

ncpreserves

an electronic newsletter from the north carolina preservation consortium

Preserving collections in libraries, museums, archives and historic sites.

January 2012

“If you are not at the table, you are on the table.”

Ember Farber, AAM Advocacy Manager

Upcoming Conferences

Feb. 24-26	SERCA
Feb. 27-28	AAM's Museum Advocacy Day
March 18	NC Museums Council
March 28-30	SNCA
April 22-28	Preservation Week (ALA)
April 29	American Assoc. of Museums
May 1	Heritage Preservation's May Day
May 8	AIC

NCPC Annual Conference 2011

The NCPC Annual Conference was held on November 18, 2011, at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education in Chapel Hill, NC. Thirty-two people and seven speakers attended the event, whose theme was “advocacy.”

Ember Farber, Advocacy Manager from the American Association of Museums, Government Relations and Advocacy, highlighted AAM's focus on federal policy issues. “If you are not at the table, you are on the table,” said Farber.

The keys to winning overall support are understanding the environment, understanding the role of elected officials, and being able to tell your story effectively.

Farber advises you to prepare a 5-10 minute

speech and a 30-60 second “elevator message.” More resources can be found at [AAM's website](#).

Julie Mosbo, Preservation Librarian at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, talked about the history of ALA's Preservation Week (PW) and planning for PW on April 22-28, 2012.

Organizations interested in holding PW events can find a host of information and tools to help make it a success at the [PW website](#). There is information for the general public at [Preservation@Your Library](#), including activities, trivia and a Google map showing where to find a local PW event.

Eryl Wentworth, Executive Director of the

American Institute for Conservation (AIC), gave an overview of AIC and how it advocates for its members and for the conservation of cultural materials. She gave those



Hal Keiner (L) and LeRae Umfleet (R), panelists.

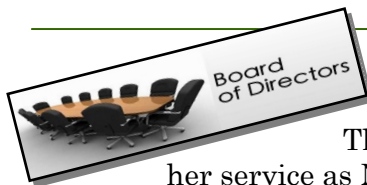
of us responsible for advocating for preserving collections this advice: be mission driven, work collaboratively, promote your strengths and send a positive message.

David Goist, of Goist Conservation, presented

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Thank You Rachel Hoff!

The NCPC Board wishes to thank Rachel Hoff for her service as NCPC President and for her tireless work with the Grants Committee. Rachel has accepted a position with Backstage Library Works in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Rachel's leadership with the Grants Program has made it one of our most valued initiatives and her leadership as President has been marked with dedication and good humor. Our loss is certainly Back Stage's gain. Good luck Rachel!

If you are interested in serving on the board or if want to share ideas with board members, please contact [Robert James](#), Executive Director.

NCPC Annual Meeting 2011, continued



NCPC Annual Meeting panelists answer audience questions.

on Heritage Preservation's Conservation Assessment Program (CAP). CAP is an assistance program that provides general assessments for small and mid-sized institutions of all types. A CAP survey documents priorities and can be used to advocate for other funding.

Deborah Jakubs, Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian & Vice Provost for Library Affairs at Duke University Libraries, discussed advocating for collections from a director's viewpoint. "We can't promote teaching and research without collections," said Jakubs.

Her advice for helping a library's administration advocate on preservation's behalf was to:

- Create a handout about the preservation program with data (e.g. FAQ sheet with statistics, definitions, explanation of the program)
- Highlight the consortial and collaborative work that is being done, or any interesting initiatives that are underway
- Prepare and keep current a list of equipment and staffing needs

Collections are at the core of a library's mission and "donors are comforted knowing there is a robust conservation program to care for their family's items," said Jakubs.

Archivist **Hal Keiner** presented information on the [NC State Archives Traveling Archivist Program](#). The program, funded by the NC Department of Cultural Resources, helps historical societies, local history rooms and libraries, and small institutional archives to survey and identify areas of concern. Keiner said, "there is tremendous energy in small repositories. They are interested in improving their collection environments and are open to recommendations."

LeRae Umfleet from the NC Department of Cultural Affairs talked about the [Connecting to Collections Program](#) and the work they do to advocate at the state level on behalf of NC cultural institutions. They also provide training and networking opportunities across the state.

Her advice for "boots on the ground" advocacy

include the following:

- Have ready a 30-60 second elevator pitch for politicians, for management, and for donors
- Create exhibits that focus on conservation
- Institute an Adopt-An-Artifact program
- Present workshops on family heirloom care

Overall the conference was a big success. Attendees were able to take away a lot of useful information and the networking opportunities enabled everyone to connect with someone new or catch up with friends.

Photos and article By [Beth Doyle](#), NCPC Newsletter Editor; Head of Conservation Department, Duke Univ. Libraries. More images from the Annual Meeting are on [Facebook](#).

Dear Robert James [NCPC Executive Director],

Thank you for an excellent conference this past Friday! The topic on Advocating for Collection Preservation was enormously helpful and the speakers were fantastic.

I can happily say that I have returned to work with a new set of ideas to gain support and funding, and feel united with others in our state and nationally on how to enthusiastically support our country's heritage and special collections.

Thank you, again, for your efforts in producing such a successful, and informative conference! Best wishes,

Alexandrea Pizza, Preservation Specialist
Abbot Vincent Taylor Library
Belmont Abbey College

Email dated 11/22/11, used with permission

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Preserving History: Thanhouser Theater Posters

I recently brought a group of hundred year old theater posters out of the flat files they'd been stored in. These posters are part of the [Clarence Herbert New Collection](#) at the Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University. I knew we had these posters, but had not seen them. I was prompted to look at them because the processing of the collection was almost complete and these posters were about the only part I had not examined for preservation needs.



There were six posters: all large in two, three or six panels. The posters advertised films from 1913-1914 which were based on the writings of Clarence Herbert New. Mr. New was a prolific writer, editor, novelist and adventurer. Adventure, which was an actual part of his young adult life, became part and parcel of his writings. He wrote for a few publications, now largely forgotten which were titled: *The Red Book* and *The Blue Book*. New had a number of pseudonyms, and he wrote stories which had titles such as: "The Hatching of a Pirate" (1919) and "A Great Ruby Disappears" (1921). This same man lost an arm to a bear in New York City's Central Park Zoo.

This collection was largely processed by former

NCPC Secretary, Audra Eagle Yun and completed by Archivist Rebecca Peterson. The collection is rich visually and is full of New's photographs, scrapbooks from his vacations in *Lake Pennessewassee*, *Maine* and tons of interesting ephemera.

The Thanhouser Film Corporation made films from 1910-1918. It is still in business, operated by the grandson of its founder as a film preservation company.

The posters are large affairs which I guess would have been applied to walls in New York City. Each poster is made up of several panels, which when joined together to make a poster ranging in size from about 3' x 4' to 4' x 6'. The colors are incredible and rich especially since these are almost 100 years old, being printed in 1913 and 1914.

I will be doing some very minor repairs on these posters using heat-set tissue. They are in great condition and only have some minor tears and a few holes after being around for a century.

It is one of the joys of preservation work to be able to handle and repair these materials.



Photos and article by [Craig Fansler](#), Preservation Librarian, ZSR Library, Wake Forest University

Help Save Our Preservation Grants Program!

Each year [NCPC Preservation Grants](#) are awarded to North Carolina libraries, archives, museums, historic sites to improve the preservation of their collections. The maximum award is \$2,000. Over the past six years, twenty-seven institutions have benefitted from these grants.

The bad news is that we are now facing the real possibility that these grants may end due to diminishing funds. **Your membership dues are used only for operational costs, they do not support the Preservation Grants.** If you believe this program makes a difference and should continue, please consider a donation specifically to fund the NCPC Preservation Grants. Visit our website for information on [how to donate](#). Thank you!



Innovative Outreach: Boy Scout Preservation Project



Members of Boy Scout Troop 57 repairing flags.

The Boy Scouts of America has been an important part of young men's lives for over 100 years and provides life skills and experiences in outdoor activities and adventures. Boy Scout Troop 57, based in Clayton, North Carolina contacted the East Carolina University (ECU) Conservation Lab to assist them in preserving three historic flags that are on display in the dining hall at Camp Tuscarora.

The flags were made by various troops and taken to the National Jamboree, a several day gathering of thousands of scouts. They are composed of cotton and range in date from 1957 to 1977 and were displayed on a wood board backing in framed Plexiglas. Over time, the flags have shown signs of deterioration and Troop 57 wanted to preserve them as part of their textile merit badge requirement.

Over the course of two days, students and faculty from ECU assisted the boy scouts and troop leaders in remounting the flags on canvas backings. The flags were then placed back on display in their new mounts for all future troops to enjoy. This project provided an excellent opportunity for conservation students to work with textiles and allowed troop involvement in the preservation process.

The scouts and their leaders did a wonderful job and the project was successful in teaching the next generation about the importance of preservation!

Photos and article by [Susanne Grieve](#), Director of Conservation, East Carolina University

Editor's Note: The Board wishes to thank Susanne for re-envisioning the newsletter last year, and bringing a new life and energy to telling our story. Susanne is currently in the Antarctic volunteering her time on preservation efforts there. We cannot wait for her return and hope that she will have plenty of stories to tell us when she gets back! —*Beth Doyle, NCPC Newsletter Editor*

Exhibit Highlights From Our Members

I Recall The Experience Sweet and Sad: Memories of the Civil War is on display at Duke University Libraries, Perkins Gallery, from January 6 to March 30, 2012 (*image right*). To mark the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, this exhibit showcases the memoirs of men and women who lived through it. The exhibit is open during [regular library hours](#). For more information [visit the exhibit online](#).

Tiffany at Biltmore has been extended through January 31, 2012. In partnership with [The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass](#), the Biltmore exhibit displays 45 stunning stained glass lamps designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Entrance into the Tiffany exhibit is included with your estate admission. Look in the Biltmore House and the gardens for special elements inspired by Tiffany's use of botanicals and love of nature. Doors open at 11:00 a.m., guests are encouraged to arrive early.



Amputation kit used by Dr. Benjamin Cobb in the Civil War. From the Rubenstein Library History of Medicine Collection at Duke University. *Photo from Duke Library's exhibits website.*

Preservation In The News

SNCA Call for Posters

The Society of North Carolina Archivists 2012 Program Committee is planning an exciting meeting around the theme, "THE 'STATE' OF ARCHIVES." Archival students and professionals are invited to submit posters for presentation at the meeting.

Topics may address research on or innovations in any aspect of archival practice. Posters will be displayed on Friday, March 30th, and presenters must be available to discuss their poster topics with conference attendees during the morning break.

Those wishing to participate should submit a brief abstract (150 words or less) explaining the poster topic. Please include the following with your abstract:

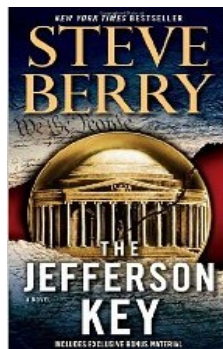
- Presenter's name
- Poster title
- Institution
- Email address
- Phone number

Abstracts will be evaluated by the 2012 SNCA Program Committee. Submit abstracts to Marcellaus Joiner at <mjoiner@Bennett.edu>. Please use "SNCA 2012 Poster Proposal" as your subject line. If your submission is not acknowledged within a week please follow up with Marcellaus Joiner. **Deadline for submission is February 13, 2012.**

ALA Preservation Week Spokesperson Announced

NYT best selling author Steve Berry has been chosen by ALA to be the first ever Preservation Week Spokesperson.

Berry and his wife Elizabeth began [History Matters](#), a non-profit organization that aids the preservation of cultural materials.



On his website Berry writes, "Preservation of our heritage is a vital link to cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, and economic legacies

— all of the things that quite literally make us who we are."

SAA Seeks Nominations For Preservation Publication Award

From the SAA website:
"...This award recognizes and acknowledges the author(s) or editor(s) of an outstanding published work related to archives preservation and encourages outstanding achievement by others.

The work can be an article, report, chapter, or monograph in an audiovisual, electronic, or print format.

The work must contribute to the advancement of the theory and practice of preservation in archives institutions by introducing new preservation theories, methods, or techniques; by codifying principles and practices of archives preservation; by presenting the results of innovative research on matters related to archives preservation; by

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Become A Member Today!

NCPC is a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization that supports preservation with educational workshops and conferences, information and consultation services, and preservation grants. We are a volunteer organization whose members believe in the value of preserving cultural heritage.

Members receive discounts on programs and workshops, have opportunities to network with colleagues from across the state, and are eligible to serve on the NCPC Board and committees. Best of all you receive this great newsletter detailing the work NCPC is doing, and the great preservation initiatives happening in NC. Together we can continue to grow the preservation community across this great state. [Join NCPC now!](#)



Preservation in the News, continued

investigating preservation issues of current interest and importance to the archives community; or by studying aspects of the history of the archives profession.”

The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2012. See their [website](#) for full details.

AIC Breaks News of New Federal Budget Cuts

In an email to its members dated 1/12/12, AIC announced the following budget cuts:

“Funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services has again been reduced as Congress reached agreement on final spending levels for FY12.

The bill, H.R. 2055, is expected to be signed by President Obama this week and will provide:

—**\$30.918 million** for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a decrease from the current \$31.5 million, and

—**\$146.255 million** or the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), a \$8.435 million decrease from the current (FY11) level, and

—**\$146.255 million** for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), a decrease of \$8.435 million.*

Note: All programs are subject to a 0.189% across the board reduction.

AIC asked its members to make advocacy a priority in 2012.

We asked our NCPC Facebook friends for their elevator speeches. If you would like to share yours, please visit our [Facebook](#) page.

“History gives us identity, meaning, a sense of place and a sense of self. Preserving our history—records, manuscripts, buildings, cemeteries, etc.—is essential in order to learn from and appreciate our past and to build our future.”

Emily Gore

“You can’t use it if it no longer exists.”

Beth Doyle

“Most of our records will be lost. It takes a massive effort on our part just to preserve the minimum that future generations will need to understand our time. Preserving records and documents is not just "neat," it's essential.”

Eleonore Aarsen

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If you would like to submit news from your organization or collection, please send content to the [Editor](#). Text should be written in a Microsoft Word document. Images should be jpeg with a printable quality of 250dpi or more, please include a caption and photo credit. *NC Preserves* is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. **Submissions for the next issue should be sent to the Editor by April 6, 2012.**