



COLLECTION MANAGERS COMMITTEE  
Texas Association of Museums

# Collections Communiqué

Summer 2012

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## Looking for a job?

TAM Job Bank

AAM Job Center

Have something for the next newsletter?  
Email submissions by October 1, 2012 to  
Elizabeth Martindale at  
elizmart1@yahoo.com.

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## From the Chair...

Happy Summer Everyone!

I hope you are all finding time to rest and rejuvenate this summer. Your CMC Board is already busy making plans for the fall. We are putting together a Rights and Reproductions workshop for October in Houston and are working on the updates of the environmental monitoring kits. Check back on our website for more information in upcoming weeks.

In June, I had the opportunity to attend the TAM Council meeting in Dallas. Did you know that TAM has a Facebook page? Check it out. TAM also has a community on Linked In. Council also passed our operating procedures. Special thanks to Lisa Worley and Lindsay Richardson for working on that document. The 2013 TAM meeting will be in Beaumont on April 2-5. Please put this on your calendars now.

I am also pleased to tell you that we have closed our bank account. No more account fees! This money has been transferred to the TAM. Ruth Ann has confirmed her understanding that the funds from our account are to be used for updating the TAM environmental monitoring kits.

This September, the Board will get together to make plans for 2013. If you have any ideas, comments, questions for the Board to consider at our meeting then please let one of us know. We are always happy to hear from you. I am attending the MPMA meeting in Corpus Christi this October. I hope to see many of you there.

Have a wonderful summer.

Chris



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## FREE Dataloggers

Free to a good home: Hobo dataloggers (6 of model H08-003-02, 5 of model H08-004-02 and 1 of model H14-001) and 1 Hobo shuttle (model H09-003-08). All of the eleven smaller loggers have magnets mounted on their backs. I haven't used them so I cannot testify as to how well (or if) they work. First come, first served. Please contact Lindsey Richardson at lindseyr@jfk.org or 214-747-6660 x5507. Thank you!

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## FREE Cabinets/Cases

I was contacted recently by the assistant manager of our local mall, Post Oak. They are doing major renovations and trying to get rid of the selling point stations located along the mall median. They are offering these cases **free of charge**, simply pick them up. There are six cases he would like to get rid of by Tuesday, June 26. Then he will have a total of twenty more available in September 2012, and then March 2013. If anyone is interested in these cases, he said that they are approximately 7' by 4', and most are wired for lighting. The cases are valued at approximately \$27,000 each. He was willing to provide pictures to anyone interested. His name is Justin Meyer at Post Oak Mall in College Station, his number is 979-764-0060, ext. 227.

**Obviously the June deadline has passed, but there are two more opportunities for free display cases. As many CM's do double, or triple duty in museums, I thought this might inspire some thought on how these free cases might be incorporated into museums.**

Lisa Kalmus  
lkalmus@corps.tamu.edu

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## Upcoming Conferences/Meetings

### TAM Council Meeting

TAM Council will meet on Tuesday, August 28, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701. All TAM members are welcome to attend.

### NTAAC Events (North Texas Association for Art Conservation)

Aug 28th- NTAAC and ISA causal Mixer at Meddlesome Moth. Open to all people how are art and artifact centric.



Sept 24th - Lecture from Mark Lenard, Chief Curator at the Dallas Museum of Art

Oct 18th- Ron Siebler Studio - Studio Visit- Windmill restoration  
Nov TBA NTAAC program meeting

For more info on NTAAC events, please visit

[www.NTAAC.blogspot.com](http://www.NTAAC.blogspot.com)

[NTAAC@yahoo.com](mailto:NTAAC@yahoo.com)

### **SETMA Fall Meeting (Southeast Texas Museums Association)**

Mark your calendars. The next SETMA meeting will be on September 24 in West Columbia, Texas, hosted by the Columbia Historical Museum; 10:00 a.m.

#### **Columbia Historical Museum**

247 E. Brazos

P. O. Box 867

West Columbia, TX 77486

(979) 345-6125 or (979) 345-3123

### **Registration is Open for Mountain-Plains Museums Association (MPMA) Annual Conference**

TAM members will have a great opportunity to get acquainted with their regional colleagues this fall at the **Mountain-Plains Museums Association (MPMA) Annual Conference**. With the MPMA meeting in Corpus Christi, our Texas participants will enjoy shorter (and less expensive) travel to the 2012 conference. Check out the program online and don't miss the **early bird deadline (August 31)**.

- MPMA's Annual Conference, *Museums Navigating the Seas of Change: Charting a New Course from the Gulf Coast*, will take place October 1-5, 2012, in Corpus Christi.

- MPMA's Preliminary Conference Program is **online** now.

- Online registration for MPMA's regional museum conference is open.

- Reserve your hotel room now at the Omni Corpus Christi Bayfront hotel. Call 361-887-1600 and ask for the MPMA discount rate (\$85 per night).

### **Salt Lake City Welcomes AASLH Annual Meeting**

Save the date for the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 3-6, 2012. Check the AASLH website for more information.



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## Texas Historical Commission honors Fort Concho Site Manager

Robert Bluthardt, site manager of Fort Concho National Historic Landmark in San Angelo, received a Texas Historical Commission Award of Merit on June 11 for his 30 years of service to the historic preservation of Fort Concho. In his nomination letter, THC Commissioner Mario Castillo, who is originally from San Angelo, said of Bluthardt, "His low-key manner and quiet diplomacy have served the Fort Concho community well. He has been an admirable emissary between the Fort, representing the community of interested preservationists, and the general public. Bob recognizes that historic preservation is a tool that can foster civic pride, help stabilize neighborhoods and create unique economic development opportunities."

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## Texas Archeology Awareness Month Grants

### CTA Public Outreach Grant Program 2012

The Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) supports a program of small grants to finance public education and outreach projects during Texas Archeology Awareness Month (TAAM). CTA will award up to **FIVE** annual grants, not to exceed \$500 per year, to applicants through a competitive process, as follows.

1. Projects should promote public awareness of archaeology in Texas through any of a variety of educational and outreach activities. Examples of suitable projects might include: teacher workshops, exhibits, archeology workshops for adults or children, archaeology fairs, or other public-oriented projects. Projects must be in support of TAAM, held annually in October.
2. Grant applications may be submitted by any non-profit organization, such as municipalities, museums, and community service groups.
3. Individual grants will not exceed \$500; applicants are encouraged to seek additional funding sources. Grants cannot be used solely to fund receptions, food, or entertainment, but these items can be included as part of a public outreach project.
4. Applications must contain the following information. The application may be submitted by mail or email.



- A. Project Title.
  - B. Organization (name, address, phone, email).
  - C. Contact Person (name and contact information, if different from above).
  - D. Description of Project. Include an overview of the entire project as well as that portion for which grant funding is being requested (if different). Estimate the size and character of the population that will be served by the grant. Address how the grant will articulate with the objectives of TAAM.
  - E. Date(s) of project (must be in support of TAAM).
  - F. Budget and expenses. Describe how the grant will be used in support of the project. A detailed budget is not necessary, but identify categories of expenses. Identify supplementary funding sources that will be available.
5. Grant applications must be received by **August 31** of each year. Emailed applications are preferred. Notification of grant awards will be made by September 15.
6. At the conclusion of the funded project, and no later than February 1 of the following year, grant recipients are requested to submit a report about 200-300 words in length for publication in the CTA Newsletter and for distribution to other interested parties.
7. Grant recipients are requested to acknowledge CTA in any printed, electronic, or graphic material produced through the grant and in announcements at any public meetings or events to which the grant gives rise, as follows:
8. Grant applications and queries should be submitted to the CTA President:

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## August Workshop: Understanding Audiences and Visitors

"Understanding Audiences and Visitors" will help participants learn how to collect visitor information, locate demographic research, identify overall demographic trends, and explore how to use that information to keep their museums relevant.

The workshop will address ways to measure audiences, identify and target future audiences, and leverage free or low-cost resources for continual market scanning. Particularly appropriate for



marketing and development staff, "Understanding Audiences and Visitors" is designed for those responsible for interaction with visitors and audiences.

Instructor: Ms. LeAnna Biles Schooley, Assistant Director, Center for Texas Studies at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth

**Date:** Friday, August 17, 2012

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Registration 8:30 a.m. Lunch break at noon)

**Location:** Sophienburg Museum and Archives  
Library  
401 West Coll  
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

**Fee:** \$30 per person includes box lunch and materials.

**Registration:** Online only via TAM website.

Please register early as space is limited. Advance registration is required. Limit two registrations per organization.

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## Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel: Now a Mobile Application!

You are encouraged to get this. It will be invaluable in the event of an emergency.

WASHINGTON, DC— Heritage Preservation's *Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel* is now available free of charge on the iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad as the "ERS: Emergency Response and Salvage" app.

Long known as the authoritative resource for salvaging artifacts after a disaster, the Wheel has been used by museums, libraries, and archives around the world. This new app makes the Wheel's invaluable guidance accessible to anyone who is in need of practical advice for saving collections in the first 48 hours after disaster strikes.

Apple users can download this free app from the App Store. Simply search for "ERS: Emergency Response and Salvage" or click [here](#). To download, your device must run iOS 5.1 or later. Complete technical requirements are available on the [ERS page](#) at the App Store.

ERS provides the same reliable content found in the original Wheel. The app outlines critical stages of disaster response and provides practical salvage tips for nine types of collections, from photographs to natural history specimens. ERS can help users protect precious collections and significant records, access reliable information instantly, and save damaged objects. The app was created in



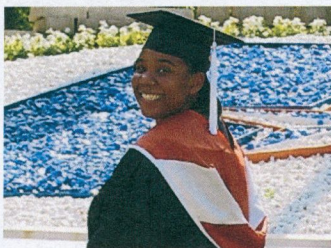
partnership with the **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training**.

The original slide-chart Wheel was created by Heritage Preservation, a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the United States. It has been translated into six languages and distributed internationally in more than 40 countries. The original Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel, sponsored by **BELFOR**, is still available for purchase in the Heritage Preservation **bookstore**.

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## Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight is **Kendra Lemon**, 2012 CMC scholarship recipient. REAL School Gardens, Program Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator



Kendra A. Lemon earned a Bachelors of Arts degree in Anthropology with a minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from the University of Michigan in 2006. She graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Masters of Arts degree in Cultural Anthropology in May 2011. Her

Master's thesis involved research in the area of museums' efforts to outreach to diverse audiences. She publicly presented her research at the 2010 Texas Association of Museums Annual Meeting in Bryan-College Station. She was a featured presenter in the session entitled "Opening Doors to Inclusiveness," a session that explored the issues surrounding how museums can go about diversifying its audience, exhibits, and board of directors. Kendra was able to attend the 2010 Texas Association of Museums Annual Meeting after receiving a scholarship from the Northeast Texas Museum Association.

While attending UTA's graduate school, Kendra served as a graduate teaching assistant and was also an inducted member into the Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honor Society. During that time, she also gained over three years experience working in various positions within museums in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The work experiences include serving as the Education & Programs Assistant and Exhibits & Collections Intern at *The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future* in Dallas, TX, serving as a Museum Coordinator at the *National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum* in Fort Worth, TX, serving as a Curatorial Intern at *Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park* in Dallas, TX, and serving as a volunteer at the *International Museum of Cultures* in Dallas, TX.

In addition to membership in the Northeast Texas Museum Association, she is also a member of the American Association of Museums (including membership in several of AAM's Standing Professional Committees), the Texas Association of Museums (including membership in several of TAM's Affinity Group



Committees), and the Mountain-Plains Museum Association. Kendra is currently working as the Program Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator at REAL School Gardens while she continues to pursue employment in the museum profession. Her future plans include using her anthropology background to help develop educational exhibits and programs in museums to help further equality and tolerance amongst diverse groups of people.

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## 2012 TAM Annual Meeting Session Review:

### **Working with Large Object Collections Storage: An Action Guide Approach**

Kendra A. Lemon  
Membership Chair & Treasurer  
Northeast Texas Museum Association (NTMA)

This had to be my favorite session to attend during this year's TAM Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Aside from just presenting theorized ideas about how things should and could work in a museum/institution, this session gave real life examples of museums/institutions who have dealt with (and in some cases, are still dealing with) collections storage issues and how they developed solutions to their problems. This was a very practical session, one where I walked away with a notepad full of notes, feeling very equipped to tackle collections storage issues in my own place of work.

The first to present during the session was a group of students from the Museum of Texas Tech University, headed by Henry B. Crawford (Curator of History) and lead by Brian C. Briggs (Student Team Leader/Special Projects, History Division). The students described their working environment at the Museum as CSW (Collections Storage Wing), "...where objects went to die." There were several issues with their collections storage area (lack of space, disorganization, safety hazards, pest control problems, lack of functionality, etc.) that needed to be corrected, and these issues led to the development of an Action Guide Manual to deal with them.

The Action Guide Manual is a binder that includes: inventory, object files, object-specific maintenance log forms (ex. cars/vehicles – what types of fluids need to be removed from them before moving), moving plans and floor plans. The idea was that with this manual to guide them, they would be able to turn their dysfunctional collections storage area into a space that not only housed objects but also served as a working space. This working space is where objects will be easily accessible to be exhibited, conserved and preserved. The Guide is an active document that changes over time as the needs of the Museum and CSW change over time.



A CSWAT (action team) was created to help identify, relocate and re-house objects in the CSW. Part of the initial stages included reorganizing everything with assigned numbers and tags so that objects would be orderly and ready for the move. The team then used 3-D graphic floor planning tools to help visual where everything would go once it had been moved to its new location within the CSW. Having the 3-D graphic maps of the space was part of their strategic plan for taking action to get the CSW to be more functional in the long-run.

The best part of the presentation from this team was to learn that the team was able to turn their dysfunctional storage area into a functional, working space with little to no budget! Henry Crawford explained that the highest costs was from work-study wages for student labor and that most they actually spent on supplies was around \$20 from Wal-Mart. The sketch-up 3-D models of the floor plans were created using free downloaded software that is available to the general public. I found it simply amazing what can be accomplished with proper planning and teamwork!

Amy Fulkerson, Collections Manager at the Witte Museum, also presented during this session. She discussed the issues she had with storing and moving large objects for the Museum. Some of the objects included airplanes, cars and 13-foot murals that miraculously survived a building fire but is still undergoing restoration before it's able to be shown again. She worked with a local transporting company to help assist her with taking apart these large objects in order to move them from an off-site location to the Museum and then reassemble them in their new locations. From her experiences, Amy came up with three rules to remember when dealing with collections moving projects:

- Rule #1 – Don't make things more complicated than they need to be – don't over think things
- Rule #2 – Be flexible – change is inevitable
- Rule #3 – Be prepared for anything – plan ahead

Her trial and error stories echoed the same the main theme of the presentation from the team from Texas Tech: deliberate planning during the initial stages of collections management projects will lead to success in the end. For both the Museum of Texas Tech and the Witte Museum, it was the time spent in carefully planning out their projects that resulted in solutions to their collections storage problems.

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## MPMA Collections-related Workshops/Sessions of Interest

October 1, 2012 thru October 5, 2012  
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota



**Tuesday October 2, 2012**

Workshop: Accessioning 101: The Basics

Workshop: Storage Planning for Cultural Facilities

**Wednesday October 3, 2012**

Moving Your Museum – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Please Don't Kiss the Birds: Planning Chaos into a Successful Exhibit

The New Reality: Practicality and Affordability in the Museum Environment

Stronger Together: Forming a Shared Collections Association on a College Campus

Low Cost Auto-Montage Systems for Specimen Macro Photography

Dioramas: Past, Present, and Maybe Future?

Minimizing Collections Risk

Affordable Information Management: Process, Progress and Performance

**Thursday October 4, 2012**

Moving Your Archives into the Digital Age through Partnerships

"Do Not Touch": Museums, Artifacts and the Power of Touch

Dealing with Abandonment: Old Loans, FICs, and Abandoned Property

Using the "D" Word: The Joys of Responsible Deaccessioning

Exhibiting Space: The Relationship between Museum Content and Facilities

Am I Covered? Insurance 101 for Small Museums and Conservators

**Friday October 5, 2012**

Making the Most Out of Your Interns