**NAPC 2024 Symposium Proposal:**  North American Paleontological Resources 2024

Convener(s). Danita Brandt, Michigan State University, brandt@msu.edu and TBD co-convener

Type. Podium and poster

Description & Justification. In the late 1970s, The Paleontological Society (PS) convened the *ad hoc* **C**ommittee **O**n **N**orth **A**merican **R**esources in **I**nvertebrate **P**aleontology (CONARIP) to assess the status of materials available for paleontological research. The effort was framed in terms of regarding fossil collections as national resources. CONARIP identified 24 “major” fossil collections, 108 smaller, “specialized” collections, and ~200 teaching collections. In the ensuing half-century, the paleontological resources landscape has undergone seismic shifts. Half of CONARIP’s “major” collections have been affected by transfer, closure, and consolidation/relocation. CONARIP did not include a census of paleontological human resources, but subsequent study points to the specimen-based paleontologist as an endangered species, which in turn threatens the existence of paleontological collections, especially at academic institutions. Neither did CONARIP discuss the health of professional societies, sources and levels of funding, or contributions from avocational organizations. The intervening 48 years have seen gains in the diversity of paleontological human resources, flourishing collaborations between avocational and professional practitioners, and the advent of the Internet, adding to the breadth of current paleontological resources.

Through this symposium we seek to update the CONARIP inventory by inviting presentations on the current status of paleontological resources, in North America and beyond, including, but not limited to, fossil collections, museum exhibits, publication outlets, online resources, human resources, and avocational-professional relationships, including fossil field sites open to public collecting (e.g., Penn-Dixie), from academic, government, and industry perspectives. We also invite presentations on recommendations and ‘best practices’ for safeguarding these resources for the future. An affiliated poster session is planned as a platform for representatives from individual institutions and organizations to share their history and strategy for surviving and thriving in a constantly shifting, post-covid, online-enhanced environment.