2019 Conference Recap: WHEN THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS

Friday, November 15, 2019
McKimmon Center (NC State University, Raleigh)

Disasters, both natural and man-made, seem to be increasing in both frequency and intensity. As the old adage says, however, “Forewarned is forearmed.” Attendees of the November 2019 NCPC conference learned about various types of catastrophes and how to manage them. Our presenters graciously provided electronic copies of their presentations — click on the links below!

Conference Program

◊ Overcoming Inertia: Developing and Maintaining a Written Disaster Plan. Martha Battle Jackson, Chief Curator North Carolina Historic Sites

◊ Practice makes Perfect: Planning a Tabletop Exercise to Practice Your Disaster Plan. Annie Peterson, Program Leader, LYRASIS

◊ Navigating the FEMA Grant Process. Dorothy Henderson Bell, Community Development Specialist at NC Division of Emergency Management – FEMA

◊ You Can Dance in a Hurricane Only if You’re Standing in the Eye. (managing water damage) Craig Fansler, Preservation Librarian, Wake Forest University

(continued)
Conference Recap, continued

◊ **Luck Was on Our Side: Disaster Perspectives from a Curation Facility.** Emily McDowell, Supervisor NC Office of State Archaeology—Courtney Page, Collections Manager, NC OSA—Sherry Boyette, Laboratory Technician, NC OSA

◊ **Everyday Disaster: What Happened at the Duke University Medical Center Archives When the Toilet Overflowed.** Lucy Waldrop, Assistant Director and Technical Services Head, Duke University Medical Center Archives—Rebecca Williams, Research, Outreach and Education Librarian, Duke University Medical Center Archives

◊ **Hurricane Florence: Lessons Learned.** Travis Gilbert, Old Baldy Lighthouse & Smith Island Museum—Karen Willis Amspacher, Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center ([Photos](#))


  - Heritage Health Information Survey
  - Cultural Heritage Responders Protocol
  - Recovery Vendors Tip Sheet
  - Salvaging Paintings

◊ **Help at Hand: State and Regional Disaster Recovery Resources.** Jeff Futch, Regional Supervisor, Western Office NC Office of Archives and History—Heather South, Lead Archivist, Western Regional Archives

  To the sponsors of our 2019 conference: Thank you!
Want to know even more about disaster preparedness and recovery? Check out these resources!

- Performing Arts Readiness offers sample disaster plans.
- The American Institute of Conservators National Heritage Responders program offers online training for conservation professionals, collections care professionals, heritage responders, and the public.
- NCPC is offering a Hands-on Disaster Recovery Workshop (April 20 at Duke Homestead in Durham; see p. 4 for more information).
- This year’s application window for NCPC/NCMC Hurricane Relief Support grants has closed, but it’s not too soon to start planning for the next round!

Save the date:

Friday the 13th of Nov
NCPC annual conference: Hindsight is 20/20
Hear other institutions’ horror stories and learn from their mistakes!

Photo: Ray Boddin
Grants, Workshops, and Conferences

NCPC Preservation Grants
Preservation grants from the North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPC) promote the preservation of collections in libraries, museums, archives, and historic sites; monuments, memorials, and outdoor art; archaeological sites and collections; and historic and cultural architecture. Maximum award is $2,000.00.

Complete application information is available on the NCPC website.
Application deadline: March 15th.

Disaster Recovery Workshop – April 20th at Duke Homestead
Martha Battle Jackson, Chief Curator of N.C. Historic Sites, and Sharon Bennett, Archivist for the College of Charleston, join forces once again to guide participants in disaster recovery practice. Learn by doing with "expendifacts" and a wet-recovery scenario that will teach participants triage, means to stabilize and support various damaged materials, useful supplies, and teamwork.

Registration: $50.00 for employees of NCPC member institutions and individual NCPC members, and $75.00 for non-members. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. More information and registration

North Carolina Museums Council Annual Conference (Rocky Mount, March 29-30)
- keep checking their website: registration information is coming soon!
**NCPC Executive Director**

The Board of Directors of the **North Carolina Preservation Consortium** is seeking qualified applicants for its Executive Director position. This is a volunteer position reporting to the Board of Directors.

The Executive Director is a critical part of the ongoing success of NCPC. We are seeking applicants who are committed to preserving the cultural heritage of North Carolina, and who enjoy working collaboratively with colleagues across the state.

The duties of the Executive Director are outlined in the [NCPC Bylaws](#), as well as in the job description. Responsibilities include organizational support, communications, financial management, outreach and promotion, and specific committee assignments.

Application deadline: January 31, 2020. Interested candidates should send a resume, cover letter, and references via email to:

Karen Feeney, NCPC President
feeneyke@forsyth.cc

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**Curator, Earl Scruggs Center**

The Earl Scruggs Center seeks an experienced, full-time Curator. The Curator handles all aspects of long-term exhibits, two special exhibits per year, programming in coordination with other staff, care of the exhibits, and exhibit technology in coordination with the exhibit tech company.

The Center combines the life story of legendary five-string banjo master and Cleveland County native Earl Scruggs with the unique and engaging story of the history and cultural traditions of the region where he was born and raised. The Center presents exhibits about the life and legacy of Mr. Scruggs, Cleveland County history, and other subjects relating to music and stories from the American South. In addition, the Center offers programming such as concerts, music classes for children, field trip opportunities, and a wide variety of cultural programs.

Application deadline: February 15, 2020. For the complete position description, contact:

Mary Beth Martin, Executive Director
Earl Scruggs Center
PO Box 2063
Shelby, NC 28151
OR email marybeth@earlscruggscenter.org
A Do-It-Yourself Nilfisk!

by Adrienne Berney, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Hoping for a Nilfisk vacuum in the New Year? With high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters and variable speeds, these appliances are ideal for collections care; but at a cost of around $2,000, they can be big budget-busters for most small museums and archives. You don’t have to wait for a financial windfall! With a few simple add-ons, your shop-vac can have both a HEPA filter and adjustable suction! Loran Berg, Collections Manager at the Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University, has discovered a method to trick out a standard shop-vac, creating an appropriate cleaning tool for collections preservation.

While searching for a repair part for the museum’s broken Nilfisk, Berg took a chance and purchased a speed control router. Once installed, the Nilfisk resumed optimal operation, and Berg also experimented with attaching the router to a shop-vac. It worked just as well as the Nilfisk. “After you add a HEPA filter to the shop-vac you can have a large, cheap variable speed Nilfisk-style vacuum for around $60.” Berg cautions that the controller should be calibrated to the individual vacuum, a “very easy, but important” step. (Instructions are included with the controller.) Both add-ons — the filter and the speed control — are available at many hardware stores and online via amazon.

For further guidance, contact Loran Berg: LBer[email protected].edu; 828-227-3190

Support Your NCPC!

Your membership dues support NCPC conferences, workshops, scholarships, and other programs that enable individuals and cultural institutions to preserve North Carolina heritage and culture. But your dues only cover part of the expenses. NCPC is a registered 501c3 organization, so your donations are tax deductible. When you’re completing your membership renewal form, consider adding an additional donation to enhance your contribution! (Or donate online right here, right now!)

Support NCPC With a Smile

In November 2015 NCPC received its first AmazonSmile disbursement. Thanks to all of you who support us through this program. AmazonSmile makes it easy to support NCPC by shopping online. When you order items via AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to NCPC. By selecting NCPC as your designated charity, your purchases give back to NCPC at no additional cost to you. When you start your shopping with AmazonSmile you automatically support NCPC.

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an electronic newsletter from the north carolina preservation consortium

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North Carolina Preservation Consortium
Preserving collections in libraries, museums, archives, and historic sites

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 April 2020 issue should be sent to the editor by March 15, 2019.