

PREPARATORS RESOURCES

Fossil preparation is a vital part of research and education. This is a resource for those concerned with fossil preparation, collection cares and management, field techniques, and conservation.

DEFINING THE PROFESSIONAL VERTEBRATE FOSSIL PREPARATOR: ESSENTIAL COMPETENCIES

([PDF document](#))

Supported by the 2011 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Preparator's Grant, this [document](#) was prepared by a group of professional preparators to identify the competencies that are fundamental to the definition of the qualified professional preparator.



Fossil preparator Erin Fitzgerald uses a pin vise to prepare a fossilized sturgeon from Montana at the Field Museum, Chicago (photo by A. Shinya).

PREPLIST: E-MAIL DISCUSSION LIST FOCUSING ON FIELD AND LABORATORY TECHNIQUES IN VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

This E-mail list is open for anyone who is interested in technical insights. It is devoted to the exchange information, questions, opinions, etc. about preparation of vertebrate fossils. No subject, related to preparation is off-limits.^[L]_[SEP] Debate is encouraged for honing our knowledge and thinking skills, for truth-seeking, and for clarifying our perspectives. However, flames or personal attacks will not be tolerated.^[L]_[SEP] Commercial advertising on the list is not permitted.

To protect our list members, please realize that their posts to this list should not be considered public. If you wish to re-post a message to another forum (e.g., another mailing list, a usenet newsgroup, etc.), or to another person, you should get permission of the author. We also think that private E-mail carries a presumption of confidentiality; it is therefore a violation of trust to post it publicly without permission.^[L]_[SEP]

To join the prelist, visit: ^[L]_[SEP]<http://lists.fas.harvard.edu/mailman/listinfo/prelist> ^[L]_[SEP] Follow the instructions and press the "Subscribe" button.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FOSSIL PREPARATION AND COLLECTION CARE

Preparators' Committee has put together a list of references on fossil preparation and collection care: click [here](#) to download Excel file.

Categories you will see in this file are:

- General reference
- Adhesives, consolidants, fill materials
- Preparation
- Acid preparation, chemical techniques

- Conservation and preservation
- Collecting and field techniques
- Molding and casting
- Museology [Collections, Storage, Documentation, Environmental Control, Shipping, and Handling]
- Exhibits, mounting, reconstructions
- CT scans, SEMS, thin sectioning
- Taphonomy, diagenesis
- Pyrite, salts, mineral problems, radioactivity
- Health and safety
- Miscellaneous

Currently there are 642 entries in [this file](#). More references will be added and the file will be updated periodically.

PREPARATORS' SESSION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Preparators' Session at SVP annual meeting allows preparators to present new and innovative techniques, case studies, basic-technique reviews, etc., ranging from field and lab techniques to specimen curation, molding, casting, exhibition and lab design. *Abstracts from recent annual meetings are not current available because this section of the website is currently under construction.*

[Preparators' Committee](#) encourages authors of the presentations to make their presentations available online after the meetings.

HIX PREPARATOR'S GRANT

SVP is honored to receive generous support from The Hix family to support preparator's grant. The Marvin and Beth Hix Preparator's Grant is intended to further the field of Vertebrate Paleontology through the advancement of preparation.

Details of the grant application information is available in the SVP award section.

In 2014, Alan Zdinak received the Hix preparator's grant to produce preparation demonstration videos. Two videos are posted online (the link below will take you to Vimeo site).

- [Preparation demonstration videos](#)



Click the image to see videos on demonstration for making 'cavity mounts' by Alan Zdinak on Vimeo (photo by A. Zdinak).

PREPARATORS' PDFS

A variety of PDFs for preparators are listed in the [Preparators' PDFs](#) section. Contributions are made by SVP members. View and download Preparators' session and poster presentation from the past annual meetings, supplemental information, how-to guides, Materials & Methods FAQs, and other resources. You can [submit](#) your past presentation(s) anytime. Please consider making your presentation(s) available online. *The Preparators' PDF files are not current available because this section of the website is currently under construction.*

PREPARATORS' LINKS

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections [SPNHC] is an international society whose mission is to improve the preservation, conservation and management of natural history collections to ensure their continuing value to society.

- [The Society of the Preservation of Natural History Collections](#)

The Associations for Materials & Methods in Paleontology is a non-profit organization of persons interested in the field of paleontological collections care and methodology. Their mission is to advance paleontological research through education and advocacy for improved ethics, standards, and practices in field, laboratory, and analytical methods.

- [The Associations for Materials & Methods in Paleontology](#)