

# ncpreserves

an electronic newsletter from the north carolina preservation consortium

Preserving collections in libraries, museums, archives and historic sites.

April 2012

## Save The Date!

NCPC Annual Conference

November 2, 2012

N.C. Museum of History

Raleigh, NC

## Upcoming Conferences and Events (2012)

April 22-28	Preservation Week (ALA)
April 29	American Assoc. of Museums
May 1	May Day (Heritage Preservation)
May 8	AIC Annual Conference
June 19-22	RBMS Pre-Conference
June 21-26	ALA Annual Conference
August 6-11	Society of American Archivists
October 7-9	Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums

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## C2C Sets "Burnsville Museum" On Fire (For A Good Cause!)

A recent survey by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resource's Connecting to Collections (C2C) office showed progress in the number of institutions that have disaster plans. However, the survey revealed mixed results in overall preparedness levels.

The good news is that 55% of the collecting organizations which responded now have written plans, up from the 27% tallied in an earlier survey. The bad news is that less than half of these reported staff familiarity with their plans. More bad news is that most institutions never hold drills or other training exercises.

In order to practice response and recovery techniques C2C developed a controlled burn exercise that functioned as a major training event for participants from North Carolina's cultural heritage institutions and for firefighters on the Outer Banks.

In preparation for the workshop C2C staff members gathered materials to burn in a staged museum setting at the Buxton Fire Department's fire training facility on Hatteras Island. Shelving and discarded items from NCDCCR offices and thrift stores filled what we termed "the Burnsville Museum." We inventoried and numbered over 120 objects. In early February we loaded the Burnsville

Museum into a cargo van and drove to the Outer Banks. The day before the workshop, C2C's Matt Hunt and N.C. Museum of History's John Campbell set up the shelving units and arranged objects inside.

On the afternoon of February 6th, 2012, ten participants joined with C2C



staff for a Fire Disaster Recovery Workshop. Several NCDCCR Archives & History professionals joined the C2C team for this workshop, some as training partners and others as participants.

The event began with an overview of common causes of fire in historic buildings and recovery techniques. Next, Martha Battle Jackson, Curator of N.C. Historic Sites, presented on her experiences during the aftermath of the devastating 1998 fire at the

*Continued on page 2*

## C2C Sets “Burnsville Museum” On Fire (For A Good Cause!), continued

Thomas Wolfe Memorial. After dinner our group re-convened at the Buxton Fire Department where administrators and firefighters-in-training had already gathered.

For the next two hours, firefighters lit various fires in rooms adjacent to the “museum” storage areas. None of the materials we had prepared burned up in the fire, but most suffered damage from soot, ash, and/or water.

The next morning our group began to sort through the mess and practice recovery. After the



trriage process, teams brought items out of the dark, sooty burn facility and into the open air. Collapsible tables and tarps

formed work surfaces and spaces for air drying. Participants filled out worksheets on each item as they inspected and treated it, recording accession numbers, conditions, and any recovery activities. Our group divided into three teams, with Jackson and C2C staff serving administrative roles according to Incident Command Systems protocol.

After a morning spent practicing fire recovery, Reid Thomas gave a useful presentation to the group on [fire prevention advice for historic house museums](#). Matt Hunt then led participants in a discussion about what went well, what could

have been improved, and [what we learned](#) during the controlled burn and its aftermath.

We hope the experience gave all participants a good basis to write or revise relevant disaster plans for their institutions, to be able to initiate appropriate recovery actions, and to guide their colleagues, if necessary.

If you are interested in participating in a similar hands-on burn recovery, [sign up for our listserv](#) to stay abreast of all our program announcements.

We’re hoping to schedule another in Fire Disaster Recovery workshop in Asheboro later this spring. The C2C project is funded by a grant from the Institute [of Museum and Library Services](#) as part of their national [Connecting to Collections](#) initiative.



Further disaster resources can be found on the [Heritage Preservation](#) website, including the [Field Guide to Emergency Response](#) and the [Emergency Response Salvage Wheel](#).

*Written by [Adrienne Berney](#), North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. All photos courtesy of NC Connecting to Collections.*



### Connect With NCPC Online



<http://ncpreservation.org>



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## NCPC Grant Funds Improved Conditions For ECSU Historic Collections

[Elizabeth City State University Archives](#) was a 2011 recipient of a North Carolina Preservation Consortium Collections Care Grant. The purpose of this grant is to improve the preservation environment of the historic collections housed in ECSU's G.R. Little Library.

The \$2,000 grant supported the purchase and installation of a weather-tight, steel exterior door which will both help stabilize temperature and humidity levels and maintain cleaner air in the Library's archival storage vault.

Director of Library Services Dr. Juanita Midgette Spence praised the Preservation Consortium's assistance. "We needed to protect archival papers and photographs relating to ECSU's founders, faculty, and student body from damaging factors in our ever-changing North Carolina climate. The

new door is a state-of-the-art, first line of defense between our collections and the weather, debris, and insects which can harm our irreplaceable materials," Spence said.



Library staff and students unveil new door (Left to right): ECSU student Tiera Harris, Archives Assistant Pernell Bartlett, student Dequayia Nelson, Library Director Dr. Juanita Midgette Spence, and student Arnethia Wills.

Written by [Jean B. Bischoff](#), University Archivist, G.R. Little Library, Elizabeth City State University

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## Help Save Our Preservation Grants Program!

Each year [NCPC Preservation Grants](#) are awarded to North Carolina libraries, archives, museums, historic sites to improve the preservation of their collections. The maximum award is \$2,000. Over the past six years, twenty-seven institutions have benefitted from these grants.

The bad news is that we are now facing the real possibility that these grants may end due to diminishing funds. **Your membership dues are used only for operational costs, they do not support the Preservation Grants.** If you believe this program makes a difference and should continue, please consider a donation specifically to fund the NCPC Preservation Grants. Visit our website for information on [how to donate](#). **Thank you!**

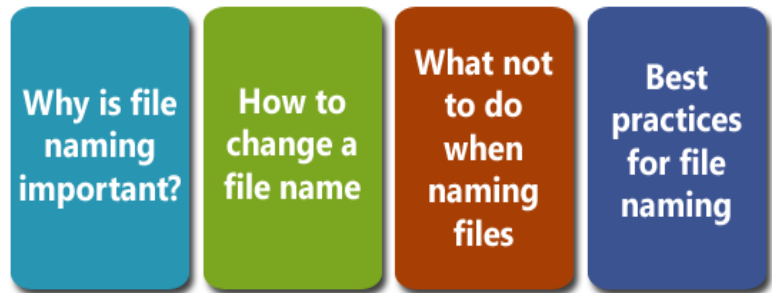




## New File Naming Tutorial Helps You Preserve Digital Information

A blank entry box. That's how a lot of computer file names are born. Some software programs try to help you out, others leave it all up to you. Each day we name files – sometimes hundreds of them – but not many people realize that this easy, painless, and required task can have a lasting effect on a file's future.

That's why the Digital Information Management Program, which is part of the Government and Heritage Library at the State Library of North Carolina, has developed a short, four-part video tutorial on file naming. The tutorial describes why file naming is important, how to change a file name, and the do's and don'ts of file naming. These videos are part of a new series, Inform U, which will feature tutorials on digital preservation. The Digital Information Management Program works to educate employees of the state of North Carolina, as well as members of the general public, on preserving digital information. You can find out more at [digitalpreservation.ncdcr.gov](http://digitalpreservation.ncdcr.gov).



Whether saving annual financial reports or annual vacation snapshots, we hope the file naming tips featured in this video tutorial will help you discover the best ways to manage and preserve your hard work. Please spread the word, and view the tutorials [online now](#).

*Written by [Lisa Gregory](#), Digital Projects Liaison, Digital Information Management Program, Government and Heritage Library, State Library of North Carolina*

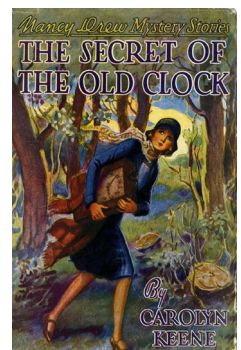
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## Exhibit Highlights From Our Members

**A New Look at Old Friends: An Exhibit of Vintage Series Books for Girls** is on display through August 8th in the fourth floor atrium of Belk Library and Information Commons, Appalachian State University. The exhibit features books from the Elaine J. O'Quinn Girls' Studies Collection in Special Collections. On display are a variety of materials related to girls' series books from the mid-1800s through the early 20th century. Featured series include Nancy Drew, Cherry Ames, Beverly Gray, and Elsie Dinsmore, among many others. For more information, please [see their website](#).

**Rhythms of the Heart: The illustration of Ashley Bryan** highlights the colorful illustrations of children's book artist and author Ashley Bryan. Her award-winning books combine music, dance and storytelling traditions that retell African folktales for young audiences. On display at the North Carolina Museum of Art through August 19, 2012. For more information, see the [museum's website](#).

**The Vanderbilts at Home and Abroad** is now on display at Biltmore Legacy in Antler Hill Village. This exhibit gives you a look into the private lives of George, Edith and Cornelia Vanderbilt both at home and in their travels throughout Europe and the Far East. Discover the fateful decision that saved them from perishing on the Titanic! More information [on their website](#).



Nancy Drew mysteries are just one title written for girls on display at Appalachian State University's Belk Library. Photo from Belk Library's blog.

## ECU Celebrates Preservation Week April 22-28



Our celebration began with a display located on the second floor at the end of the hallway leading to Joyner Library's Teaching Resources Center. Highlighted in our display were types of conservation treatments such as sewing, binding, encapsulating and photography.

Student employees in the Conservation Lab designed a handcrafted, book-style poster for Preservation Week that was placed on a table beside the display. Chapter one described different types of damages books and/or documents can accumulate. Chapter two explained some of the common repairs encountered in our Conservation Lab. A hand made brochure holder containing free preservation information was placed on the table for viewers to take.

To top off the event, our conservation staff, Lynette Lundin, Tracie Hampton and Gloria Bradshaw demonstrated several conservation treatments for Joyner Library users to

watch as they walked through the front doors. Among these treatments were sewing, pamphlet binding, and cleaning and rehousing photographs. Questions about the treatments were answered as the demonstrations took place.

Gloria Bradshaw presented nine sessions for kindergarten through second grade on "How To Care For Your Books" at Banks Elementary School in Kinston, N.C.

Thanks to Principal Cynthia Faulkner and Candice Beaman, Media Coordinator, for allowing me to spread the word about the care and handling of books.

The conservation of books for others to use and enjoy is a lesson for all ages.

*Written by [Gloria Bradshaw](#), Preservation & Conservation Department, Joyner Library, Eastern Carolina University. Photograph by Dawn Rook, Melissa Ashmore and Zach Taylor.*



## Theophilus White House Reassembled And On Display

The interior paneling shown in this image was taken from the Theophilus White house in the Bethel Township of Perquimans County. The circa 1736 house was owned by Theophilus White, Sr. prior to the Civil War. In 1850, Theophilus White, Jr. lived with his grandparents, Theophilus White, Sr. and Martha White, his mother, sister and twelve slaves (Jane, Ann, Nancy, Virgil, Issac, George, Sam, Semour, Cornelia, Joe, John, Grace) in the house.

At the age of 21, Theophilus White, Jr. joined the Confederate Army on May 16, 1861 as a private in Company F, 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment "Perquimans Beauregards." White was paroled and transferred for exchange in October 1864. White returned to the property, which was later willed to him, and married Caroline Harrell in January 10<sup>th</sup> 1865. He married Archador C. Swain in 1884.

The Theophilus White house was demolished in the 1970's. However, the interior paneling was saved prior to demolition and later used in a private house in Windsor, N.C. The interior was then donated to the [Museum of the Albemarle](#) in 2006. The museum surface cleaned and reassembled the pieces for its newest exhibit *Under Both Flags: Civil War in the Albemarle*.

*Written by [Wanda Stiles](#), Curator, Museum of the Albemarle. Photo courtesy of the Museum of the Albemarle.*



## Preservation In The News

### Trinkaus-Randall Wins 2012 Cunha/Swartzburg Award

The ALCTS PARS committee for the George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg Preservation Award has selected Gregor Trinkaus-Randall as the 2012 recipient.

Gregor has been an important player on the national preservation scene for many years through his collaboration with national organizations. He currently serves as the 2011-2012 President of the Society of American Archivists.

The award will be presented on June 24, 2012, at the ALCTS Awards Ceremony during the 2012 American Library Association Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA. The Cunha/Swartzburg Award is sponsored by Hollinger Metal Edge, and comes with a \$1,250 grant and citation.

For more information on the Cunha/Swartzburg Award, please visit the [ALA-ALCTS Awards](#) website.

### Bewer Wins 2012 Heritage Preservation Award

Conservator and art historian Francesca Bewer has been awarded the 2012 College Art Association/Heritage Preservation Award for Distinction in Scholarship and Conservation.

The award recognizes an outstanding contribution by a person who has enhanced understanding of art through the application of knowledge and experience in conservation, art history, and art. Dr. Bewer is Research Curator at the Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies, Harvard Art Museums, and is author of *A Laboratory for Art: Harvard's Fogg Museum and the Emergence of Conservation in America (ca. 1900-1950)*.

For more information, please see the [College Art Association website](#).

### Join the C2C Online Community

With over 900 members since its public launch in Fall 2011, the [Connecting to Collections Online Community](#) site is designed to help smaller museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies quickly locate reliable preservation resources and network with their peers as well as preservation experts.

It is based on the interest generated by IMLS' national initiative, [Connecting to Collections](#), which included a bookshelf of preservation texts, workshops and webinars, and grant opportunities.

The Online Community regularly features a resource and an opportunity to interact with its authors and other experts through [live chat events](#) in the Meeting Room.

You can learn more about the community, view archived videos, and learn how to register [online](#).

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## Become An NCPC Member Today!

NCPC is a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization that supports preservation with educational workshops and conferences, information and consultation services, and preservation grants. We are a volunteer organization whose members believe in the value of preserving cultural heritage.

Members receive discounts on programs and workshops, have opportunities to network with colleagues from across the state, and are eligible to serve on the NCPC Board and committees. You also receive this great newsletter detailing the work NCPC and our members are doing. Together we can continue to grow the preservation community across this great state. [Join NCPC now!](#)

**We would like to welcome our newest institutional members: Dare County Libraries, Joel Lane Museum House, Sisters of Mercy of America (Mercy Heritage Center). Thank you for supporting NCPC!**

## Made To Order: Kit Homes in Raleigh (May 18-19)

In celebration of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the commission is sponsoring ***Made to Order: Kit Homes in Raleigh***. Join us for a series of events exploring this uniquely American phenomenon.

Sold by companies such as Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Aladdin Homes beginning in 1906, kit homes were sets of building plans and materials purchased from a catalog. After selecting a model, practically everything needed to build your own arrived via boxcar. It was then up to you (or your local carpenter) to put it together. Reaching the height of popularity in the 1920's, kit homes revolutionized the way Americans thought about home building and ownership. They were more affordable than hiring an architect and often came with generous financing packages.

The weekend of May 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> RHDC welcomes leading kit home authority Rosemary Thornton, who will share her expertise in a lecture. Additionally, an exhibit at the Raleigh City Museum showcasing our city's best examples will debut. Find complete kit-home event information on the [RHDC Website](#).

Written by [Jennifer Carpenter](#), Intern, Raleigh Historic Development Commission

### NCPC Fun Fact: Who Are Our Members?

Ever wonder what kind of institutions join NCPC? Here they are:

- 42 Libraries
- 9 Museums
- 2 Archives independent of a library
- 2 Historical Societies/Associations
- 2 Heritage Centers
- 2 Historic Sites
- 1 Archaeology Office
- 1 Conservation Center
- 1 School of Information and Library Science
- 1 Register of Deeds

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Preserving collections in libraries, museums, archives, and historic sites

NC Preserves is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. If you would like to submit preservation news from your organization, please send content to the [Editor](#). Text should be in a Microsoft Word document. Images should be jpeg with a printable quality of 250dpi or more, please include a caption and photo credit. Submission does not guarantee publication; submissions may be edited for length/content at the discretion of the editor. **Submissions for the next issue should be sent to the Editor by July 6, 2012.**