



The Local Network

Volume 21, Number 3

2011



Ward County Historical Society Minot, North Dakota
Flood Damage Summer 2011

Too Much Water!

The following bullet points are recommendations from Neil Cockerline, field services conservator, Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC), Minneapolis. The State Historical Society is a member of MACC; a membership benefit is direct access to conservators for their expertise on specific issues. Readers of this newsletter may have attended MACC disaster planning and training workshops hosted by the Society.

The following comments and recommendations are best practices in responding to a flood-damaged site. Until an on-site visit can determine the specific conditions at a site, we are best served by using the following comments and suggestions:

1. The biggest problem will be mold. Anything solid will not be as problematic as paper or photographs.
2. Open every window in the building as soon as possible; allowing humidity to escape and creating air flow is important.
3. Focus on photographs. First priority is to remove photos to a drier environment. Photos may be stuck together; do not try to pull apart. If mold has started to grow on photos, dry them, but do not try removing the mold. The mold may be on the surface, or it may have started to eat the gelatin, embedding into the image.



North Dakota Heritage Center Bismarck, North Dakota
Expansion Progress Summer 2011

Mold thrives on some of the materials used in photography, such as the gelatin. The priority is to dry the photos, and then deal with other conditions later.

4. If the photos or other collections are removed to another facility and the pieces have mold, isolate the collections by making a separate area with plastic sheets and creating as much ventilation (fans, open doors, and windows) for the collections as possible. Get dehumidifiers started, and bring the humidity levels to below 60 percent. This should stop the mold from growing or spreading.

5. Newspapers are probably going to be a total loss. Do not spend time on them. The information they contain is replaceable.

6. Prioritize other paper collections. If valuable, such as a rare document or a diary, remove the item to a drier environment. Prioritize the books; most are probably replaceable - do not spend your time on them. If there are rare or valuable pieces, remove to a drier environment.

7. If textiles are wet or damp, create clotheslines everywhere possible and hang the fabrics outside to dry. Again, the first priority is to get things dry to prevent or stop mold growth. Cleaning the textiles will come later.

8. Do not consider freeze-drying. After two weeks in water the mold will be too bad; freezing will not be effective.

9. Prioritize your collection of wooden furniture. The most important treatment for wood is to dry it very slowly. Wrap the wooden furniture in plastic sheeting and duct tape it closed. These pieces could be left in the building because they will need to dry slowly. Once a day unwrap the furniture, allow it to air dry, and then rewrap. Do not try to move the larger pieces; tent the plastic and tape to the floor. Do not worry about mold, mud, or varnish that

blanches. The priority is to dry the furniture first, and then decide how to clean. If there is mud residue, when the item is dry, dusting and vacuuming might be all that is needed.

10. Bleach is not as effective a treatment against mold as ensuring everything is dry.

11. Metal pieces will be OK - they will oxidize - the priority is to get them dry. Treatment will come later.

12. A very important item when working with FEMA is do not throw anything away, whether collection or non-collection items. This includes things from moldy newspapers to park benches. What FEMA cannot physically see, it will not reimburse. This might require storing all the damaged materials in one location, ideally something like a semi-trailer.

These actions are the first steps, followed by more specific cleaning and repair of objects.

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The websites listed below are available resources:

<http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/technical-assistance/disaster-recovery/flood-response.html>

<http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/technical-assistance/disaster-recovery/homeowner-response.html>

NDSU Extension Service's flood website:
www.ag.ndsu.edu/flood

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23rd Annual Governor's Conference on North Dakota History October 28 and 29, 2011

Too Much or Too Little: The Story of Water in North Dakota This year, due to the expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center, the Governor's History Conference will be held in the

Bismarck Civic Center. This two-day conference will examine the impacts of water on the history of North Dakota and the many challenges and opportunities it has presented over the years. There will be presentations on surface geology, the history of water use and its impact on settlement and people, as well as aspects of the history of water legislation and regulation in North Dakota.

Featured speakers will include:

- Governor **Jack Dalrymple** (invited)
- Former U.S. Senator **Byron Dorgan**
- Former North Dakota Governor **Allen Olson**
- Adjutant General and former State Engineer **David Sprynczynatyk**
- American Indian Relations Specialist **Gerard Baker**
- North Dakota State University (NDSU) Professor of Geology **Don Schwert**
- NDSU Associate Professor of Architecture **Steve Martens**
- University of North Dakota Associate Professor of History **Kimberly Porter**
- *Grand Forks Herald* Editor and Publisher **Mike Jacobs**
- Executive Vice President, North Dakota Water Users Association **Michael Dwyer**
- Former Assistant Attorney General, longtime water issue attorney **Murray Sagsveen**
- Former Fargo Mayor **Bruce Furness**
- State Water Engineer **Todd Sando**

Remember to nominate citizens and organizations whose activity in state, regional, and local history serves as role models of excellence for others.

- ★ **Excellence in Local History Award**, for those whose activity in local and regional history serves as a model for excellence.
- ★ **Association for Excellence in Local History Award**, for the association/organization whose activity in local

and regional history shows excellence.

- ★ **Heritage Profile Honor Award**, for recognition of individuals making a lasting contribution to understanding state history.
- ★ **Person of History Award**, posthumously honors those who have made lasting contributions to the growth and well-being of the state's citizens.

Deadline for nominations is Friday September 16. For information on nominations contact Scott Schaffnit, sschaffnit@nd.gov or 701-328-2794.

Information on the Governor's History Conference is available on the SHSND website www.history.nd.gov. To register online, visit <http://history.nd.gov/conference>, Email Kiri Stone at kstone@nd.gov or call at 701-328-2799.

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New for 2011 are the Archival Supply Purchase Grants available through the Cultural Heritage Grant Program.

Archival Supply Purchase Grants are available for local and county historical societies, museums, and archives to purchase archival supplies such as storage boxes, photo sleeves, and environmental monitors. Qualifying organizations can apply for any number of Archival Supply Purchase Grants throughout the 2011-13 biennium, with the total amount awarded not to exceed \$1,500 per organization. Grants will be awarded throughout the biennium until the fund is exhausted.

Applications for any of the Cultural Heritage Grant programs are available on the SHSND's website at www.history.nd.gov or can be requested by contacting the SHSND's Grants and Contracts Officer Amy Munson at (701) 328-3573 or email at amunson@nd.gov.



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☆ **\$260,000 IN CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS Available from the State Historical Society of North Dakota INCLUDE FLOOD ASSISTANCE.**

In 2011 the North Dakota Legislative Assembly authorized \$504,500 to the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) for the Cultural Heritage Grant Program. The Cultural Heritage Grant Program provides grant funding for local museums and historical societies, including exhibits, special projects or events, education activities, collections and capital improvements. Under the guidelines, there is a dollar-for-dollar match requirement. That match may be either in cash or in-kind services.

The 2011-13 biennium will have two grant rounds and the Society is making available up to \$260,000 for the first round in 2011. That amount includes \$30,000 for recovery efforts of historic properties affected by the spring and summer flooding throughout the state. The 2011 grant round will be due by Friday, August 26; the 2012 announcement of

available funds will be made in February 2012.

Interested eligible organizations that have a project they wish to be considered for an award should thoroughly read the guidelines and submit an application to the SHSND before August 26. The completed application must be accepted (not postmarked) by the SHSND by 5 p.m. on Friday, August 26.

During the biennium, the SHSND will also have two special grant rounds specifically designated to assist with recovery efforts of historic properties affected by the spring and summer flooding in the state. The first round, with \$30,000 available, will open Wednesday, August 24, with the completed application accepted (not postmarked) by the SHSND by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 7. A second special funding round for flood assistance will be made in February 2012.

Applications for any of the Cultural Heritage Grant programs are available on the SHSND's website at www.history.nd.gov or can be requested by contacting the SHSND's Grants and Contracts Officer Amy Munson at (701) 328-3573 or email at amunson@nd.gov.

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