

## ANNUAL REPORT

SUBJECT: Highlights of NSCA Activities-2002  
TO: BSA Council  
FROM: Laurence E. Skog, BSA Representative to Natural Science Collections Alliance  
DATE: 31 July 2002

During 2001-2002 the Association for Systematic Collections changed its name to become the Natural Science Collections Alliance, which is believe to more fully represent the goals of the membership of institutions, societies, and individuals. The further reason for a name change was to make the organization and its aims more understandable to the lay public, policymakers, and other scientists.

Throughout the year NSC Alliance continued to distribute, in addition to the printed monthly newsletter, called the Alliance Gazette, an on-line bi-monthly newsletter of NSCA activities, called Washington Initiative, which highlights of recent news about systematic collections, as well as actions in Congress affecting members. The electronic newsletter is available to NSCA member institutions and societies, and can be sent to interested recipients on request. This source is particularly valuable in highlighting funding for and available from NSF.

The major activity of the current year was the annual meeting of NSCA held in Washington, DC 6-8 June at the Smithsonian Institution. Information on the meeting is available at the NSCA website at [www.nscalliance.org](http://www.nscalliance.org). Over 200 members and VIP guests attended from the US and nine other countries. 120 speakers and presenters from museums and organizations participated in two days of panel meetings, and breakout sessions dealing with communicating science, permitting, digital libraries, etc. The opening reception was held at the National Geographic Society with a presentation on the Megatransect in Africa. The plenary session was a panel of distinguished speakers discussing how natural history museums are shaping the future.

The new president of NSCA is Dr. John E. Heyning of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The 2003 meeting is planned for Berkeley, California sponsored by the U.C. Berkeley Museums.

Various requests for information received from NSCA were forwarded to the BSA Business Office.