

SERCA

Southeast Regional Conservation Association

Newsletter

Winter 2021 Volume 4, Number 3

SAVE THE DATE

2022 SERCA ANNUAL MEETING *Protecting the Most Valuable Asset* hazards and personal protection

MARCH 4-6, 2022

Jackson, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives & History



2022 SERCA Annual Meeting Call for Proposals

We are looking for presentations on Hazards and Personal Protection, Tips and Tricks, or BOTH

From the Desk of the Communications Officer: Katie Boodle



Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the survey regarding our logo and website updates. We got some excellent feedback from people regarding the updates that I would like to share with you all today. Overall, we had about 71% of respondents indicate that they thought we needed to update our branding and provide a more unified look for the website, newsletter, and meeting materials moving forward. Many people noted that it seemed as though we don't actually have a logo or cohesive visual theme that we use consistently. This is true as it is only in the last few years that we have begun trying to use a standardized theme during our meetings around the logo. It is from having to recreate these materials that the rebranding discussion arose from within the Board and amongst some of the members. It is our hope that by creating a standard logo we will be able to provide clarity and more solidly identify SERCA to prospective members while also making it easier for the various parts of the SERCA Board to generate materials needed for our meetings and newsletters.

As members were split 50:25:25 [No: Yes: No Opinion] regarding their thoughts on the logo and website, we will most likely focus on a more simplified overhaul of both in the coming months using the feedback from members. Our primary goal will be to address the repeated comment that it is not immediately clear that we are an association for art conservators. For the website specifically, we also want to make adjustments based on the comments around website navigation and generally "freshening up" the look of the website so that it doesn't appear to be as dated. Our first steps will be to hire a graphic designer to design the logo so that we can build out from there. Approximately 84% of our respondents approved the use of funds up to \$2000 for this and several provided recommendations within the Southeast so that we can support local businesses.

At this time, we are uncertain if we will also use the graphic designer to create a custom website or if we will attempt to modify one of the templates available through Wordpress (where our website is currently hosted) or other similar ones available online. At the moment, the ease of using the Wordpress template means that modifications to the website are quick and do not require an in-depth knowledge of coding to make adjustments. This makes it easy to hand off the website to incoming board members. Additionally, since many of the comments around the website were both visual and navigation based, we may be able to make minor adjustments to existing templates to address the primary concerns of the membership.

I hope to have more updates for you at the annual meeting in March. We will do our best to keep you apprised of changes as they happen, though things may be done in stages depending on how we choose to move forward. If you have any questions or additional comments

Five Questions For Emily Rainwater

Conservator, State Archives of North Carolina



Q: How did you choose conservation as a career?

I was an undergrad at the University of Texas at Austin and had an assignment to research a rare book at the Harry Ransom Center. I picked a copy of Virgil's *The Aeneid* printed in the 1490s by William Caxton and was completely awestruck. I asked my history professor how I could touch books like that for the rest of my life! She introduced me to conservation and connected me with the (former) Preservation and Conservation Studies graduate program at UT.

Q: How did you learn of SERCA?

Stephanie Watkins told me about SERCA as soon as I moved to North Carolina back in 2012, but Jennifer French is the one who badgered me into finally going to my first meeting 8 years later, so I have to give credit to both of them.

Q: What has been your most memorable treatment?

I was a post-graduate fellow at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History as part of the Jefferson Bible project team. *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth* is a volume that was created by Jefferson himself. He cut passages out of the first four Gospels of the New Testament in Greek, Latin, French and English, arranged them chronologically and pasted them onto blank pages where he could read the same passage in all four languages. He left out miracles, the resurrection, and anything that couldn't be proven by reason, focusing instead on Jesus's moral philosophies and teachings. There were four of us working on one volume for an entire year – a conservator's dream! A close runner-up, though, is the time I was doing mold and pest remediation on some archival records and found a whole squished rodent body that had been decaying inside the folders, probably for several decades. I've vacuumed up a lot of droppings over the years, but so far that's been my only body and it still haunts me.

Q: What has been your biggest regret professionally?

Besides opening the folder with the squished mouse?? I loved that the UT program focused exclusively on library and archives conservation since it allowed a lot more time to concentrate on those materials, but it came at the expense of a general knowledge base about other types of objects. I've done a lot of self-study (and pestering of my colleagues!), but I still wish that I had some more formal training in other specialties, especially when the random textile or piece of shrapnel shows up in the Archives' collections.

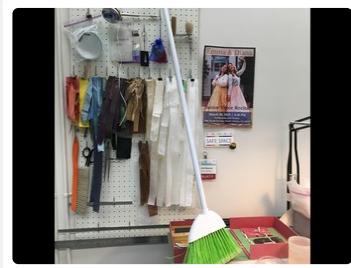
Q: What tool or supply do you still guard with your life?

My good bone folders. I'll happily give anyone a generic bone or teflon folder, but the hand-carved ones stay hidden in my taboret.

WHO DO YOU WANT TO HEAR FROM NEXT?

CONSIDER SUBMITTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE INTERVIEWEES.

From the Bench of : Julie Newton, SERCA Scholarships and Grants Coordinator



In my role as Scholarship Coordinator for SERCA, I honor the legacy of Leonora Weaver (1957-2014), who mentored aspiring conservators of all ages and advocated within SERCA for prioritizing accessible and affordable educational programming at SERCA annual meetings; funding student and intern participation; and donating any meeting profits toward sister/allied professional groups' scholarship funds.

Leonora is described as, "a very caring person, who gave a great deal of her time and resources." *

Several of her interns recall that Leonora had them sweep the studio for the first several days. One student cried, frustrated and disappointed not to already be performing hands-on conservation, until she realized that Leonora might be very strategically testing her for care, thoroughness, precision, and patience. When finally allowed to treat a work on paper, this same student recalls that one of Leonora's cats suddenly jumped up on the bench. I do not remember precisely the details of how the student described saving the artifact, except that later she wondered if this was perhaps one more deliberate and—*magical*—test. This is the stuff and strength of Leonora's legacy as a teacher and mentor.

While I cannot claim to also be a *magical mentor*, working with student conservation assistants in the Emory University Libraries conservation lab has always been an especially rewarding part of the job. More than a year of Covid-19 working restrictions made me keenly aware of this. Now we are again able to employ student conservation assistants. Our lab is arranged so that pairs of work benches face each other, allowing each conservator to work across from a student, facilitating training and supervision, and there is an even greater benefit to this arrangement: I am back in contact with interesting young people with agile minds and hands, astute questions, and a respect for the work. Just last week one student expressed trepidation at having to cut into book cloth on book boards as part of a spine repair, "it feels like ruining the book."

Across the conservation bench and over the years, I have formed enduring friendships with students, interns, and technicians early in their professional conservation careers. You'll find on my walls at home and at my conservation bench, original works of art, poems, and posters announcing an opera recital, or a scientific research poster, and –tiny paper cranes—lots of them. Many of these students have gone on to conservation-related fields. On another occasion, I wrote a medical school recommendation predicting that one student's remarkable dexterity and precision with an Olfa knife making protective enclosures, hinted at her potential skills as a surgeon.

So put on your sparkly magical mentoring shoes and recommend a student, intern, or lifelong learner to apply for either a Leonora Weaver Scholarship or SERCA Professional Development Opportunity Grant. *Applications are not due until January 31, 2022 and details can be found [here](#).*

*Read Michelle Smith's lovely [tribute](#) to Leonora.

Accomplishments and Updates



Sara Lanham has joined Etherington Conservation Services as a Book and Paper Conservation Technician. This is the next step in her 15+ years of performing varied work in the arts, crafts, and other hands-on occupations while she prepares for graduate school.

Health and Safety

Oh Tidings of Comfort and Joy...and a well-drafted Chemical Hygiene Plan!

By Laura Garner Hine

The holidays are upon us, and while we all may be making a list and checking it twice, one of the tasks that should always make the nice list in a conservation lab involves the development and implementation of a Chemical Hygiene Plan, or CHP.

As conservators, we deck the halls of our labs with all the necessary equipment, materials, storage, literature, inspirational quotes, and maybe even a recipe (or two). Yet, however different our inner sanctums may be when it comes to individual work spaces, common materials that we all use and depend upon are chemicals. Therefore, it is paramount that a conservation lab implement and utilize a standard Chemical Hygiene Plan.



Who is required to have a Chemical Hygiene Plan, or CHP?

Every conservation lab should have a chemical hygiene plan! “A Chemical Hygiene Plan is required by OSHA for laboratories working with hazardous chemicals on a “laboratory scale” (small quantities and not part of a production process).”

So what exactly is a Chemical Hygiene Plan?

According to Osha’s definition of a CHP in Article [1910.1450\(b\)](#), “a Chemical Hygiene Plan means a written program developed and implemented by the employer which sets forth procedures, equipment, personal protective equipment and work practices that are capable of protecting employees from the health hazards presented by hazardous chemicals used in that particular workplace...”

What should be included in a chemical hygiene plan?

- The basic components of a CHP are outlined as follows:
- Standard operating procedures involving the use of hazardous chemicals
- Criteria to determine and implement control measures to reduce employee exposure to hazardous chemicals
- Requirements to ensure that control measures perform properly
- Employee information and training
- Identification of operations requiring prior employer approval
- Medical consultation and examinations
- Designation of chemical hygiene officers
- Requirements for handling particularly hazardous chemicals
- Identification of designated areas (laboratories, storage rooms, disposal areas)
- Containment equipment
- Procedures for safe removal of contaminated waste
- Decontamination procedures

The following excerpts from OSHA’s Section [1910.1450](#) on Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories can be referenced for further in-depth explanations of the above mentioned criteria for a Laboratory Safety Chemical Hygiene Plan.

1910.1450 (e)

Chemical hygiene plan -- General. (Appendix A of this section is non-mandatory but provides guidance to assist employers in the development of the Chemical Hygiene Plan).

1910.1450(e)(1)

Where hazardous chemicals as defined by this standard are used in the workplace, the employer shall develop and carry out the provisions of a written Chemical Hygiene Plan which is:

1910.1450(e)(1)(i)

Capable of protecting employees from health hazards associated with hazardous chemicals in that laboratory and

1910.1450(e)(1)(ii)

Capable of keeping exposures below the limits specified in paragraph (c) of this section.

- 1910.1450(c)
- *Permissible exposure limits.* For laboratory uses of OSHA regulated substances, the employer shall assure that laboratory employees' exposures to such substances do not exceed the

permissible exposure limits specified in 29 CFR part 1910, subpart Z.

1910.1450(e)(2)

The Chemical Hygiene Plan shall be readily available to employees, employee representatives and, upon request, to the Assistant Secretary.

1910.1450(e)(3)

The Chemical Hygiene Plan shall include each of the following elements and shall indicate specific measures that the employer will take to ensure laboratory employee protection;

1910.1450(e)(3)(i)

Standard operating procedures relevant to safety and health considerations to be followed when laboratory work involves the use of hazardous chemicals;

1910.1450(e)(3)(ii)

Criteria that the employer will use to determine and implement control measures to reduce employee exposure to hazardous chemicals including engineering controls, the use of personal protective equipment and hygiene practices; particular attention shall be given to the selection of control measures for chemicals that are known to be extremely hazardous;

1910.1450(e)(3)(iii)

A requirement that fume hoods and other protective equipment are functioning properly and specific measures that shall be taken to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment;

1910.1450(e)(3)(iv)

Provisions for employee information and training as prescribed in paragraph (f) of this section;

1910.1450(f)

- Employee information and training.

1910.1450(f)(1)

- The employer shall provide employees with information and training to ensure that they are apprised of the hazards of chemicals present in their work area.

1910.1450(f)(2)

- Such information shall be provided at the time of an employee's initial assignment to a work area where hazardous chemicals are present and prior to assignments involving new exposure situations. The frequency of refresher information and training shall be determined by the employer.

1910.1450(f)(3)

- *Information.* Employees shall be informed of:

1910.1450(f)(3)(i)

- The contents of this standard and its appendices which shall be made available to employees;

1910.1450(f)(3)(ii)

- the location and availability of the employer's Chemical Hygiene Plan;

1910.1450(f)(3)(iii)

- The permissible exposure limits for OSHA regulated substances or recommended exposure limits for other hazardous chemicals where there is no applicable OSHA standard;

1910.1450(f)(3)(iv)

- Signs and symptoms associated with exposures to hazardous chemicals used in the laboratory; and

1910.1450(f)(3)(v)

- The location and availability of known reference material on the hazards, safe handling, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals found in the laboratory including, but not limited to, safety data sheets received from the chemical supplier.

1910.1450(f)(4)

- Training.

1910.1450(f)(4)(i)

- Employee training shall include:

1910.1450(f)(4)(i)(A)

- Methods and observations that may be used to detect the presence or release of a hazardous chemical (such as monitoring conducted by the employer, continuous monitoring devices, visual appearance or odor of hazardous chemicals when being released, etc.);

1910.1450(f)(4)(i)(B)

- The physical and health hazards of chemicals in the work area; and

1910.1450(f)(4)(i)(C)

- The measures employees can take to protect themselves from these hazards, including specific procedures the employer has implemented to protect employees from exposure to hazardous chemicals, such as appropriate work practices, emergency procedures, and personal protective equipment to be used.

1910.1450(f)(4)(ii)

- The employee shall be trained on the applicable details of the employer's written Chemical Hygiene Plan.

1910.1450(e)(3)(v)

The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity shall require prior approval from the employer or the employer's designee before implementation;

1910.1450(e)(3)(vi)

Provisions for medical consultation and medical examinations in accordance with paragraph (g) of this section;

1910.1450(g)

- *Medical consultation and medical examinations.*

1910.1450(g)(1)

- The employer shall provide all employees who work with hazardous chemicals an opportunity to receive medical attention, including any follow-up examinations which the examining physician determines to be necessary, under the following circumstances:

1910.1450(g)(1)(i)

- Whenever an employee develops signs or symptoms associated with a hazardous chemical to which the employee may have been exposed in the laboratory, the employee shall be provided an opportunity

to receive an appropriate medical examination.

1910.1450(g)(1)(ii)

- Where exposure monitoring reveals an exposure level routinely above the action level (or in the absence of an action level, the PEL) for an OSHA regulated substance for which there are exposure monitoring and medical surveillance requirements, medical surveillance shall be established for the affected employee as prescribed by the particular standard.

1910.1450(g)(1)(iii)

- Whenever an event takes place in the work area such as a spill, leak, explosion or other occurrence resulting in the likelihood of a hazardous exposure, the affected employee shall be provided an opportunity for a medical consultation. Such consultation shall be for the purpose of determining the need for a medical examination.

1910.1450(g)(2)

- All medical examinations and consultations shall be performed by or under the direct supervision of a licensed physician and shall be provided without cost to the employee, without loss of pay and at a reasonable time and place.

1910.1450(g)(3)

- *Information provided to the physician.* The employer shall provide the following information to the physician:

1910.1450(g)(3)(i)

- The identity of the hazardous chemical(s) to which the employee may have been exposed;

1910.1450(g)(3)(ii)

- A description of the conditions under which the exposure occurred including quantitative exposure data, if available; and

1910.1450(g)(3)(iii)

- A description of the signs and symptoms of exposure that the employee is experiencing, if any.

1910.1450(g)(4)

- *Physician's written opinion.*

1910.1450(g)(4)(i)

- For examination or consultation required under this standard, the employer shall obtain a written opinion from the examining physician which shall include the following:

1910.1450(g)(4)(i)(A)

Any recommendation for further medical follow-up;

1910.1450(g)(4)(i)(B)

The results of the medical examination and any associated tests;

1910.1450(g)(4)(i)(C)

Any medical condition which may be revealed in the course of the examination which may place the employee at increased risk as a result of exposure to a hazardous workplace; and

1910.1450(g)(4)(i)(D)

A statement that the employee has been informed by the physician of the results of the consultation or medical examination and any medical condition that may require further examination or treatment.

1910.1450(g)(4)(ii)

- The written opinion shall not reveal specific findings of diagnoses unrelated to occupational exposure.

1910.1450(e)(3)(vii)

Designation of personnel responsible for implementation of the Chemical Hygiene Plan including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer, and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee; and

1910.1450(e)(3)(viii)

Provisions for additional employee protection for work with particularly hazardous substances. These include "select carcinogens," reproductive toxins and substances which have a high degree of acute toxicity. Specific consideration shall be given to the following provisions which shall be included where appropriate:

1910.1450(e)(3)(viii)(A)

- Establishment of a designated area;

1910.1450(e)(3)(viii)(B)

- Use of containment devices such as fume hoods or glove boxes;

1910.1450(e)(3)(viii)(C)

- Procedures for safe removal of contaminated waste; and

1910.1450(e)(3)(viii)(D)

- Decontamination procedures.

1910.1450(e)(4)

The employer shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of the Chemical Hygiene Plan at least annually and update it as necessary.

In summary, preserving and protecting objects of historical and cultural heritage is of great importance, but nothing is more important than the gift of the most paramount of assets, your health! Wishing you all the happiest of holidays, and to good health and spirits. Stay safe!

Resources:

National Safety Council

Occupational Health and Safety Association

American Institute of Conservation

Membership

Membership Payments Online via PayPal

Renewing your membership is even easier without having to worry about mailing in those pesky checks!! You will also be able to register and pay for workshops online. Please be sure to submit **BOTH** the registration form *and* the payment. If you haven't already renewed, please do so today. And spread the word to your colleagues!

Visit our website for more details: <https://sercaconservation.org/membership/>

Find a Conservator

If you would like to be included on the [*Find a Conservator*](#) page of the SERCA website, please contact Katie Boodle, Communications Coordinator at kboodle@nedcc.org.

Newsletter Submissions

Working on an interesting project?

Have an internship, job opening, or workshop opportunity to share?

Let us know what's going on in your studio! Items for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to the SERCA email: SeRegionConservationAssoc@gmail.com directed to both Newsletter Editors:

Ephranette Brown & Tracey Johnson

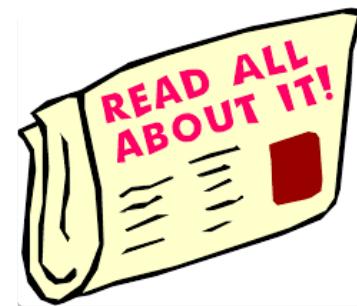
SERCA's Newsletter is published three times a year in April, August, and December. Please note that articles should be sent at least two weeks prior to publication and should not exceed 750 words. Also, there should be no more than 4 accompanying images in jpeg format. The editors reserve the right to copy-edit to fit available space.

Next issue: April 2022

Deadline for submissions: March 19, 2022

Back issues of the SERCA newsletter are now on our website and can be found here: <https://sercaconservation.org/serca-newsletters/>

New issues are still reserved for current members, but PDFs of the Newsletter will be added on a rolling basis as new issues are created.



Southeast Regional Conservation Association - SERCA

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