

VCA News

Newsletter of the Virginia Conservation Association

P.O. Box 1314, Richmond, Virginia 23220

Volume 18 No. 1 September 10, 2007

Upcoming Members' Meeting September 20, 2007 Leander McCormick Observatory

Time: 5:30 PM for refreshments, with presentations beginning at 6:30PM

Location: The 1885 Leander McCormick Observatory, University of Virginia, Charlottesville

Directions: See below. For those interested in car-pooling from Richmond, see page 2.

The VCA will meet on September 20 at the Leander McCormick Observatory and Museum atop Mount Jefferson overlooking the grounds of the University of Virginia. Members will gather at 5:30 PM for refreshments and to view the observatory museum, which currently features exhibits on X-ray Astronomy at UVA and a history of the Martian Canal Controversy. The VCA will also have the opportunity to view the historic 26-inch telescope at the observatory, which was the second largest telescope in the world when it was dedicated on April 13, 1885.

Ricky Patterson, senior astronomer at the University of Virginia, will discuss the history and preservation of the observatory and telescope beginning at 6:30PM. In addition, Mark Kutney, architectural conservator at UVA, will discuss current conservation projects at the University, a World Heritage Site.

When Thomas Jefferson designed the University of Virginia, he intended it to include an observatory and a center for astronomical study. While Jefferson did not see those plans come to fruition during his lifetime, in 1877 Leander J. McCormick donated a 26-inch telescope to the University, and an observatory, which now bears the name of its benefactor, was built to house it on Mount Jefferson. In addition, there have been smaller telescopes used for astronomical observations and other devices stored at the observatory including an impressive array of astrometric instruments.

Construction began on both the observatory building

Directions (See next page for a carpooling announcement)

From Richmond, take **I-64 West**. Drive approximately 70 miles. Take exit **118B** to merge onto **US-29 N** toward **Charlottesville/Culpeper**. Drive 2 miles, then:

Take the **US-250-BUS E/US-250 W** exit toward **Waynesboro/Charlottesville**

Keep **right** at the fork, follow signs for **US-250-BUS E** and merge onto **Ivy Rd/US-250-BR E** Drive 8/10 of a mile, then:

Turn **right** at **Alderman Rd**. Drive 3/10 of a mile, then:

Turn **left** to stay on **Alderman Rd**. Drive another 3/10 of a mile, then:

Turn **right** at **McCormick Rd**. Drive to top of mountain to the observatory.

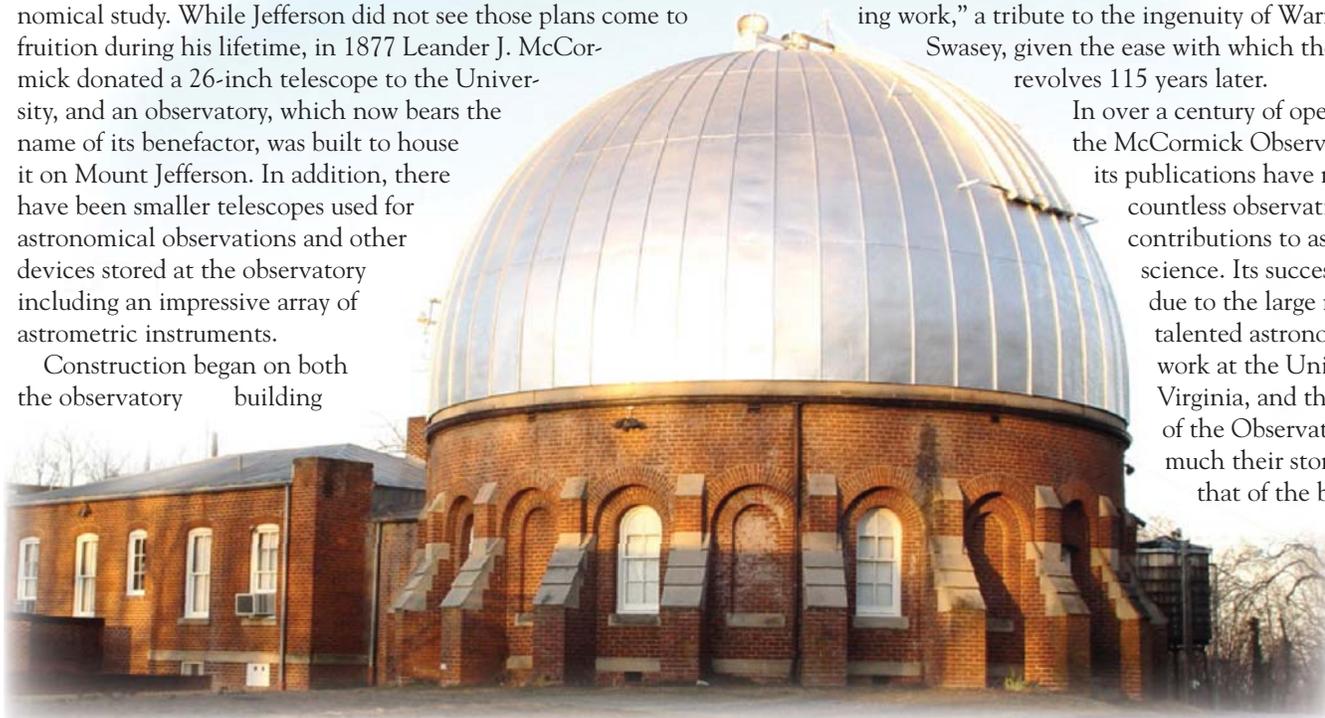
Total driving time: Approximately 1 hour, 20 minutes

For more detailed directions, go to: www.astro.virginia.edu/public_outreach/Geninfo/lmomap.php

and the director's house in 1882. The dome was constructed by the Warner and Swasey Company from Cleveland, Ohio, and was the first of its kind. Worcester Warner and Ambrose Swasey designed the dome with its three six-foot apertures and circular track system that allowed for easy turning of the dome and they applied for a patent on their design October 19, 1883, during construction of the McCormick Observatory. In 1884, *Scientific American* declared "if this ease of motion continues as the dome grows old, it is certainly a remarkable piece of engineering work," a tribute to the ingenuity of Warner and Swasey, given the ease with which the dome revolves 115 years later.

In over a century of operation, the McCormick Observatory and its publications have recorded countless observations and contributions to astronomical science. Its success has been due to the large number of talented astronomers to work at the University of Virginia, and the history of the Observatory is as much their story as it is that of the building

that sits atop Mt. Jefferson. □



September Meeting Carpool

For VCA members interested in joining a car pool for the trip to Charlottesville, please meet in the Virginia Historical Society parking lot at 4PM on the 20th. The Historical Society is located at 428 N. Boulevard (at the corner of Kensington and N. Boulevard). Parking is directly behind the building. Please call Carey Howlett at 804-366-1233 or Susan Adler at 804-264-8296 for more information. □

2007-2008 VCA Meeting Schedule



September 20 Leander McCormick Observatory, Jefferson Mountain, University of Virginia

Ricky Patterson, Senior Scientist of the UVA Department of Astronomy, will lead tours and discuss the history of the 1877 McCormick Observatory on Jefferson Mountain overlooking the grounds of the University of Virginia. Mark Kutney, architectural conservator at UVA, will describe current projects at the observatory and other historic UVA structures.



November 15 Hanover Tavern, Hanover Court House

Recent restoration of Hanover Tavern, a Virginia Historic Landmark that is also home to the Barksdale Theater and Michelle's Restaurant, included the discovery of an original 18th-century taproom. Dr. Joseph D. Kyle will discuss the history and restoration of the tavern.



January 17 VCA and the Virginia Capitol

The annual "Studio Talks" program focuses on contributions by VCA members to the recent restoration of the State Capitol, with talks on the conservation of paintings, sculpture, furnishings and the flag that flew over the Capitol during the Civil War.



March 20 Colonial Williamsburg's Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum

Meet with Colonial Williamsburg's conservators to learn about their work leading up to the recent re-opening of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum.



May 15 Tuckahoe Plantation

The VCA will visit Tuckahoe Plantation, boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson, where architect Carey Thompson Viego will describe her work leading the recovery from damage caused by Hurricane Isabel to the house and collections. □

From the President

Over twelve years ago Sandy Jensen invited me to join the VCA to branch out and meet conservators in the area. Coming from a mainly sculpture and art foundry background I was unsure of how I would fit in with what I perceived to be a formal academic group. My experience through the years has been quite positive with the wide range of members and varied backgrounds. I've enjoyed my time with the VCA as both a presenter and an observer, and my appreciation goes out to Sandy. I ask you to join me during the next couple of years to actively encourage new membership. Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming programs. Andrew Baxter

Virginia Conservation Association Executive Council Board Meeting August 13, 2007

(Note: The minutes have been edited to include topics that apply to the membership as a whole and/or that will need to be voted on. None of the individual committee reports are included. For further information please contact Kathy Garret-Cox)

A discrepancy in the By-Laws was brought to the boards attention. It is stated in Section B. Finances 3. Expenditures from the bank account shall require the signature of the Treasurer and/or the Secretary of the V.C.A. and in Section B. Board of Directors - Term of Office and Duties 4. Treasurer - Checks will require the signature of either the Treasurer or the President.

Due to this discrepancy the Bylaws committee needs to make a change. It was suggested that the change be made in favor of the signature required being the Treasurer and President. This will be put to a vote at the September meeting.

Additionally, there is also an issue of when people pay their dues. Some people pay in the spring and that is confusing as to whether that is to be applied to the current year or to be applied to the following year since the VCA's year runs September - May. It was agreed that members should pay by the Nov. 15th deadline already established if you wish to be in the directory. If a current member pays after the new year their dues would count towards the next year. An exception will be made for new members. Since new members can join at any time a blank page will be left in the Directory for "New Members" which will be listed in the Newsletter when they join. This will be put to a vote at the September meeting.

The membership chair raised the issue that it is difficult sometimes to get the dues by November 15th. It was decided that a reminder email will go out prior to the September meeting separate from the meeting reminder. It will then be announced at the September meeting. Following the

The Virginia Conservation Association
2007/8 Membership Application & Dues Payment

Name (as it is to appear in the Directory): _____

Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Title: _____

Institutional Affiliation _____

Work Phone: (____) _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

I am a ...

_____ Conservator _____ Curator

_____ Technician _____ Student

_____ Administrator _____ Other

Newsletter by Email Only _____ by Regular Mail (& Email) _____

Area(s) of Specialization:

___ Archaeological Objects ___ General ___ Sculpture

___ Architecture ___ Objects ___ Textiles

___ Books & Paper ___ Paintings ___ Other (Specify)

___ Ethnographic Objects ___ Photographic Materials

___ Furniture ___ Preventive Conservation

Are you willing to be a Disaster Response Volunteer in the event of an emergency? Yes ___ No ___

The Virginia Conservation Association is open to all interested individuals. To become a member, complete this form and return it with your dues payment of \$25.00 (Regular) or \$20.00 (Student - Enclose a copy of valid student I.D.). Application and dues payment must be received by November 15, 2007 for inclusion in the 2008 VCA Directory. A \$5 late fee will apply to registrations submitted after November 15, 2007.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to The Virginia Conservation Association to the address below before November 15, 2007:

Treasurer
The Virginia Conservation Association
P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220

2007 – 2008 VCA Officers

President:	Andrew Baxter
Vice President:	Stacy Rusch
Secretary :	Kathy Garrett-Cox
Treasurer :	Dotty Robinson

2007 – 2008 Committee Chairs

Disaster Response:	Mary Scott Andrews
Programs:	Susan Adler Carey Howlett
Refreshments:	Nancy Beck Liegh Acosta & Christi Barranger
Education:	Kathy Gillis
Membership:	Bienvenida Ochs & Kate Hricik
Publications:	Rick Vogt & John Watson
Bylaws:	Dianne Roland

REMINDER

Annual VCA membership dues must be in by October 1st !

VCA

P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220

(Board Meeting Minutes continued from page 2)

September meeting at the October Board meeting, the Board agreed to phone current members who still have not paid their dues.

A late fee is addressed in the Bylaws: Section D. Annual Dues (See also Article III – Membership) 2. The assessed dues shall be payable by October 1 of each fiscal year. A five-dollar late fee may be assessed after that date for renewing members. This is not noted on the renewal form at the back of the directory and so will not be applied this year but will be added to the renewal form next year.

The Board passed the motion that a \$200 honorarium be paid to Terry Drayman-Weisser after it was declined by AIC.

The next Board meeting will be held on October 23, 2007 at Maymont in the Garden Hall. □

From the Editor...

Do you have announcements, ideas, comments you would like to have included in the Newsletter? Contact Rick Vogt [804-358-1651; fcvco@verizon.net] by the last week of the month to be included in the next month's newsletter!

NOTICE

The American Institute for Conservation is Moving!

New Address:

1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 320
Washington, DC 20005-1714



Upcoming Meeting
September 20, 2007
Leander McCormick
Observatory

5:30 P.M for refreshments,
with presentations beginning
at 6:30PM

Location: The 1885 Leander
McCormick Observatory,
University of Virginia,
Charlottesville

See page 1 for details!