

Report from Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Representative

This years report will be a bit shorter since I am writing this before, rather than after the annual SPNHC meeting due to travel obligations between the end of that meeting and the ASPT meeting in Snowbird.

The SPNHC annual meeting was held in Leiden, The Netherlands on 6-11 July co-sponsored by Naturalis and the Leiden Univeristy Medical Campus. The theme of the meeting "Bridging Continents - New Initiatives and Perspectives in Natural History Collections" is particularly appropriate for our ever-changing world as digital projects both mature and proliferate. Sessions focused on major European initiatives (EDIT and SYNTHESYS), health and safety issues, digitization and documentation of collections, preservation techniques, moving collections, and interdisciplinary projects. The "Best Practices" symposia this year focused on digitization and documentation efforts. Four workshops rounded out the meeting.

As SPNHC President, I also serve as the "Head of Delegation" to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF); SPNHC has been an Associate Participant since 2007. I attended the Regional Meeting of GBIF Participant Nodes in North America on 22-24 April 2009 in Herndon, Virginia. ASPT was well represented since Mary Barkworth, representing the USVH project, was also in attendance. The meeting focused on current GBIF activities, new initiatives, and discussions about how participation in GBIF can be expanded and publication of biodiversity data can be accelerated.

Submitted by:

Rich Rabeler,
President, SPNHC
University of Michigan Herbarium

3 July 2009