Annual Meeting—First Voices & Descendent Communities!

For the first time, the NCPC annual conference topic will focus on descendant communities who made, used or cared for the material culture that we preserve in museums, heritage organizations and private collections all over the world. Often times these important stakeholders don’t have a voice in the decisions relating to how we care for and curate these objects. On November 1 at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, nine speakers will address the value of collaborative teamwork with descendant communities. Christine Kreps will be presenting on the benefits of including descendent groups in the decision making processes of cultural heritage preservation. Glenn Wharton will present on community engagement utilizing his experience with native Hawaiian groups. John Campbell will illustrate the relationship between the NC Museum of History and descendents of Civil War soldiers in the community-funded preservation of historical flags. Michelle Lanier will provide an overview of the The Gathering Place, a new project aimed at addressing African-American history in cultural organizations. Susanne Grieve will address the various viewpoints of stakeholders in the conservation process as they relate to Native American history of the Tuscarora nation. Nora Bird, Clara Chu and Fatih Oguz will discuss Montagnard, indigineous Vietnamese, refugee community efforts to document their heritage and evaluate methods for dissemination. Stacie Nicole Smith will facilitate a discussion on heritage management with descendant communities through the Consensus Building Institute.

In addition to invited speakers, the annual meeting is also an opportunity to network with colleagues from across the state. You’ll also learn about the preservation grants offered by NCPC and join in congratulations for the award winners in Collections Preservation Excellence.

Registration is $60 for NCPC members if completed before the meeting and $85 for non-members. For more information, visit the NCPC website. To register, complete this form and mail with your payment.
The year was 1962. North Carolina historians and Civil War enthusiasts were celebrating the first centennial of the War of the Rebellion. Efforts were underway to restore the remaining Confederate earthworks at Fort Fisher in southern New Hanover County. During this work numerous artifacts, primarily cannon projectiles were recovered and treated in a make-shift laboratory constructed near the fort. Around that time State Archaeologist Stanley South learned of the location of the blockade runner *Modern Greece* in the waters adjacent to the fort. South received a grant from the North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission and with the aid of divers from the U.S. Navy recovered over 11,000 artifacts from the wreckage. 

Because of the vast quantity of objects that were available for experimentation and through research of methods then being developed in Europe for treating these types of artifacts, an astounding number of objects were conserved and remain stable to this day. Unfortunately as centennial fever evaporated and archaeological priorities shifted, thousands of untreated artifacts were placed in wet storage in open underground tanks on Fort Fisher State Historic Site property. Rainwater and oak leaves filled the tanks due to their openness, and the artifacts lay in stasis, awaiting future attention. 

As the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War approached, North Carolina museums began to make inquiries to the now established Preservation Laboratory at Fort Fisher about the availability of Civil War related artifacts for display. Because most of the stable artifacts treated during the 1960’s were on permanent loan, an effort was made to inventory and assess the remaining blockade runner artifacts in the underground tanks. With the assistance of conservation students from the Maritime Studies Program at East Carolina University, the artifacts were painstakingly removed from their 40-year storage, photographed and inventoried. To facilitate their future storage and ultimate conservation the artifacts were placed in temporary holding tanks within a building at the Preservation Laboratory. Since these materials were excavated from a waterlogged maritime environment, they must remain wet to prevent uncontrolled drying and interaction with oxygen in the environment. A generous grant received from the North Carolina Preservation Consortium provided new galvanized steel tanks to replace the mishmash of temporary tanks being used. They have been lined to provide redundant containment and are now full of artifacts that can be easily monitored and accessed.

Blue Shield Alerts!

All of the recent international conflict in places such as Syria and Egypt can leave you wondering about the status of cultural heritage sites, monuments and libraries. Archaeological sites, museums, archives and objects are often the first to become damaged or destroyed as icons of cultural identity. The U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, based in Washington D.C., provides updates and emergency response for at-risk heritage. NCPC is a member because we believe that cultural heritage should be preserved and protected locally and internationally. The protection of heritage is classified in the same category as basic humanitarian principles during times of conflict. The Blue Shield Committees of the United States and other nations advocate against intentional destruction and the prevention of trafficking stolen or looted artifacts in areas of conflict. For more information on specific countries where cultural heritage is at risk, visit the Blue Shield website alert page. Also visit the ICOM Red List site to view information about specific archaeological objects and artworks that are at risk.
New Online Teaching Resources—Heritage Preservation & Getty Conservation Institute!

This month, Heritage Preservation has released more videos on YouTube related to the Field Guide to Emergency Response and SOS! The Preservation of Outdoor Sculpture. These were only available previously as DVD’s, but can now be found on the Heritage Preservation YouTube Channel. The Getty Conservation Institute has also released new teaching materials including lesson plans, exercises and case studies. Check out the GCI Teaching and Learning Resources website for courses related to the Conservation of Collections and Conservation of Photographic Materials, among others.

Board of Directors @ Work—Introducing Your Committee Members

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For more information on how to contact the board, visit the NCPC website!

Did You Know?

NCPC offers free preservation information and consultations via phone or email with referrals to respected experts in the field. Contact the Executive Director for more information. We also have several resources online related to preserving your collections including Exhibits and Disaster Planning!
Preservation In The News

Timbuktu's ancient manuscripts to get a new digital existence

Though saved from the torches and swords of the rebels, these manuscripts struggle to survive in Mali’s harsh climate; centuries of exposure to heat and humidity have rendered the scripts extremely fragile. There are several ongoing projects to digitize and preserve these documents, like the Tombouctou Manuscripts Project, which has been working with Timbuktu’s authorities since the early 2000s with support from the Ford Foundation and the University of Cape Town.

Courtesy of the funds raised online, T160K is now preserving about 600 manuscripts with silica inserts to protect them from humidity. Another threat to artifacts around the world is the temptation to sell them to international collectors rather than preserve them locally, but this isn’t a great concern in Mali, where the families feel very strongly about protecting their collections.

TheGuardian.com

Va., N.C. tobacco barns to be preserved

Preservation Virginia and tobacco company JTI are working together to preserve historic tobacco barns in Virginia and North Carolina. JTI is providing a $100,000 grant to repair and stabilize the square log curing barns in Pittsylvania and Halifax counties in Virginia and Caswell County in North Carolina.

The Danville company and Preservation Virginia announced the partnership on October 1st. A survey of Pittsylvania County conducted by Preservation Virginia found more than 1,000 tobacco barns. Preservation Virginia field representative Sonja Ingram said most of the barns need repairs. Barns eligible for grant funding must be tobacco-curing or those that have been used during processing. They also must be at least 50 years old, or have historical and/or architectural significance.

TimesDispatch.com

Incredible Technology: How to Preserve Historical Documents

At the Library of Congress’ preservation labs, scientists are studying how to prevent the degradation of the Library’s most treasured holdings. “The field of preservation research is very small, but is of great importance for preserving the human record”, said Fenella France, chief of the preservation research and testing division of the Library of Congress.

France’s team spends a lot of time developing noninvasive techniques for analyzing the Library’s artifacts. They use a method called hyperspectral imaging to discover fine details of ancient texts and maps. Protecting artifacts against degradation is one of the Library’s primary jobs. Most paper documents are digitized, but the Library works hard to preserve the originals. LiveScience.com

NCPC Board Member Part of Hurricane Sandy Recovery

Our very own paintings conservator, David Goist, has been a long time fellow of the American Institute for Conservation which recently led relief efforts for the artworks damaged in Hurricane Sandy. Goist is part of a larger 106 member AIC CERT team which provides stabilization and treatment for artworks that are damaged in disasters. Previously a project manager for the training program, he also participated in the Cultural Recovery Center in Haiti that was sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute (Susanne Grieve, a fellow NCPC board member, also participated in this effort). Compared to a MASH unit, the emergency response team consists of conservators with various specialties that are able to quickly assess and stabilize works of art or artifacts. The team has treated materials from several national disasters including Hurricane Rita (2005), Hurricane Katrina (2005), Midwestern flooding (2008) and now Hurricane Sandy (2012). We hope your collection will never need the attention of this talented team, but it’s great to know they exist if you do! NYTimes.com
Award Nominations Sought — What About You?

Has your organization or institution made an effort towards preservation? Why not nominate yourself or an institution you know for recognition? There are several institution offering awards, including NCPC! See below for more details.

- **Award for Collection Preservation Excellence-NCPC**
  Demonstrate sustained efforts in collections preservation

- **Award for Distinction in Scholarship and Conservation-College Art Association & Heritage Preservation**
  Outstanding contributions for enhanced understanding of art

- **Ross Merrill Award For Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections-AIC & Heritage Preservation**
  Exemplary organization in the importance and priority it has given to conservation concerns

- **Jan Merrill-Oldham Professional Development Grant-American Library Association**
  Opportunity to attend a professional conference

- **Banks-Harris Award-American Library Association**
  Contribution of a professional preservation specialist who has been active in the field of preservation

- **Cunha-Swartzburg Award-American Library Association & Hollinger Metal Edge**
  Acknowledges and supports cooperative preservation projects

Touring Conservation Labs...From a Distance!

With reductions in funding for travel and networking, it can be difficult to stay up to date on the activities of our colleagues. The presence of YouTube and Vimeo has made it easier to post informational videos online. Here are some favorites!

- Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conservation
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- American Institute for Conservation
- Getty Conservation Institute
- British Museum
- Smithsonian Institute
- Duke University
- The Field Museum

*NC Preserves* is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. If you would like to submit preservation news from your organization, please send content to the Editor. Text should be in a Microsoft Word document. Images should be jpeg with a printable quality of 250dpi or more, please include a caption and photo credit. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submissions may be edited for length/content at the discretion of the editor. **Submissions for the next issue should be sent to the Editor by December 15, 2013.**