

## ANNUAL REPORT

SUBJECT: Highlights of Natural Science Collections Alliance Activities-2004  
TO: BSA Council  
FROM: Laurence E. Skog, BSA Representative to Natural Science Collections Alliance  
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Since the director of NSCA stepped down in 2003 there has been less activity that has been obvious to individual and society members of the Natural Science Collections Alliance. So far, a new director has not been named, and information from the organization has been coming from the president, John Heyning, and other members of the NSCA administrative staff.

During 2003-2004 the Natural Science Collections Alliance [NCSA], formerly the Association for Systematic Collections [ASC] held its annual meeting in Washington, DC, hosted again as in 2002 by the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History, 26-27 May 2004. The theme of the meeting was "A Collections Summit, to bring together all corners of the collections community to develop a unified vision to convey the importance of collections and associated research programs."

The annual meeting included an array of programs including six tracks of presentations, panels and poster sessions on diverse topics such as Collections form Solving Societal Problems, Critical Infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and Communication Linking collections and Society. The Plenary Speaker was Kathie Olsen, Assoc. Dir. for Science in the Executive Office of the President.

Featured at the meeting was NSCA's new communications toolkit – Dinosaurs to DNA: The Power of Natural Science Collections, and the initiative with the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure.

Throughout the year NSC Alliance continued to distribute at irregular intervals an on-line newsletter of NSCA activities, which highlighted 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 sources available from NSF. Information on NSCA, the annual meeting, and the electronic newsletter detailing the NSCA activities for 2004 is available at the NSCA website at [www.nscalliance.org](http://www.nscalliance.org).