

**American Institute for Conservation 2014 Annual Meeting
Textile Specialty Group Session**

Stressed about pests? A panel led discussion on Integrated Pest Management

ABSTRACT

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is becoming increasingly accepted by museums as a vital part of their conservation and collection care practices. IPM's comprehensive and proactive approach emphasizes pest prevention to avoid the need for drastic remedial action. The panel members will present their own diverse experiences, and then will facilitate an audience-wide discussion about the challenges presented by pests to textile and other collections.

Patty Silence, Conservator of Museum Exhibitions and Historic Interiors at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CW), will discuss the challenges of implementing IPM in a large institution with historic and contemporary structures. CW's current program developed out of a one-year inter-departmental collaboration to develop a request for pricing (RFP) for a pest control contract and resulted in a Foundation-wide program, managed by a conservator and a full-time IPM technician. She will share how an all-inclusive, holistic program has saved money and time, reduced pesticide use, and most importantly improved conditions for collections, from individual items such as textiles and furniture to entire buildings.

Bernice Morris will share her experiences as IPM Coordinator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She will discuss the development of a written IPM policy and the challenge of making the best use of monitoring data. She will also present the systems put in place at the PMA for preventing infestations in its costume and textile collection.

Rachael Arenstein, currently the conservator at the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem but a former conservator in private practice at A.M. Art Conservation will speak about challenges she has seen as a consultant working with small to mid-size museums in developing pest management programs, and the resources that the IPM Working Group has developed to meet those needs.