

VCA News

P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220

Newsletter of the Virginia Conservation Association

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Upcoming Members' Meeting November 16—Maymont

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Upcoming Members' Meeting

November 16, 2006

Garden Hall, Maymont

Studio Talks

What have your colleagues been up to? Come to the next members' meeting for the opportunity to hear firsthand some of the fascinating endeavors of fellow VCA members. From fabulous windows to inspiring Titians—this promises to be an intriguing glimpse of the varied projects and extraordinary talent right here in your own back yard.

Time: 5:30 pm -- Refreshments and business meeting
6:30 -- Program

Directions to Maymont— Hampton Street Entrance

From Interstates 64 & 95

- Take the Boulevard exit #78 (Route 161)
- Go south on the Boulevard (Route 161) for two miles
- Turn left at Cary Street and go 1/2 mile
- Turn right at Meadow Street and go one mile
- Turn right at Pennsylvania Avenue and go one block to the parking lot ahead

From the Powhite Parkway (Route 76) via the Downtown Expressway (I-195) (From Southside, Midlothian)

- After the James River bridge toll plaza, get in the right lane
- Bear right onto the Downtown Expressway (I-195 East)
- Take the first exit, bear left onto Maplewood Avenue, and go one block
- Turn left at S. Sheppard Street and go four blocks
- Turn right at Cary Street (Route 147) and go east 1/2 mile
- Turn right at Meadow Street and go one mile
- Turn right at Pennsylvania Avenue and go one block to the parking lot ahead

From the Downtown Expressway (I-195) South (Heading south from the West End)

- Take the Cary Street/Grove Avenue exit ramp and bear left
- At the first stoplight, turn left at Cary Street (Route 147)
- Continue on Cary Street east for 1-1/2 miles
- Turn right at Meadow Street and go one mile
- Turn right at Pennsylvania Avenue and go one block to the parking lot ahead

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The VCA News is published five times a year and is distributed free to members of the Virginia Conservation Association. The next newsletter will be published in late December 2006. If you have any information (employment opportunities, articles, events) you would like to include in the newsletter, please forward to Tracy Bryan at tbryan@vahistorical.org by December 21.

Membership Dues Reminder

Membership dues are now due. If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter, the VCA has received your dues. If you have received **only** an email version of this newsletter, your dues have not been received. For those who need to pay their dues, visit the website for a membership form. If you can't make the meeting at Maymont, mail your completed application and check, made payable to the Virginia Conservation Association, to the below address **before** November 15, 2006. There also will be copies of the form at the November meeting at Maymont. Payment must be received by November 16 for inclusion in the 2007 VCA Directory. A \$5 late fee will apply to registrations submitted after November 15. VCA depends upon the support of its members and extends its appreciation to all contributors.

The VCA is open to anyone with an interest in the care and preservation of art and historic artifacts. Membership includes conservators, curators, historic house directors, collectors, dealers, students, and non-specialists with strong interest in the growing field of conservation.

Bi-Monthly meetings, scheduled from September-May, feature speakers within the VCA and from outside the state, speaking on topics ranging from basic techniques for storage and preservation to the elaborate conservation of some of the most important art and historic artifacts in Virginia.

Meetings are held at many museums and historic sites in Virginia, providing members rare opportunities for behind-the-scenes tours of these prominent institutions. In addition, the VCA sponsors fieldtrips and short courses on conservation topics, enabling members to study and learn in a friendly, collegial setting.

Upcoming Members' Meeting November 16 (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

From the Boulevard Bridge (North from Forest Hill, Westover Hills)

- Once through the Boulevard Bridge toll plaza, get in the right lane
- Take the first right at Shirley Lane and go one block (past the Children's Farm entrance)
- Bear left (not the hard left onto Westover Road) and go one block into Byrd Park
- Turn right at Shields Lake Drive and continue around the lake (past the Nature & Visitor Center on the right)
- Turn right at Amelia Street and go one block
- Turn right at Hampton Street and proceed to the parking lot entrance on the right

From Downtown Richmond (Heading west from Ninth and Main Streets)

- Take Main Street west about two miles
- Turn left at Meadow Street and go one mile
- Turn right at Pennsylvania Avenue and go one block to the parking lot ahead

From Hampton St Parking Area:

Refreshments and talks will be in the Garden Hall. Members should walk in along the service road and turn left through the first set of gates that open into the courtyard behind the carriage house. The path leads directly to the Garden Hall, which is the one story stone building adjacent to the water tower.

We need your help!

We would like to provide AIC with a list of favorite restaurants, attractions, shops, wineries, galleries, etc. to be included in the participants' packets for the AIC Annual Meeting in Richmond. Please go to www.virginiaconservationassociation.org and click on Contact the VCA to send us your Richmond Favorites! If your favorite spot is not local, but less than an hour away, include it too. We will compile a list and forward the information to AIC.

Notes from the President

The September meeting at the Hermitage in Norfolk was well attended. The speakers were informative, the recovery from the fire was fascinating, and the food, the setting, and location were enjoyable.

The VCA board has been focusing on several upcoming events and programs including a studio talk to be held in November, and an "Ask the Conservator" session to be held in May. The January meeting is yet to be decided so if you have a suggestion please contact the Program Committee. The Education Committee is tying up loose ends for a spring class, which may be in coordination with the AIC.

The Treasurer has been looking for new ways to include money in the projected budget to compensate speakers from out-of-town. At the most recent board meeting, suggestions were made to increase membership by bringing-a-friend-to-join, providing a cash bar during membership meetings, and increasing fees for educational programs.

Enhancing our Disaster Response initiative has been an ongoing discussion at board meetings, particularly with the recent flooding of The Isle of Wight Museum in Smithfield, Virginia. The Disaster Committee Chair has been working with the Virginia Association of Museums, who is forming a collective resource for other museums when a disaster occurs.

In addition to these discussions, we are welcoming the AIC to Richmond this coming April. The **AIC 35th Annual Meeting** will be held April 16-20, 2007, at the Marriott Richmond Convention Center. We are working in various ways with the AIC. If you would like to help, please contact the VCA.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.
Carol Boyers Givens

Update: Isle of Wight Museum Disaster Response

Following the basement flooding of the Isle of Wight County Museum in Smithfield, Virginia, over the Columbus Day weekend, there was a call for help to conservators throughout the region for technical and practical help. Many thanks are owed to those who took time from their daily jobs to assist with the clearing of the basement storage areas and offices. At present, the bulk of the basement has been cleared and the contents moved to various storage areas awaiting further assessment and treatment. As the museum is staffed by only two people and there are thousands of artifacts which need to be handled, there is still a great need for conservation assistance with sorting, cleaning, and storing objects for the foreseeable future. If you are able to give some time to them or donate packing supplies, please contact Melissa Wirtz, museum administrator, at 757-729-1959.

Mary Andrews
Disaster Response Chair

VAM Meeting on Emergency Response in the Metro Richmond Area

A meeting was held on September 22, 2006 at the headquarters of the Virginia Association of Museums in Richmond to discuss the creation of a Metro Richmond Emergency Response Team. All area cultural arts organizations (approximately 45 in the Richmond area) are being encouraged to join this group to create a pool of expertise and resources which can be called upon in the event of a disaster, whether it be specific to one museum or more widespread regionally. Mr. Ben Johnson, Coordinator of Emergency Management for the City of Richmond, attended the meeting and gave a broad overview of how the city responds to major emergencies and how we, as cultural institutions, fit into their management plan.

As a result of our discussions, it was decided that Melba Myers and Mary Andrews (as representatives of the VCA) would work with the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) coordinator from the City of Richmond to create a CERT training program specific to museum professionals. This is a nationally recognized program which will give the participants a thorough background in disaster response and prepare them for dealing with catastrophic events. The course will be sponsored by the City of Richmond but will be open to museum professionals in the metropolitan area. We expect the full course to run three days.

The next meeting to discuss the formation of this group will be Friday, November 17, 2006 at 10 a.m. at the Virginia Holocaust Museum, 2000 E. Cary Street. We strongly encourage all museum organizations in the Richmond region to send a representative to this meeting. VAM is anxious to get this team up and running as quickly as possible and is looking to use it as a test group on which to model future regional teams around the state. If you have any queries concerning the group, please contact Margot Carlock, VAM executive director, at 804-788-5821.

Mary Andrews
Disaster Response Chair

Virginia Conservation Association 2006-2007 Board Members

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Minutes from the VCA Board meetings will be published on the VCA website. Visit www.virginiaconservationassociation.org

AIC's 35th Annual Meeting **April 16-20, 2007** **Richmond, Virginia**

Location:

Marriott Richmond/Richmond Convention Center

Rates: \$159-single/double; \$169-triple; \$179-quad

Tentative Schedule:

April 16 - Workshop

April 17 - Workshops and Tours

April 18 - General Session, Specialty Group Sessions, Exhibits, and Opening Reception

April 19 - Specialty Group Sessions, General Session, Exhibits, and Party²

April 20 - Specialty Group Sessions

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit www.virginiaconservationassociation.org for details on fieldtrips and workshops!

November 16th—Members' Meeting at Maymont

December—Watch your mailbox for the holiday party invitation

December 21st—**Newsletter Submission Deadline**

January 18th—Members' Meeting—location to be determined

March 15th—Members' Meeting—location to be determined

April 16-20—AIC 35th Annual Meeting



VCA

P.O. Box 4314

Richmond, VA 23220

Next VCA Members' Meeting

Thursday, November 16

**5:30 p.m.—
Refreshments and
business meeting**

6:30 p.m.— Program

Location: Maymont

**See page one for
details!**