

In This Issue

- 2 Collections Care Calendar
- 3 Do's and Don'ts
- 4 One Thing You Can Do



It's Spring! Have you...

- changed the air-conditioning filters and confirmed the system is working?
- checked fire extinguishers, fire detectors, and fire suppression systems to be certain they are working properly?
- cleared roof gutters and cleared downspouts?
- ensured that outdoor steps and handicap ramps are in good condition after winter weather?
- checked for evidence of vermin or pests?

Spotlight on a CAPped Museum

The Nohwike Bagowa White Mountain Apache Cultural Center and Museum, established in 1969 in Fort Apache, Arizona, promotes an appreciation for the history and cultural traditions of the White Mountain Apache people through the preservation of oral histories, archives, and objects of cultural, historical, and artistic significance. During the first three decades of the institution's operation, the museum was housed in three historic buildings. Collections records were scattered or incomplete, and some objects had no documentation.

In 2002, through the efforts of a collections manager with conservation training, Nohwike Bagowa went through the Conservation Assessment Program. A collections assessment was conducted by Nancy Odegaard of the Arizona State Museum, and an architectural assessment was conducted by Robert Graham. According to Director Karl Hoerig, many of the recommendations from the CAP consultants have been incorporated into the museum's ongoing institutional development efforts.

In 2003, Nohwike Bagowa received a National Endowment for the Humanities Implementation Grant that supported the installation of long-term exhibits. The CAP assessment helped them think about conservation concerns as they began installing these exhibits. Using recommendations from the CAP consultants, the museum installed UV/IR-shielded fiber-optic lighting in new exhibit cases and took steps to ensure favorable climates for displayed objects. They also incorporated some of the space management recommendations when undergoing renovations for the new installation. During the installation, they consulted closely with their collections assessor Nancy Odegaard and the Arizona State Museum conservation staff. The project, which includes the exhibits "Ndee Biké/Footprints of the Apache" and "The Fort Apache Legacy," presents for the first time in-depth first-person White Mountain Apache perspectives on the history and heritage of the White Mountain Apache people.

CAP also helped the museum to focus on collections management needs. In 2005, Nohwike Bagowa received an inaugural Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant has allowed the museum to hire a collections clerk to complete condition assessments, records updates, and digitization and to inventory object and archival collections. This year the museum will finally have an inventory of all its collections, allowing better use of the collections in exhibitions and for research. It will also help in the development of management plans for the future.

Karl Hoerig believes the CAP project helped reinforce and focus staff's understanding of and attention to conservation. He suggests regularly reviewing CAP reports and evaluating the museum's progress to help plan implementation of the guidance provided. Returning to the reports and refocusing efforts can provide much added benefit to the CAP experience.

Thanks to Karl Hoerig, Director of Nohwike Bagowa White Mountain Apache Cultural Center, for contributing to this article.

Resources for Collections Care

Need help implementing suggestions in your CAP report? Check out the Heritage Health Index Resources for Collections Care at www.heritagepreservation.org/HHI/resources.html. Information on funding, disaster plan help, staff training opportunities, and finding a conservator is included on this page. You will also find a list of preservation-related organizations that can be of help. Visit the Web page and get started on your CAP projects!



Collections Care Calendar

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|----------------|---|
| April 19 | “Uninvited Guests: Protecting Collections from Pests,” Philadelphia, PA, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, 215-545-0613, www.ccaha.org |
| April 19-20 | “Preservation Maintenance: Understanding and Preserving Historic Buildings,” Columbus, OH, National Preservation Institute, 703-765-0100, www.npi.org |
| April 20-21 | “Identification and Management of Traditional Cultural Places,” Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, National Preservation Institute, 703-765-0100, www.npi.org |
| April 27-May 1 | Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo™, American Association of Museums, Boston, MA, 202-289-9119, www.aamus.org |
| May 4 | “Cemetery Landscapes: A Practical Guide to Care and Maintenance,” Brooklyn, NY, National Preservation Institute, 703-765-0100, www.npi.org |
| May 5-6 | “Collections Management and Practices,” Birmingham, AL, American Association for State and Local History, 615-320-3203, www.aaslh.org |
| May 10 | “Caring for Decorative Arts,” Philadelphia, PA, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, 215-545-0613, www.ccaha.org |
| May 10-11 | “Identification and Evaluation of Mid-20th-Century Buildings,” Greensboro, NC, National Preservation Institute, 703-765-0100, www.npi.org |
| May 15 | National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grants deadline, www.neh.gov/grants |
| May 16-18 | “Native American Cultural Property Law,” Sacramento, CA, National Preservation Institute, 703-765-0100, www.npi.org |
| May 24-26 | “Consultation and Protection of Native American Sacred Lands,” Portland, OR, National Preservation Institute, 703-765-0100, www.npi.org |
| June 14-16 | “Digitization and Museums: Bringing our Collections into the 21st Century,” Fullerton, CA, American Association for State and Local History, 615-320-3203, www.aaslh.org |
| June 20-21 | “Care of Paintings,” Mount Carroll, IL, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 815-244-1173, www.campbellcenter.org |
| June 21-24 | “Environmental Monitoring and Control,” Mount Carroll, IL, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, 815-244-1173, www.campbellcenter.org |
| Sept. 13-16 | Annual Meeting: History’s Enduring Voices, American Association for State and Local History, Phoenix, AZ, 615-320-3203, www.aaslh.org |

Heritage Health Index Released

In December 2005, the Heritage Health Index results were announced by Heritage Preservation at a press conference in New York City. The Heritage Health Index, a project of Heritage Preservation in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is the first comprehensive survey to assess the conditions and preservation needs of U.S. collections. The survey was completed by historical societies, archives, libraries, museums, and scientific research organizations from every U.S. state and territory. The results, published in *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Report on the State of America's Collections*, show that immediate action is needed to prevent the loss of millions of irreplaceable artifacts.

Some of the key findings of the survey include:

- 65% of collecting institutions have experienced damage to collections due to improper storage.
- 70% of institutions need additional training and expertise for staff caring for their collections.
- 80% of U.S. collecting institutions do not have an emergency plan that includes collections, with staff trained to carry it out.

The report identified a number of issues of particular significance to small museums. For example, only 86% of small museums and historical societies have an emergency plan to protect the collections, with staff trained to carry it out. 23% of small museums and historical societies reported spending nothing on conservation in the past year, and almost 50% spent less than \$3,000.

For additional data and resources to help your museum care for collections, visit www.heritagehealthindex.org. While you are there, please complete the five-question survey under the Feedback section. Your input will help Heritage Preservation and IMLS shape future projects to help small museums.

Caring for American Indian Objects

The Minnesota Historical Society Press was a 2005 recipient of an American Association for State and Local History Merit Award for the book *Caring for American Indian Objects: A Practical and Cultural Guide*. The book, edited by Sherelyn Ogden (a Heritage Preservation Board Member) offers invaluable information and advice on preserving Native American artifacts. Produced in collaboration with Native Americans across the United States, the book addresses important cultural considerations while providing step-by-step advice on the care of a variety of materials. Photographs illustrate the methods outlined in the text, which include the storage and handling of objects, protection of materials such as skins and quills, cleaning beadwork, and applying labels. It also offers advice on planning a respectful display. To order a copy of the book or for more information, visit <http://shop.mnhs.org/>.

Do's and Don'ts: Bone, Ivory, and Antler



DO provide protection for these objects by placing them in boxes or by wrapping them before storage or transport. **DON'T** use colored padding materials since color can stain artifacts. **DO** provide extra protection during transport, photography, or examination, as fluctuations in temperature can cause these materials to crack or warp.

Reprinted with permission from *A Guide to Handling Anthropological Collections* by Nancy Odegaard, illustration by Grace Katterman, Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC), 1991. Copies may be purchased from WAAC c/o Donna Williams, Williams Art Conservation, 5180 West Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90016; d.j.williams@att.net; 323-936-2331. The books are \$8.95 each or \$6.60 each for orders of 10 or more (prices include U.S. postage). Books are also available in Spanish.

One Thing You Can Do

With the introduction of ReCAP into the Conservation Assessment Program this year, it has become evident how high staff turnover can be in CAPped museums. Many issues addressed in the CAP report can be forgotten during periods of transition.

To prevent the loss of information, use your CAP report when educating new staff or board members. Encourage new employees to read the CAP report during orientation. It will help familiarize them with the museum as well as the issues they may face in caring for the collections. The more workers know about the CAP report, the better they will be able to meet the museum's needs.

\$ Focus on Fundraising

With the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in 1990, museums with Native American collections were faced with new challenges. The law, which required museums receiving any federal funding to report on their Native collections, also required museums to repatriate "cultural items" including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony to federally recognized tribes if requested.

The National Park Service's National NAGPRA Program provides assistance to museums, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiians for NAGPRA compliance. The National NAGPRA grants are intended to assist museums with Native American collections, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of cultural items.

There are two types of NAGPRA grants: Consultation/Documentation Awards and Repatriation Awards. The Consultation/Documentation grants fund individual projects, including travel or training for tribal representatives or museum professionals during consultation on collections and repatriation, as well as to document the condition and treatment history of objects to be repatriated. Repatriation grants can fund travel and transportation costs of cultural items as well as documentation or construction of appropriate containers during the repatriation process.

Eligible applicants for NAGPRA grants are federally recognized Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and museums including state or local government or private institutions that have received federal funds and hold cultural items subject to repatriation. For more information and application information on National NAGPRA grants, visit www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/grants/.

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Address & Contact Person Corrections Requested

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