2018 meeting. We will keep you posted!

We are still seeking blog authors! If you would like to write a blog post for "[Cracking the Collections](#)", please contact us at [spnhcepg@gmail.com](mailto:spnhcepg@gmail.com)

We are also seeking members of the committee who would like to be more actively involved. Our plans for 2018 involve expanding our membership, keep producing blog posts, and finding better ways to connect with our emerging professionals to provide them with the support they need. If you are interested, please email us or contact us through social media!

And don't forget to follow us!



[@SPNHCEPC](#)

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Respectfully submitted,  
Kari Harris and Mariana Di Giacomo, Co-chairs

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## LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

### ACCESS BENEFIT SHARING (ABS)/NAGOYA

In November 2017, a number of our committee members, including lead author Dirk Neumann, published a paper in *Organisms Diversity & Evolution*, summarizing "recent developments resulting from the entering into force of the NP on 12 Oct 2014, the European regulation (EU) No. 511/2014 on ABS, and how they will impact on natural history collections and biodiversity research globally (not only in Europe, but also in North America)." The article evaluates "practical challenges and implications for biodiversity researchers and collections and suggest[s] the formation of ABS-compliant international networks to support monitoring and to enable a simplified exchange of genetic resources which ultimately results in the promotion of CBD-compliant biosciences." The article may be found here: <http://rdcu.be/zAmm>.

In May 2018, a small number of our ABS subcommittee (Carol Butler, Breda Zimkus, Anissa Lybaert, Dirk Neumann) and guests (Alex Borisenko, BOLD, University of Guelph; Scott Schaefer, American Museum of Natural History; Chris Huddleston, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History) met in Washington DC to discuss problems of US collections related to the Nagoya Protocol. The meeting, which the L&R Committee discussed in Denver last summer, was organized and hosted by Sarah Loudin (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History) and financially supported with money allocated by Carol Butler. Main points of this meeting were potential benefits for US collections to introduce some sort of ABS-management to support both collections and staff with ABS compliance. Practical ABS-management examples currently developed or employed at the National Museum of Natural History, the BOLD facilities at the University of Guelph and at the Bavarian Natural History Collections in Munich were discussed. The group agreed that a higher visibility of collections and taxonomists especially in the current discussion on Digital Sequence Information to be regulated under Nagoya is needed. Results and recommendations of the meeting will be summarized this summer and submitted to the SPNHC Executive Committee.

### ADVOCACY

On 18 April 2018, the American Institute of Biological Sciences' (AIBS) annual **AIBS Congressional Visits Day** was held in Washington, DC. We hope some of our members were able to participate. This annual event is "an opportunity for scientists to meet with their members of Congress about the importance of federal support for biological research and education. Event participants advocate for federal investments in biological sciences research, with a primary focus on the National Science Foundation, as well as other agencies." Participants receive pre-event advocacy training and then meet with their elected officials in congressional offices on the following day.

In the summer and fall of 2018, the AIBS's annual **Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits** will be taking place. The L&R committee strongly encourages US members of SPNHC to participate in the visits, which are held not in Washington DC but in our home states. In the biological sciences, one of our major problems is the low visibility of collections and taxonomists on the political level. While immediate (positive) results from attending such meeting are unlikely, the long-term effects of first-hand information of scientists on their research and research facilities and the personal connections between lawmakers and scientists should not be underestimated. Among others, the meeting is sponsored by SPNHC. The L&R committee and the US National Laws subcommittee surely would benefit from the feedback of participants. Participation is free, but registration is required. More information may be found here: [https://www.aibs.org/public-policy/congressional\\_district\\_visits.html](https://www.aibs.org/public-policy/congressional_district_visits.html).

#### **AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (ABNJ)/NAGOYA**

The fourth and last preparatory meeting on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) to cover marine organisms occurring outside the territorial sea under Nagoya took place on 10–21 July 2017. (Results of this meeting are available here: <http://www.un.org/depts/los/biodiversity/prepcom.htm>.) This would mean that the access to marine life would fall under the much stricter regulations of Nagoya. Everything marine would be covered—a tremendous blow for those working on marine projects. Because the colleague engaged in ABNJ for the CETAF ABS group sadly passed away in 2017, we no longer have direct contacts into the ABNJ-Expert group which leads the current discussion. The L&R committee would appreciate information of or contact to SPNHC members who are engaged in ABNJ and/or UNCLOS matters, or information from marine researchers on relevant discussions or planned submissions on this subject.

#### **CITES/US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)**

In an August 2017 letter (resubmitted from 2014), the Ornithological Council (OC), the American Society of Mammologists (ASM), and SPNHC jointly filed a Petition for Rulemaking to the US Secretary of the Interior regarding challenges with the validation of export permits (or rather lack of validation) for CITES-listed specimens for scientific research. The FWS responded that it is in the process of making revisions and updates to their CITES regulations (50 CFR 23) and has considered the comments in the August 2017 letter. The FWS will submit a proposed rule to the Federal Register for comments. When the proposed rule is published, the Legs & Regs Committee will work with the OC and the ASM to draft additional comments for submission.

#### **CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN TAXONOMIC FACILITIES (CETAF)/NAGOYA**

After CETAF received additional comments from the European Commission, the CETAF Code of Conduct has been adapted and enhanced and resubmitted to the EU Commission. (The third draft version is available here: <https://www.cetaf.org/services/natural-science-collections-and-access-and-benefit-sharing>.) Once finally recognized, we will circulate the acknowledged version. The L&R committee would appreciate active feedback from SPNHC members if this Code of Conduct would be suited to manage Nagoya requirements inside their institutions.

#### **DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION (DSI)**

In September 2017, a letter was submitted by SPNHC to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity commenting on the Secretariat's 25 April 2017 Notification regarding "any potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the Convention, and for the objective of the Nagoya Protocol, respectively." The letter stated that "[w]e are extremely concerned that the motion to include digital sequence under the scope of the Nagoya Protocol would be counterproductive, making information unavailable for global scientific access and threatening basic progress regarding our understanding of the natural world."

#### **US CLEAN WATER RULE**

In August 2017, Matt Brown, Chair of the US Federal Collections Committee, drafted a joint letter from SPNHC and the National Science Collections Alliance (NSCA) in response to the proposed repeal of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water rules. The letter opposed the proposal to repeal the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Clean Water Rule (CWR).

Our sincere thanks to the committee members who were involved in these projects and discussions. We look forward to seeing everyone at the conference in Dunedin in August and hope all SPNHC members who are interested in legislation and regulations issues will attend the L&R Committee meeting!

Respectfully submitted,  
Dirk Neumann and Stephanie Carson, Co-Chairs

## LONG-RANGE PLANNING

The main activity of the Long Range Planning Committee during this period has been planning for the redesign of the SPNHC website. The committee, chaired by B. Thiers, consists of Linda Ford, SPNHC President; Andy Bentley, Past President; Ruth O'Leary, Treasurer; Liath Appleton, Webmaster; Rusty Russell, Council Member-at-Large; Jessica Cundiff, co-chair of the Best Practices Committee; and James Macklin, Long Range Planning Committee member. The committee has conducted a review of the current SPNHC website and made a comparative analysis of other professional society websites. We prepared and issued a Request for Proposals, and received 14 proposals by the cut-off date of 1 June. We are currently evaluating the top proposals, and hope to make an offer to the successful vendor by 22 June. The work would begin in July, and continue through the end of the year. If you are interested in being involved in the testing of the new website, please email me, [bthiers@nybg.org](mailto:bthiers@nybg.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Thiers, Chair

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## MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee focuses on ways to promote the Society and retain existing, and attract new, members. We work with the SPNHC Treasurer to assist members keep their dues up to date, and are currently looking at a new membership category for retirees. We promote SPNHC at conferences by advertising in conference literature and exhibiting the Membership Booth. 2018 venues for the Membership Booth include Botany 2018 in Rochester, Minnesota, in July, and the Geological Society of America meeting in Indianapolis in November. Thank you to everyone who has helped with display materials in the past year. We especially remember Ann Molineux, with gratitude for her constant support and work with the Membership Committee.

We are always looking for SPNHC members to distribute promotional materials or run the Membership Booth at upcoming conferences. Please contact Tiffany Adrain ([tiffany-adrain@uiowa.edu](mailto:tiffany-adrain@uiowa.edu)) if you are interested. **You may be eligible for full complimentary conference registration.** Thank you to Ann Pinzl for writing Member Profiles for the SPNHC Connection Newsletter. Please contact Ann ([apinzl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apinzl@sbcglobal.net)) to nominate yourself or a fellow SPNHC member for a profile feature. The Committee would be happy to hear from anyone with connections in future SPNHC Annual Meeting locations who can help us widen the membership reach of the Society. As always, please encourage your colleagues to join SPNHC and remember to renew your membership on time!

Respectfully submitted,  
Tiffany Adrain, Chair

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Professional Development Committee will meet in Dunedin in August 2018. The agenda will cover these five areas:

- Committee Structure and tasks
- Demo Camp
- Workshops
- Travel Grants and Mentorships
- Wiki and Web

The PDC has working groups and sub committees to work on these projects. Jennifer and Jeff are taking the lead on re-drafting the Leadership Manual for the PDC this fall.

## MENTORSHIP AND TRAVEL GRANTS

Elise LeCompte chairs the sub-committee on Mentorship and Travel Grants. The SPNHC Travel Grant Program Subcommittee was established at the 2016 SPNHC Annual Meeting in Berlin. This committee operates under the auspices of the Conference Committee and the Professional Development Committee, with additional input from the Recognition and Grants Committee. The committee also works closely with the Local Arrangements Committee. The first year of operation for the committee was 2017. We worked out some of the kinks of operation and awarded four Fitzgerald travel grants and one Christine Allen travel grant.

This year, 2018, has been an exciting year for the Travel Grants Program. With fundraising efforts, we were able to award a total of \$10,450 in grants. An anonymous donor graciously donated \$2000 to establish the Jean DeMouthe travel grant. Several others donated a total of \$1640 for the New Zealand travel fund, including a gracious donation of \$1,000 from one person. The Christine Allen fund totaled \$3,505 and the Fitzgerald/Award/Founder's Fund totaled \$3,000.

There were a total of fifteen (15) applications; there was a good mix of national and international applicants. We awarded three (3) Fitzgerald grants, three (3) Christine Allen grants, two (2) Jean DeMouthe grants, two (2) New Zealand fund grants, and one (1) grant that combined Fitzgerald and New Zealand funds. Each recipient was awarded a minimum of \$1,000.

Meeting mentors will be assigned to those recipients that requested them, with the help of Jeff Stephenson, Co-Chair of the Professional Development Committee.

Future plans include continued fund-raising for future meetings and building the mentor pool.

My thanks to the many SPNHC members and others who helped out with this committee—Jeff Stephenson, Jennifer Strotman, Andy Bentley, Meghann Toner, Travis Marsico, Ruth O'Leary, Linda Ford, and Barbara Thiers. Many thanks go to the generous donors, without whose support we could not have awarded so many grants.

#### **2018 Travel Grant Recipients:**

Anthony Adu-Gyamfi  
Ghana Herbarium  
University of Ghana  
**Jean DeMouthe**

Christina Byrd  
Sternberg Museum of Natural History  
**Fitzgerald**

Vanessa Delnavaz  
University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute  
and Natural History Museum  
**Christine Allen**

Ben Frable  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography,  
Univ. of California-San Diego  
**Christine Allen**

Meghan Grizzle  
University of Kansas  
**New Zealand funds**

Thomas McElrath  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
**Fitzgerald**

Jess Miller-Camp  
Department of Earth Sciences  
University of California, Riverside  
**Fitzgerald**

Tiana Rehman  
Botanical Research Institute of Texas  
**Christine Allen**

Julie McIntosh Shapiro  
Harvard University Herbaria  
**Jean DeMouthe**

Lise Stork  
Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer  
Science  
**Fitzgerald and New Zealand funds**

The continued success of our Travel Grants mentorship program, together with a great deal of enthusiasm from many members in SPNHC for a broadened approach to mentoring opportunities, has led to a discussion on how we might identify and implement additional ways to match professionals for their mutual benefit.

As always, if any member of SPNHC would like to work on any of these projects, please contact Jennifer Strotman or Jeff Stephenson. We value and appreciate your volunteer efforts on behalf of SPNHC and your colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Stephenson, Chair

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## PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee would like to begin by thanking Christine Johnson for her service to the society as Managing Editor and Chair of this committee. The quality of publications that are produced by the society are a direct result of her dedication and diligence to both the society and the natural history collections community. I am honored to have been selected to continue in her footsteps and take over this important role to the society. Regrettably, after serving for just over a year, I have decided to step down. I truly looked forward to being able to step into this role and continue the progress and work of previous editors in promoting all of the work being done by the natural history community. However, my responsibilities in my new job have made it difficult for me to fulfill my responsibilities, and I do not want to compromise progress. By the time of the meeting in New Zealand, a replacement should be identified. Submissions and inquiries should continue to be emailed to [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

### COLLECTION FORUM

Printing of the next volume of Collection Forum will take place at the beginning of Fall 2018. There were some outstanding submissions that got caught in the transition, causing a delay in the printed release of this volume. I would like to thank Yemisi Dare, Janet Waddington, Matt Brown, and Alana Gishlick, for their work as Associate Editors. Both Matt and Alana stepped down, and some time was needed to identify new replacements. During this time frame, Yemisi was instrumental in helping by spending a lot of time with me as we determined the status of all manuscripts. Without her, this past year would have been impossible. New Associate Editors have joined the team, and I would like to welcome them: Matthew Pace, Assistant Curator at the New York Botanical Garden, and Scott Rufolo, Research Assistant and Archaeological Collections Manager, Canadian Museum of Nature. I have an appreciation for all of the time and attention to detail that this takes and all have done and will continue to do great work.

### SPNHC LEAFLETS

If you are interested in publishing a piece on natural history collections, please contact us at [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

### SPNHC CONNECTION

I would like to thank Lynn Jones for her hard work and dedication in serving as part of the Book Review team. She has decided to step down, as other responsibilities have taken priority. Ann Pinzl continues to lead the effort, taking initiative to continue the tradition of providing guidance to the members of the society. As you recall, the decision was made to publish the book reviews in SPNHC Connection. If you would like to recommend a book for review, please contact us at [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

SPNHC Connection Editor Liath Appleton continues to provide an outstanding newsletter to the society. Discussions are continuing to develop new features and content, including ways to highlight institutions, new methods, etc. As a reminder: *SPNHC Connection* is only available digitally, to counter rising costs due to the increase in size. Members may access the newsletter through the *Collection Forum* digital system ("e-CoFo"). Please send *SPNHC Connection* newsletter submissions to Liath at [newsletter@spnhc.org](mailto:newsletter@spnhc.org)

### PAST JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER ISSUES

A reminder that past Journal volumes and newsletters, excluding the current edition, will continue to be available at [spnhc.org](http://spnhc.org), and back *Collection Forum* volumes from 2014 may also be found online on the Pinnacle *Collection Forum* website.

### BOOKS

*Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage*

The anticipated publication date for the new book, *Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage*, by Lisa Elkin and Chris Norris, Special Publication Editors, is getting closer. Pre orders continue and can be submitted to us at [editor@spnhc.org](mailto:editor@spnhc.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcy Revelez, Chair

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## RECOGNITION AND GRANTS

The Recognition and Grants Committee is charged with promoting and reviewing the various awards that the Society can confer in recognition of a member's service and vendor recognition, as well as the Faber Research Grant.

No nominations for awards were received this year. Members are encouraged to submit applications for the next round to acknowledge the hard work of peers.

Two awards will be presented at the ABM in Dunedin - a Special Service award to the LOC for the meeting as well as a Special Service award to TDWG for their continued support of the collections community through standards, best practices and advocacy work.

A single nomination for the Faber grant was received this year but the proposed work was unfortunately outside of the scope of the grant stipulations. This has resulted in a discussion of the grant conditions being expanded to encompass a more wide-ranging array of work and this will be discussed at Council in Dunedin.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Bentley, Chair

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## WEB

The SPNHC news blog and jobs board has been very active this year, and new followers are signing up every month. The SPNHC Facebook page has also been active and well maintained, primarily through the efforts of Lynn Jones. The website redesign ad hoc committee, chaired by Barbara Thiers, has made a decision on a web design company, to be hired soon, with the current plan of having a new website completed by the end of the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liath Appleton, Chair

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## Sessional Committee Reports

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Following the last meeting in Denver 2017, the council decided that the International Relations sessional committee should continue in its present form with an overall aim "to investigate and develop the international ambitions of the society."

With this instruction, the committee revised and renewed its strategy and commitment. We have a small team focused on the tasks set out in the updated leadership manual.

During this year, we have again looked at the membership data, although it is actually very difficult to extract anything more than basic data, such as numbers of members and which country they are from. However, this is useful to track any changes in membership, especially following meetings in Europe and hopefully after the first meeting in the southern hemisphere. We are also looking at the demand and feasibility for SPNHC resources to be in languages other than English and how best to build on the partnerships we have formed with other organisations.

We have much to do and are currently working out how best to move forward with the ideas and tasks we have been set.

This year marks an exciting time for the society and for the International relations committee, as it will see the annual meeting held for the first time outside of North America or Europe. I am sure the meeting in Dunedin, New Zealand, will be an enormous success and will help spread the word to new audiences about the invaluable work of the society.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Ryder, Chair

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## **US FEDERAL COLLECTIONS**

The Sessional Committee on Federal Collections is tasked with identifying ways to improve communication between U.S. Federal agencies and non-Federal repositories regarding the development of policies and procedures for the management of Federal Collections.

The committee has been working on a positional paper reviewing current challenges and potential solutions in this area. The committee drafted a SPNHC/National Science Collections Alliance comment for the Federal Register, regarding EPA Clean Water Rule definitions. The committee also collaborated with the Legislation and Regulations Committee to draft a response to the proposed Department of Interior regulations under the 2009 Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, and the committee chair coordinated with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Government Affairs Committee on a Federal Register comment, as well as proposed guidelines for confidentiality of locality data. The committee has also begun a response to US Geological Survey plans to close the Biological Survey Unit.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Brown, Committee Chair

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## **WEB REDESIGN**

See Long-range Planning Committee report for information on the SPNHC website redesign project.

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## **Representative Reports**

### **ALLIANCE OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS OF CANADA (ANHMC)**

Due to a change in representation, no activity was reported.

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

The American Institute for Conservation 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was in Houston, TX this year. The meeting focused on “Material Matters” and was one of the most interesting and applicable meetings I have attended since joining some 30 years ago. For the first time ever, there was an entire afternoon dedicated to natural history talks, and natural history collections care was discussed in other sessions. There were a total of 10 talks focused on natural history collections. In addition, there was an emphasis on preventative conservation in collections care and collaboration between conservation specialties, collection managers and other collection care professionals.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Anderson, SPNHC Representative to AIC

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### **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS (ASIH)**

The 2017 and 97<sup>th</sup> annual ASIH meeting occurred as part of the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH) 12–16 July 2017 in Austin, Texas, USA. The JMIH was attended by 1122 people (586 professionals and 495 students) representing 26 nations. On 14 July 2017, the ASIH Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee met. The IHCC meeting was well attended by collection personnel (including several student collection assistants), representing at least 20 institutions or collections. The new chair of the IHCC, Gregory Watkins-Colwell, and co-chair Sarah Huber (Virginia Institute of Marine Science), led the meeting. James Erdmann (Southeastern Louisiana University), the new and first student co-chair, also attended. Agenda items included: news responsibilities for the new student chair (James Erdmann), best practices, uses of data aggregators, and updates on NSF funding sources (with mentions of the new ADBC-NSF funded oVert grant). Sarah Huber made an announcement that the Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee will put together a plan for ASIH offering accreditation for ichthyology and herpetology collections (similar to what the American Society of Mammalogists does). On 15 July 2017, during the annual Business Meeting, the Board of Governors of ASIH praised Mark Sabaj's efforts on the “Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee” and thanked him for seven years of service. He was presented with a certificate. On 15 July 2017 following the Business Meeting, Curator of Fishes for the NMNH David Johnson hosted a special screening of the



collections-based movie *Lurch*. Attendance was high and requests to continue the tradition were made. The 2017 meeting marked the inaugural year for the *Spiritus* award for excellence in collections work, and it was awarded to Jens Vindum, of the California Academy of Sciences. The award will alternate to an ichthyologist next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Singer, SPNHC Representative to ASIH

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## 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 administration, 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 the Committee's 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 2017-2018 annual cycle the documentation for a site visit for re-accreditation of the mammal collection at Texas Tech University, which was conducted by Robert Dowler and Tom Lee on 6 April 2017, was approved by the committee. A certificate was signed by President Sikes and Committee Chair Dowler and sent to the curators.

We have additional mammal collections, primarily in the U.S. and Mexico, seeking ASM accreditation. Finding funds for travel to conduct site visits is problematic. Historically, the collection being considered for accreditation is expected to provide travel funds. In reality, most small collections and some larger ones have not been able to provide such funds. Committee members have opportunistically visited sites in conjunction with research or used their personal funds to assist with site visits; however, this has resulted in some collections waiting years for a site visit. In 2018, the committee will be asking the ASM Board to budget funds to help offset costs of these visits.

The committee continued to work on the survey of mammal collections of the western hemisphere and plans to have a report in manuscript form completed for dissemination and publication later this year. A poster with preliminary data was presented by Jon Dunnum, Robert Dowler, and the committee at the 2017 annual meeting in Moscow, Idaho.

A subcommittee (Jon Dunnum, Marcia Revelez, Burton Lim and Caleb Phillips) was tasked with review of proposed ASM Standards for Genetic Resource Collections, similar to the ASM standards for mammal collections. Approval of these standards would expand the current accreditation program for mammal collections to include a separate accreditation of genetics resources collections. The subcommittee reported at the committee meeting in 2017 at Moscow, Idaho. The standards were discussed. During the past year, the standards were finalized and will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

To view the current version of *Mammal Collections of the Western Hemisphere*, a copy of the *Basic Curatorial Standards* used by the Committee for accreditation, a list of accredited collections, or a link to *Cost of Collecting and Preparing Mammal Voucher Specimens for Natural History Collections*, by Robert D. Bradley, Lisa C. Bradley, Heath J. Garner, and Robert J. Baker (2012), see the Systematic Collections Committee page on the ASM website: <http://www.mammalogy.org/committees/systematic-collections#tab3>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne B. McLaren, SPNHC Representative to ASM

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## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS (ASPT)

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

One of the committee goals is to promote regional networking of US herbaria, interfacing with participants in the Global Plants Initiative, and the NSF-ADBC program.

Several years ago, we attempted to resurrect an effort to revise a Best Practices document for herbarium operations, first proposed in 1958 and last revised in 1978; this project **has** come to fruition. The Committee submitted the manuscript in February—it has been accepted, and final corrections are now being completed.

We worked with the ASPT President to respond to a request for support in the wake of the fire at the Pringle Herbarium (VT), University of Vermont, in August 2017.

The 2018 Annual meeting of the Society will be held at Botany2018 in Rochester, Minnesota, USA, on July 21–25, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Rabeler, SPNHC Representative to ASPT

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## ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS AND COLLECTIONS SPECIALISTS (ARCS)

The Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS) has recently announced that its next biennial meeting will be 07–09 November 2019 in Philadelphia. In the meantime, evening social events will be held in various cities in the US and around the world—check the ARCS website ([www.arcsinfo.org](http://www.arcsinfo.org)) for details by clicking on the ARCS Socials tab.

The popular monthly ARCS Twitter Chat on collection management topics continues on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 pm EST time (#ARCSchat)—anyone who is interested is welcome to participate in the chat.

Recent publications added to the ARCS website and available as free PDF downloads include updated versions of the *Registrars and Collections Specialists Resource List* and *Museum Property and Old Loan Legislation* (the resource list may be found at <https://www.arcsinfo.org/programs/resources>).

Respectfully submitted,  
John E. Simmons, SPNHC representative to ARCS

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## BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION STANDARDS (TDWG)

The 2017 annual meeting of the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) was held in Ottawa, Canada, during the first week of October. The theme of the meeting was "Data Integration in a Big Data Universe: Associating Occurrences with Genes, Phenotypes, and Environments," and an archive of the meeting website, which includes the program and links to the abstracts can be found at: <https://tdwg.github.io/conferences/2017/>. Recordings of key symposia were made by iDigBio and are available at: [https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/TDWG\\_2017\\_Annual\\_Conference](https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/TDWG_2017_Annual_Conference).

Over the past year, TDWG has continued to update its infrastructure and will soon release a new website integrated with its GitHub repository. TDWG also started a new open-access journal in the Pensoft family, called Biodiversity Information Science and Standards, or BISS (<https://biss.pensoft.net/>). This new journal serves two purposes, first to publish the TDWG Proceedings of abstracts for their annual conference, and second, a forum for biodiversity informaticians to publish articles on biodiversity standards, methods, guidelines, models and applications.

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." To foster this relationship, and as the new Deputy Chair of TDWG, I am very much looking forward to the first joint conference of SPNHC and TDWG this August at the Otago Museum in Dunedin, New Zealand!

The theme will be “Collections & Data in an Unstable World.”

<http://spnhc-tdwg2018.nz/>

TDWG 2019 is in the early stages of planning but is likely to be hosted in October in Leiden, Netherlands, by the Naturalis Biodiversity Center. More information coming soon!

If you are interested in biodiversity standards, I would urge you to sign up for the TDWG-content mailing list as this is where the core discussion on standards takes place.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Macklin, SPNHC Representative to TDWG

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## **COLLECTIONS STEWARDSHIP PROFESSIONAL NETWORK (CS-AAM)**

The Collections Stewardship Professional Network of the American Alliance of Museums (CSAAM) met at the AAM annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, 06–09 May 2018. The theme of the AAM meeting was Museums on the Rise—Educate, Engage, Elevate. About 4000 people attended the meeting overall. The Collections Stewardship track was comprised of fourteen sessions over four days, including a well-attended session called *Deaccessioning Experts: Legal and Ethical Rationales*, that included arguments for and against the AAM ethical standard that proceeds from the sale of deaccessioned collection objects should only be used to acquire more collections or for the direct care of collections. Another popular CSAAM was *Collection Conundrums: Current Issues and Resolutions*, in which the audience was invited to pose any collections management question to a panel of three registrars.

At the CSAAM annual business luncheon, the Dudley-Wilkinson Award of Distinction was presented to Jackie Hoff, recently retired from the Science Museum of Minnesota. The Collections Stewardship listserv, which is open to anyone interested, continues to be very active (<https://www.collectionsstewardship.org/listserv>).

Respectfully submitted,  
John E. Simmons, SPNHC Representative to CSAAM

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## **ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (ECN)**

### **BACKGROUND**

ECN formed an MOU with SPNHC in late 2016; this is our second full annual report. ECN is a 501(c)(3) non-profit international organization dedicated to promoting entomological science through the preservation, management, use and development of entomological collections and to disseminating information and fostering communications between collections managers around the world regarding best practices in entomological (and arthropod) natural history collections. The Network is organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes.

### **ECN 2017**

The 2017 annual meeting of the Entomological Collections Network (ECN) was held 4–5 November in Denver, Colorado, USA, in conjunction with the Entomological Society of America. The two-day meeting included 3 member symposia (26 talks), 3 contributed talk sessions (20 talks), and a poster session (7+ posters). The member symposia topics were:

- MEMBER SYMPOSIUM 1: Natural History Discoveries and their Impact on Collecting and Collections Data (8 talks)
- MEMBER SYMPOSIUM 2: Tales from the Field: Volume 2 (9 talks)
- MEMBER SYMPOSIUM 3: Entomological Collections, Social Media, and YOU (9 talks)

The Annual ECN Business Meeting was held 4 November (5:20–6:15 pm), followed by the ECN Mixer and Poster Session and the Annual ECN Annual Banquet. All sessions and meetings were held in the Denver Convention Center.

### **HIGHLIGHT FROM PRESIDENT REPORT**

The list of MOUs formalized in 2016 include the Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN), SPNHC, the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), the National Sciences Collections Alliance (NSCA), the International Society of Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER), and we are the in the

process of finalizing one with iDigBio, which has been a partner with ECN for several years in terms of providing logistical support and network access to the meetings and their talks.

#### **HIGHLIGHT FROM VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT**

The 2018 meeting is in Vancouver, BC (see below). Crystal Maier is in charge of local arrangements for 2018.

#### **HIGHLIGHT FROM SECRETARY REPORT**

There were 196 members in attendance for the 2017 annual meeting.

#### **HIGHLIGHT FROM TREASURER REPORT**

All paperwork filed to put ECN in compliance with state and federal tax laws. Registration this year: \$13,260. Sponsorships: \$9,250. Total expenses: \$17,159. We are in the black for this conference: \$5,351. Account total: \$22,189.

#### **BUSINESS**

Vote on bylaw provisions to elect new officers for social media position and to allow for program co-chairs. Eventually, bylaws could use a look-over, possibly an ad hoc by-law committee, to see if they are most appropriate and efficient for ECN currently. Approved.

Election of new officers, new officers approved.

- President - Max Barclay
- Vice President - Crystal Maier
- Secretary - Christy Bills
- Treasurer - Patrick Gorrington
- 2018 Program Co-chairs: Chris Grinter and Gene Hall
- Communications Officer - Isa Betancourt

We reported on the second Entomological Collections Management workshop that was co-sponsored by the ECN and the Entomological Society of America:

- July 17–20, 2017
- @Milwaukee Public Museum and the Field Museum
- 5 instructors. 15 guest speakers
- 23 participants
- Travel scholarships: 16 @ \$1000 per person
- Next year: July 16–19, 2018 at Cal Academy, San Francisco. Local host: Chris Grinter.
- Still have \$19,676.57 available in 2018

We also had Dr. Susan Weller, ESA President, speak to the group about the importance of collections to the rest of Entomological Science:

- ESA Strategic Principles: Influence, Global, Social
- To realize our profession's full potential ESA must increase its influence
- Science advocacy
- Science communication
- Initiative
- ESA Meeting Code of Conduct
- How to become a more diverse and inclusive society.

#### **ECN 2018**

The 2018 annual meeting of the Entomological Collections Network (ECN) will be held Saturday, 10 November–Sunday, 11 November, at the Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in conjunction with the Entomological Society of America, the Entomological Society of Canada, and the Entomological Society of British Columbia. The 1.5-day meeting is expected to include three member symposia, three submitted talk sessions, and a poster session. If there is enough interest, there will also be a Behind-the-Scenes tour of the entomological collections at the University of British Columbia. Although the program is still in the development process, registration is now open. SPNHC members are welcome to follow the program as it develops by checking the ECN website: <http://ecnweb.org/default.asp> or by going directly to the meeting information page: [http://ecnweb.org/default.asp?Action=Show\\_Meeting](http://ecnweb.org/default.asp?Action=Show_Meeting)

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel K. Young, SPNHC Representative to ECN

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## **GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP (GCG)**

No representative has been named.

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## **GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)**

Due to a change in representation, no activity was reported.

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## **GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY (GBIF)**

SPNHC is an organizational Associate Participant in The Global Biodiversity Information Facility. James Macklin is the GBIF "Head of Delegation" for SPNHC and also currently serves as the Canadian Node Manager.

GBIF ([www.gbif.org](http://www.gbif.org)) released a new version of their data portal, which provides greater functionality and enhanced searching capability. If you have not looked at the country-level pages, I encourage you to, as they can be very informative. Numerous opportunities are also available for training at various scales as well as competitions for funding to develop new tools and methods for data mobilization, quality control, and dissemination. I encourage all members to get involved and support this critical organization!

GBIF is also very close to an enormous milestone that many in SPNHC have helped in some way to make possible: one billion observations! I hope you will join them in celebrating when that milestone is reached.

The current Executive Secretary, Donald Hobern announced that he will be leaving his position in February, 2019. Donald has done an excellent job of steering GBIF over the past 7 years, and it will be a challenge to replace him (thanks, Donald!). There is currently a call for applications for Executive Secretary, due by July 24<sup>th</sup>, and a plan to vet candidates in the fall.

Please let James know if you have ideas for future collaborations between SPNHC and GBIF.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Macklin, SPNHC Representative to GBIF

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## **HERITAGE EMERGENCY NATIONAL TASK FORCE (HENTF)**

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) is now a cooperative venture between the Smithsonian Institution Cultural Rescue Initiative (SI-CIR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under:

### **Lori Foley**

Administrator, Heritage Emergency National Task Force  
Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation  
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration  
FEMA | DHS

The mission of HENTF is to protect cultural heritage in our nation's states, tribes, territories, and local communities from the damaging effects of natural disasters and other emergencies.

HENTF's objectives are to:

1. Provide education and training to cultural stewards, first responders, and emergency managers to better prepare them to work together to address emergencies and disasters affecting cultural institutions and historic sites;
2. Provide technical assistance, guidance, and/or resources to cultural stewards, first responders, and emergency managers to address disaster-related impacts to cultural and historic resources;
3. Coordinate the collection and sharing of incident-specific information with cultural stewards, first responders, and emergency managers in order to protect cultural and historic resources before, during, and after an event;
4. Increase the incorporation of cultural and historic resources into disaster planning and

mitigation efforts at all levels of government; and

5. Provide information and guidance to the public to help individuals and families protect, stabilize, and recover treasured possessions before, during, and after an event.

In conjunction with the SI-CIR, HENTF conducted **Heritage Emergency and Response Training (HEART)**, an inaugural, 5-day program to train staff from 25 US cultural institutions in November 2017. The program included staff who are part of the SI-wide Preparedness and Response in Collections Emergencies (PRICE), offering lectures and demonstrations.

In addition, the HENTF hosted national phone conferences on Hurricane Harvey, and organized training and emergency response initiatives in Puerto Rico. An annual conference call on hurricane preparedness will take place on 26 June 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catharine Hawks, SPNHC Representative to HENTF

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## INTEGRATED DIGITIZED BIOCOLLECTIONS (iDigBio)

*Looking forward.* Since the beginning of iDigBio and the [ADBC](#), SPNHC members have been leading the way in shaping the contents of iDigBio-sponsored workshops, webinars, symposia, etc., such as the Biodiversity Informatics 101 Workshop at SPNHC 2017. In supporting collections digitization and data use efforts, iDigBio events (e.g. average 20 workshops and 20 webinars per year over the last 7 years), have included a total of 10,527 participants (about 1,504 individuals per year). With all the hard work of collections in the USA, and worldwide, you can find over 110,910,000 records now in iDigBio.

At iDigBio, we are just beginning year eight of our ten-year project. Our focal points for the next three years are sustainability overall and increased education and outreach activities with the goal of further diversifying our stakeholders and increasing the use of collections data in the classroom. If you have ideas for partnering with iDigBio to develop events that focus on inclusion and diversity centered around collections data use, please talk to Molly Phillips, iDigBio's Education and Outreach Coordinator.

SPNHC plays a vital and critical role in capacity building in the collections community. In thinking about the workforce development and training opportunities offered through ADBC and iDigBio for the last 8 years, your input is needed on what to cover next. Please share your collections data use and digitization needs anytime, using our [feedback form](#), or [write a proposal for a workshop](#), or submit a webinar series idea. Look for more opportunities soon to get involved with the [Carpentries](#). It would be great to have a Carpentries community across SPNHC and the ADBC. And, please contribute to [Darwin Core Hour](#) as a [webinar presenter](#), or help us [document Darwin Core](#) and [answer questions](#)!

At SPNHC–TDWG 2018, iDigBio is collaborating and participating in quite a few events. CSIRO and iDigBio are excited to bring you a SPNHC symposium and SIG about *Challenges for Implementing Collections Data Quality Feedback: synthesizing the community experience*. If you send your data to a data aggregator, we look forward to hearing from you on this topic. iDigBio, [SCNet](#) and [BLUE](#) organized a symposium *Completing the Data Pipeline: Collections Data Use in Research, Education, and Outreach*. And, there's an *Education Share Fair*—share your projects, problems, materials for using collections and collections data. In addition, you will find us at TDWG, talking about data quality, [data standards](#), citation and attribution, trait data, convolutional neural networks, and research data use in general.

Here's a [sample of SPNHC-TDWG 2018 presentations](#) highlighting some aspect of collections digitization or collections data use. At iDigBio, we are thinking about 2019 and 2020 already. If you have read this far, and you have some thoughts about collaborating for events at SPNHC 2019–2020, please get in touch!

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Paul, SPNHC Representative to iDigBio

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

The 2017 NatHist conference was held in October at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The focus was on the Anthropocene, with fascinating and intense discussions on how natural history museums can engage in the public discussion about climate change. One of the highlights of the meeting was the opening of a new exhibition on the topic, “We Are Nature,” at the museum and the production of an innovative immersive theatrical performance titled “Dodo: the time has come.” More details on the program can be found at: <https://2017.icom-nathist.org/>

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Anderson, SPNHC Representative to ICOM-NatHist.

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## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPOSITORIES (ISBER)

The International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER), is a global biobanking organization that creates opportunities for networking, education, and innovations and harmonizes approaches to evolving challenges in biological and environmental repositories. In addition to large biobanks, membership also includes small repositories from veterinary, museum, and other environmental and animal research collections that maintain frozen samples. These biorepositories serve a wide range of purposes, supporting the investigation of new discoveries and preservation of specimens that may be needed in the future. In January 2018, ISBER published the *ISBER Best Practices: Recommendations for Repositories Fourth Edition*, which presents an effective set of guidelines for the management of biological and environmental specimen collections and repositories. These are either evidence-based or consensus-based practices for collection, long-term storage, retrieval and distribution of specimens. They promote the availability of high-quality biological and environmental specimens for future research. It is our aim that the SPNHC community can use these recommendations as guidance when managing their own collections. Managers of frozen collections can take advantage of the ISBER Best Practices to improve specimen collection, storage, use and governance, which are based on practices established by the global repository community. These Best Practices will lead towards increased specimen quality from collection to discovery. To this end, we invite the feedback of SPNHC members on how these recommendations may be applied to your collection and their potential to improve how your collections operate. Equally, if there are specific areas within the Best Practices that do not adequately address the operation of museum collections, please let us know.

Download the Best Practices 4<sup>th</sup> Edition by scanning the QR code or by visiting [www.isber.org/bestpractices](http://www.isber.org/bestpractices).



Respectfully submitted,  
Breda M. Zimkus, SPNHC Representative to ISBER

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## NATURAL SCIENCES COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION (NatSCA)

NatSCA has been representing our membership on the UK Taxonomy and Systematics Committee and in government consultations, such as the recent consultation on the ivory trade. We have also been in discussion with the Home Office to find a solution to the problems museums are facing with regard to expensive licenses for specimens held in collections that are controlled by drug legislation. We hope that the eventual outcome will be Antiques Exemption certificates for accredited museums.

We have been engaging with the wider UK museums sector through the emerging network of Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs). This forum provides an opportunity for SSNs to share information and coordinate efforts to address issues such as collections at risk, which we continue to monitor and challenge within our limited power.



Our 2017 AGM and annual conference was held at the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, where we explored the theme of Evolving Ideas: provocative new ways of working with collections. It proved to be a truly thought-provoking meeting, where the topics covered ranged from ethics to new approaches in analyses and object conservation. Our conference for 2018 will be held at Leeds City Museum on 26–27 April, with the theme of *The museum ecosystem: exploring how different subject specialisms can work closer together*, and on October 17, we will be running a *Natural Science Conservation Conference* at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, organised by a Conservation Group that has been convened by our new Conservation Representative, Lucie Mascord.

The procedures for producing our *Journal of Natural Science Collections* were reviewed last year, and an Editorial Board was convened to facilitate the review process. This has led to a more robust set of guidelines for authors and more rigorous peer-review, improving the quality of the publication.

Financially we remain in a healthy state, allowing us to continue offering bursaries and the *Bill Pettit Memorial Award*. In 2017 we funded two projects; Manchester Museum's *Taking wing: Curation of a Venezuelan Hawkmoth collection*, and Tullie House's "A Virtual Flora of Tullie: Sowing the Seeds" to Digitise a Nationally Significant Herbarium.

NatSCA would also like to take this opportunity to thank all its membership and the volunteers that support our society and the work we do.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberto Portello Miguez, SPNHC Representative to NatSCA

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### **NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE (NSC Alliance)**

The NSC Alliance has been active this year in advocacy efforts to promote new federal investments in collections-related research. In addition to providing congressional testimony in support of increased fiscal year 2019 appropriations for the National Science Foundation, National Museum of Natural History, and various Department of the Interior bureaus, NSC Alliance has been working to raise awareness among congressional lawmakers about the negative impacts to research of the planned elimination of the USGS Biological Services Unit from the National Museum of Natural History. NSC Alliance has also joined in the international policy issues related to the Nagoya protocol. The organization is now exploring opportunities for congressional briefings on matters related to biodiversity collections in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Gropp, SPNHC Representative to NSC Alliance

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### **PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PS)**

The 2017 meeting of The Paleontological Society (PS) was held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in Seattle, Washington October 22–25.

The PS Collections Committee did not meet, but the committee hopes to convene at next year's meeting.

The next meeting of The Paleontological Society will be held during the Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana November 4–7, 2018.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Cundiff, SPNHC Representative to PS

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### **SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL (SciColl)**

Nothing to report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Thiers, SPNHC Representative to SciColl

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## SMALL COLLECTIONS NETWORK (SCNet)

SCNet has been active in recruiting, retaining and supporting small collections in the last year. There is now a OBFS/iDigBio/SCNet working and interest group focused on collections digitization and collections education. This Small Collections Working Group (SCWG) has received funds through the Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN) to develop a needs assessment for recruiting, supporting and sustaining small collection curation, digitization, and education efforts. The SCWG will work with iDigBio, SPNHC, and NSCA to expand the SCNet and create a sustainable small collections community. SCNet is very interested in working with interested members of the collections community to expand the SCWG and identify and address the needs of small collections.

The SCNet webinars (co-sponsored by iDigBio) continue to garner interest. In 2018 SCNet partnered with the [iDigBio Education and Outreach Working Group](#) (iDigBio E&O), [Biodiversity Literacy for Undergraduate Education](#) (BLUE), and BCoN, to cover topics related to Broadening Participation (recorded webinars can be found at: <https://www.idigbio.org/content/broadening-participation-biology>). SCNet's webinar series will continue in fall 2018. This is part of a new initiative titled, *Moving the Needle: Broadening Participation in Biodiversity Science*. A broadening Participation Working Group has formed to promote diversity in organismal biology. Information and a link to join the working group are available on the BLUE website: <https://www.biodiversityliteracy.com/broadening-participation>

[iDigBio](#), and the Society of Herbarium Curators sponsored a small collections symposium at SPNHC 2017 titled, "Best Practices for Integrating Collections into Education." The symposium was developed with the iDigBio E&O Working Group, BCoN, SCNet and NSCA, and included 14 invited talks. New partners at NEON, Ecological Society of America, BLUE, and ESRI presented on opportunities for collaboration with the collections community. We learned about a series of broadening participation initiatives through museum workshops and several invited speakers introduced educational modules, techniques and best practices for using collections and collections-based data in the K–12 and undergraduate classroom. The session culminated with a talk from NSF representatives to highlight funding opportunities at NSF for improving education, workforce training, and providing opportunities for inclusion and broadening participation.

In 2018, SCNet will again co-sponsor a symposium as a joint endeavor with iDigBio E&O Working Group, BLUE, and BCoN. This is titled, *Completing the Data Pipeline: Collections Data Use in Research, Education and Outreach*. The purpose of this symposium is to highlight the diverse uses of digital collections resources for research, education, and outreach, including activities that are currently underway around the globe with special focus on using collections data for innovative research applications, inspiring outreach initiatives intended for new audiences, and educational resources and programs that are ensuring a new generation of competent collections data users. In addition to the symposium, we have a roundtable "share fair" session for educational materials. This is an opportunity for participants to get feedback on education or outreach materials that are in development. This is the first year for a "share fair" of this type and we look forward to a successful first year effort.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Monfils, SPNHC Representative to SCNet

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## SOCIETY OF HERBARIUM CURATORS (SHC)

The Society focuses on promoting the importance of herbaria in teaching, research, and service to the community at large. Members are active in the continued development of regional and/or state-level consortia and are participating in various regional efforts as well as increasing our international presence.

I am completing Year 1 of a second 3-year term as a Member-at-Large on the Executive Board of SHC. I also served on the ad hoc Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee for the Society. We were in contact with the curator of the Pringle Herbarium (VT) following the fire in the building housing that collection on 4 August 2017.

The major event for this year will be a half-day symposium on curatorial uses of herbarium digitization to be held immediately following the Botany2018 meeting.



The 2018 Annual meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with Botany2018 in Rochester, Minnesota, USA on July 21–25, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Rabeler, SPNHC Representative to SHC

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## **SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (SVP)**

The 77th Annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology was hosted 23–26 August in Calgary, Alberta, and was attended by numerous SPNHC members. The annual Preparators Session focuses on topics related to paleontological collections conservation and care. SPNHC was represented at the Preparators Committee, Government Affairs Committee, and SVP Business meetings. The 2018 SVP meeting is planned for 17–20 October in Albuquerque, NM.

In December 2017, SVP and partner organizations responded to Trump administration efforts to reduce or eliminate US National Monuments containing significant paleontological resources. Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments were established under the Antiquities Act specifically to protect vertebrate paleontological resources. The administration's new boundaries have excluded at least 500 known scientifically important sites from the monument, thus weakening protection and making them ineligible for monument-based funding streams. More than 40 paleontologists have ongoing work that is affected. SVP has responded by filing lawsuits challenging the legal authority of the President to make these cuts. More information about this action and rationale can be found on the SVP website.

[\[http://vertpaleo.org/What-is-Vertebrate-Paleontology/Fossil-Preservation-Law-in-the-US.aspx\]](http://vertpaleo.org/What-is-Vertebrate-Paleontology/Fossil-Preservation-Law-in-the-US.aspx) In May 2018, SVP Executive Committee members met with members of the House Committee on Natural Resources to discuss why Grand Staircase and Bears Ears monuments are important for paleontological science.

In February 2017, SVP responded to the Department of Interior's draft regulations for the Paleontological Resources Protection Act. Of special concern are the sections that govern the disclosure of locality coordinates by researchers and repositories. SVP suggested that DOI classify each site according to its sensitivity at the time collecting permits are issued or when the final research report is submitted. SVP suggested that authorization to release coordinates for sites below a minimum threshold be given automatically. SVP has developed a draft best-practice document containing suggested criteria for sensitivity ranking, which will be revised in the coming year, based on feedback received by the Government Affairs Committee.

The SVP wishes to remind SPNHC members that it offers several awards and grants that might have relevance to those interested in paleontology. These include grants [\[http://vertpaleo.org/the-Society/Awards.aspx\]](http://vertpaleo.org/the-Society/Awards.aspx) to promote student research and fieldwork, like the Estes, Patterson, and Wood awards. The Jackson Student Travel Grant and Scientists from Economically Developing Nations grant both help support travel to the SVP annual meeting. The Hix Preparators Grant is awarded to advance fossil research, standards, and training in preparation and collections disciplines. Not all of these awards limit eligibility to current members of SVP; check the requirements carefully.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Brown, SPNHC Representative to SVP

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## Appendix 1

### ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**DRAFT**



*25th Anniversary Year*

**SPNHC**

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016

BURDETTE SMITH & BISH LLC  
CPAS AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS  
4035 RIDGE TOP ROAD SUITE 550  
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

**DRAFT**

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT  
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT**

To the Board of Directors of  
The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections  
New York, New York

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

**Accountant's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagements in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

**Accountant's Conclusion**

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Burdette Smith & Bish, LLC*

Fairfax, Virginia  
February 22, 2018

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**

**DRAFT**

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

(REVIEWED)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents .....	\$ 240,573	\$ 178,495
Annual meeting advance .....	-	5,000
Inventory .....	<u>23,284</u>	<u>24,515</u>
Total Current Assets .....	<u>263,857</u>	<u>208,010</u>
<b>INVESTMENTS .....</b>	<u>92,714</u>	<u>80,865</u>
	<u>\$ 356,571</u>	<u>\$ 288,875</u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable .....	\$ 8,660	\$ 15,624
Deferred revenue .....	<u>11,490</u>	<u>12,130</u>
Total Current Liabilities .....	<u>20,150</u>	<u>27,754</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted .....	332,722	258,222
Temporarily restricted .....	<u>3,699</u>	<u>2,899</u>
Total Net Assets .....	<u>336,421</u>	<u>261,121</u>
	<u>\$ 356,571</u>	<u>\$ 288,875</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**

**DRAFT**

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

(REVIEWED)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Revenue		
Membership dues and subscriptions .....	\$ 36,460	\$ 30,955
Publication sales .....	10,157	12,602
Contributions .....	39,503	651
Investment income .....	18,377	7,354
	<u>104,497</u>	<u>51,562</u>
Net assets released from restrictions .....	2,501	2,453
	<u>106,998</u>	<u>54,015</u>
Expenses		
Program .....	20,076	27,262
General and administrative .....	12,422	11,719
	<u>32,498</u>	<u>38,981</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED ASSETS .....	<u>74,500</u>	<u>15,034</u>
<b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Contributions .....	3,301	1,940
Net assets released from restrictions .....	<u>(2,501)</u>	<u>(2,453)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS .....	<u>800</u>	<u>(513)</u>
TOTAL INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS .....	75,300	14,521
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR .....	<u>261,121</u>	<u>246,600</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR .....	<u>\$ 336,421</u>	<u>\$ 261,121</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**

**DRAFT**

**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

(REVIEWED)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
Cash received from members and customers .....	\$ 88,781	\$ 47,233
Cash paid for program and support services .....	(33,231)	(48,354)
Interest and dividends received .....	6,528	3,448
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities .....	<u>62,078</u>	<u>2,327</u>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS .....</b>	<b>62,078</b>	<b>2,327</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR .....</b>	<b>178,495</b>	<b>176,168</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 240,573</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 178,495</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets .....	\$ 75,300	\$ 14,521
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
(Gain) loss on valuation of investments .....	(11,849)	(3,906)
(Increase) decrease in advances .....	5,000	(5,000)
(Increase) decrease in inventory .....	1,231	1,360
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable .....	(6,964)	(5,733)
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue .....	<u>(640)</u>	<u>1,085</u>
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 62,078</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,327</u></b>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

# THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

DRAFT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016

(REVIEWED)

## NOTE 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (the Society) was formed in 1985, and then incorporated in 1988 under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania. The Society seeks to improve the preservation, conservation and management of natural history collections to ensure their continuing value to the society. Substantial support is received from approximately 600 members, representing 21 countries, who are interested in the development and preservation of natural history collections.

### Support and Expenses

Contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give to the Society that is, in substance, unconditional. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions expire in the fiscal year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets depending on the nature of the restrictions. When a restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets.

Member support received in advance of the membership period is recorded as deferred in the accompanying statements of financial position.

Expenses are recorded when incurred in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting.

### Fair Value Measurements

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States established a framework for measuring fair value, clarifying the definition of fair value within that framework and expanding disclosure about fair value measurements. U.S. GAAP established a three-tiered fair value hierarchy with Level 1 representing quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in an active market, Level 2 representing quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in an active market that is non-active or with other than directly or indirectly observable inputs, and Level 3 representing estimate values based on unobservable inputs. Related disclosures are segregated for assets and liabilities measured at fair value based on the level used within the hierarchy to determine their fair values.

### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that effect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

### Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Society considers all short-term non-restricted investments to be cash equivalents.

### Inventory

The Society maintains an inventory of professional books for sale to members and to the public. Inventory is recorded at lower of cost or market.



**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**

**DRAFT**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016

(REVIEWED)

**NOTE 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued**

**Investments**

Investments are reported at market value using level 1 methodology. Contributions of marketable securities are recorded at their fair market value at the date of donation.

**Intangible Asset**

The Society capitalized expenditures related to long-term functional website building and design fees. Expenditures for ordinary maintenance and updates are charged to operations as incurred. When management deems the property to be impaired beyond further use, the remaining unamortized balance is expensed in the current year. The cost and related accumulated amortization are then eliminated from the accounts. Amortization is provided for under the straight-line method over a period of three years.

**Classes of Assets**

To ensure the observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Society, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting purposes into the following classes established according to their nature and purpose.

**Unrestricted net assets** are the net assets that are neither permanently restricted nor temporarily restricted by donor-imposed stipulations and includes Board designated funds, i.e.: funds that have been segregated by the Board to be spent only on specified purposes.

**Temporarily restricted net assets** result from contributions whose use is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that either expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled and removed by actions of the Society pursuant to these stipulations. Net assets may be temporarily restricted for various purposes, such as use in future periods or use for specified purposes. The Society has no permanently restricted net assets.

**Tax Exempt Status**

The Society has been granted exemption from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended and is classified as other than a private foundation. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been made.

Management evaluated the Society's tax positions and concluded that the Society had taken no uncertain tax positions that require adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements. With few exceptions, federal and state information returns for the years prior to 2014 are no longer subject to examination by tax authorities.

**Subsequent Events**

The Society evaluated its December 31, 2017 financial statements for subsequent events through February 22, 2018, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

**DRAFT**

(REVIEWED)

**NOTE 2 – Inventory**

Inventory, at cost, consists of the following at December 31:

	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
Ideas and Practical Solutions - Vol 1 .....	\$ 142	\$	331
A Preventive Conservation Approach - Vol 2 .....	104		208
Managing the Modern Herbarium .....	1,659		1,794
MuseumWise: Workplace Words Defined .....	5,543		5,558
Museum Studies .....	154		246
Health and Safety .....	15,682		16,378
	<u>\$ 23,284</u>	\$	<u>24,515</u>

**NOTE 3 – Investments**

Investments, at market value, consist of the following at December 31:

	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
Mutual funds .....	\$ 92,714	\$	80,865

Fair market values for certificates of deposit and mutual funds, which are the amounts reported in the statements of financial position, are all based on the quoted market prices, Level 1 methodology, less any dividend and interest income earned but not yet received. Carrying value approximates fair market value.

Investment income for the years ended December 31, is comprised of the following:

	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
Unrealized gain (loss) on market value .....	\$ 11,849	\$	3,906
Interest and dividends .....	6,528		3,448
	<u>\$ 18,377</u>	\$	<u>7,354</u>

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS**

**DRAFT**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016

(REVIEWED)

**NOTE 4 – Temporarily Restricted Net Assets**

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of the following at December 31:

	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
Christine Allen travel grant .....	\$ 2,755	\$	2,405
Storage book .....	494		494
New Zealand travel fund .....	450		-
	<u>\$ 3,699</u>	\$	<u>2,899</u>

**NOTE 5 – Program Expenses**

Program expenses for the years ended December 31 are as follows:

	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
Membership and miscellaneous .....	\$ 1,881	\$	5,431
Printing and publication .....	12,177		16,223
Shipping and mailing .....	-		800
Travel grants .....	3,750		3,758
Website .....	2,268		1,050
	<u>\$ 20,076</u>	\$	<u>27,262</u>

**NOTE 6 – General and Administrative Expenses**

General and administrative expenses for the years ended December 31 are as follows:

	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
Bank and merchant charges .....	\$ 1,024	\$	817
Election expense .....	688		-
Insurance .....	3,475		3,399
Office supplies .....	1,735		2,003
Professional fees .....	5,500		5,500
	<u>\$ 12,422</u>	\$	<u>11,719</u>