



NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4314, Richmond, VA 23220

November 2011 ~ Volume 21, No. 2

From the President

This November Colonial Williamsburg will host a major conference titled “Playing To The Galleries And Engaging New Audiences: The Public Face Of Conservation”. The purpose of the conference is to review how conservation treatment, exhibitions, live video broadcasts and other means have been used for outreach to inform, educate and engage the public. The list of participants for this symposium includes conservators from all over the United States and abroad, and I suggest that you also consider attendance if you have not yet done so. The conference will be held from November 14-16 at the Hennage Auditorium of the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum. Further information is available via the Colonial Williamsburg website.

Just a day after the conclusion of the CW conference, the VCA will hold its November 2011 Members Meeting, also in Williamsburg. The special guest speaker for the meeting will be Lynn Grant, Head Conservator at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, who will discuss experiences she had during archaeological conservation projects in Honduras. Since Ms. Grant will be in the area for the CW conference, we are taking advantage of her presence, and very fortunately she is able stay an additional day at our request for the VCA meeting.

On Saturday 22 October, paper conservators Wendy Cowan and Patricia Selinger represented the VCA during “Operation Capture History”, part of Fort Lee History Day. At the event people from the Fort Lee area were invited to bring in documents pertaining to the history of Camp Lee for digital reproduction. It was requested that the VCA join the event to provide advice about the care and preservation of the historic documents. This was a great opportunity to inform the public about conservation and the VCA. Thank you very much to Wendy and Patricia for their participation. More members will be asked to take

VCA Members’ Meeting Thursday, November 17, 5:30 p.m.



Lynn Grant will discuss the joys of on site conservation in remote locations

The Bruton Heights School

301 First Street, Williamsburg, VA



FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE PAGE 3

part in future outreach endeavors on behalf of the VCA, and I know that you will be ready and excited when called upon.

While continuing to conduct the regular business of the organization, the Board also is committed to fostering the further growth and evolution of the VCA. In doing so, the Board is very conscious that the keys to success are to please the membership and to meet and exceed expectations. The Board is meant to provide direction but in doing so reflect the

interests of all the many, various members. The type of programs and services that the VCA provides is at best a collective decision. When major issues or proposals are up for consideration, these are put before the membership during meetings and by way of direct contact (email, etc.). However we want you to contact the Board at any time, to let us know your ideas, suggestions and needs. Please provide input and voice your opinions. Let's all work together to make the VCA the preeminent resource for art and artifact conservation in Virginia, to the benefit of cultural arts professionals, collectors and the general public alike.

Do not forget that right now we are in the midst of the annual membership renewal drive. If you currently are part of the VCA and have yet to renew your membership I ask that you choose to rejoin soon. Also, please let others know about the VCA and encourage them to join our organization as well. To our continuing members, much thanks and appreciation, as we share our enjoyment of the material arts and strive for its preservation.

I hope to see everyone at the next Members Meeting on 17 November. A few weeks later, on Saturday 3 December, the annual VCA Holiday Season Party will take place at Virginia House. So mark your calendars now and plan for fun!

Thank you very much.

~ Frederick Wallace, President

• VCA TREASURER •
NANCY BECK

The office of VCA Treasurer has been filled. Please welcome Nancy Beck, a long time VCA member and previous Board member, who was elected as Treasurer during the recent meeting on 22 September 2011. Nancy is to serve through May 2012, filling the vacancy left by the resignation of former Treasurer Caitlin O'Grady, who has left Virginia.

Let's all give Nancy an appreciative greeting and pat on the back when next seeing her. Thank you very much.

Frederick Wallace

VCA President

Emerging Conservators Meeting

Samantha Fisher

I am organizing a meeting for emerging conservators (pre-program students, graduates of conservation programs, and others), and I was wondering if the VCA could put something in the newsletter or website? It would be nice to have some experienced conservators there as well to talk to the emerging conservators. I just moved to Richmond to work with Rick Vogt and am looking forward to meeting fellow conservation students and conservators. Last month's meeting was wonderful, and I am very excited about joining the VCA!

Emerging Conservators Meeting

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Where: The VMFA, Best Cafe

When: Friday, October 28th at 6 PM

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*Please join emerging conservators and fellow VCA members for a meeting at the VMFA where pre-program students, graduates of conservation programs, and conservators can discuss the field and share experiences. *

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Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you,
Samantha Fisher

VCA MEMBER'S MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH, 2011
5:30 P.M.

Archeological Conservation Issues in
Honduras and Guatemala

Lynn Grant, Head Conservator
University of Pennsylvania Museum

We are very pleased that Lynn Grant, Head Conservator at the University of Pennsylvania Museum's Conservation Laboratory, will be the presenter for the VCA's program meeting on November 17th. In her talk, *Archeological Conservation Issues in Honduras and Guatemala*, Lynn will discuss the trials of tunnel gymnastics, bureaucratic snafus, a political coup, the usual in-the-field impediments, as well as the beautiful artifacts she encountered while serving as a consulting conservator for new Maya finds in the Oropendola tomb in Copan, Honduras and for a unique group of Maya terracotta figurines from a tomb at El Peru-Waka. Do join us for a talk that promises to impart a lively behind-the-scenes look at the difficulties of archeological conservation as well as its successes.

About our speaker: Lynn Grant joined the University of Pennsylvania Museum's Conservation Laboratory in 1988 as a conservator and has been Head Conservator since July 2008. She has worked as a conservator in Canada, England, and Hong Kong, and done on-site field conservation in Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Jordan. She received her degree in Archaeological Conservation from the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, England in 1985 and a B.A. in Classical Studies in 1976. Ms Grant is a Professional Associate of the American Institute for Conservation. She is author of *The Maya Vase Conservation Project*, a book about a special conservation project at the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

The meeting will take place beginning at 6:00 pm in Classroom 117 of the Colonial Williamsburg's Bruton Heights School, 301 First Street, Williamsburg, VA. Refreshments and a brief business meeting will be followed by Lynn Grant's presentation.



**Directions to
The Bruton Heights School:**

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From Richmond and points West:

I64 east to exit 238 for VA-143 toward US-60
Slight right at VA-143

Continue onto Capitol Landing Road
Slight left at Page Street

Take first right toward Capitol Landing Road

Take third right onto First Street

Park on left opposite the Rockefeller Library

The School is at 301 First Street

From Norfolk and points East:

I64 West to exit 242A, merge onto Rt. 199 West

Take US-60 West, Williamsburg/Busch Gardens

Turn left at US-60 West/Pocahontas Trail

Continue onto Lafayette Street

Turn right onto Capitol Landing Road

Turn right onto 1st Street

Park on left opposite the Rockefeller Library

The School is at 301 First Street

**Driving directions from The Bruton Heights
School to the DeWitt Wallace Museum:**

Turn right on Capitol Landing Road

Continue straight onto North Waller Street

Turn right on Francis Street

Turn left at South Nassau Street

Park behind the museum and enter through
the front door of the Public Hospital

The Museum is at 326 West Francis Street

VCA BOARD

Meeting Minutes
October 20th, 2011

ATTENDEES:

FRED WALLACE
HEATHER LOGUE
NANCY BECK
PATRICIA SELINGER
CHARLES PHILLIPS
COLLEEN CALLAHAN
SUZANNE COLLINS
KATHY GARRETT-COX
CHRIS WILKINS

Virginia Conservation Association (VCA)
Board Meeting Summary
Maymont House, Stone Barn
October 20, 2011

Proceedings:

Fred Wallace (VCA President) introduced Nancy Beck to the board as the new VCA Treasurer.

Fred made a few comments about the Virginia Collections Initiative (VCI), a Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) grant-funded program. VAM is looking for closer involvement between VCI and the VCA. Christina Newton, VCI Project Manager, may be present at the November member's meeting to discuss the program and what role the VCA may play in the program.

Fred reminded the board that we are responsible for the direction that the VCA takes from year to year. Fred thanked the board for their time, effort, and support of the VCA.

Nancy Beck (VCA Treasurer) announced that the VCA has a \$9012.93 balance in the treasury. Fred elaborated that \$2500 of this is dedicated to the 2011-12 VCA budget. The additional \$6500 is surplus carried over from previous years and is intended to be used for the benefit of the membership.

Nancy asked about the membership renewal deadline and the application of a late fee for renewals received after this date. Fred stated that membership renewal deadline is on November 15 or on the date of the November member's meeting, whichever is later in the month. He referenced the VCA by-laws which state that the late fee may be applied to the renewal

fee. Traditionally, it has been the choice of the member renewing to decide to include the late fee with the annual renewal fee.

Heather Logue (VCA Vice-President) spoke on behalf of Mary Andrews (Refreshments Co-Chair) who stated through email that the VCA Christmas party will be Saturday, December 3, at the Virginia House. The Virginia House will provide tables, linens, and some seating. A reminder, including time and directions, will be sent to the membership at a later date.

Fred announced that the VCA has been contacted by the Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN) to see if our organization wanted to help foster the goals of the ECPN. The VCA has also been asked to attend a meeting similar to the ECPN but consisting of local professionals, semi-professionals, potential and recent students on October 28 at the Best Café in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) at 6 pm.

Chris Wilkins (VCA Secretary) stated that he has submitted the meeting minutes (text and audio) for the 2010-2011 membership year to Stacy Rush (VCA Archivist) at the Virginia Historical Society.

Colleen Callahan (Programs Co-Chair) stated that Lynn Grant, Senior Conservator of Penn Museum Conservation Lab at the University of Pennsylvania, will give a presentation at the November 17 member's meeting concerning archaeological conservation issues in Honduras and Guatemala. The board has agreed to pay for a one-night stay at a local hotel and to give her a \$150 honorarium. Location of the meeting has yet to be determined.

Suzanne Collins (Programs Co-Chair) stated that Susan Buck will be presenting at the January member's meeting at Bruton Heights School in Williamsburg. The March and May meeting dates are still open. A visit to James Madison's Montpelier was suggested as a spring field-trip including presentations from various architectural historians, restorers and conservators.

Fred stated that the VCA is running low on brochure cards and that more will need to be published with money from the existing.

Patricia Selinger (Webmaster) has been working on the Conservation Service Directory. It is currently in

partial existence but is currently inaccessible to the public. Sheila Payaqui (Education Chair) suggested through email that additional wording should be included stating that the VCA does not endorse any specific conservators on this list. Elsa Sangouard (Membership Co-Chair; not present) is still compiling the list of all participating conservators.

Fred reminded the board about “Operation: Capture History”, an event occurring at Fort Lee on Saturday, October 22. Patricia Selinger and Wendy Cowan will be representing the VCA. Will Hoffman is currently working on two additional outreach programs that will be presented at a later date.

Fred reminded board members to act as good examples by renewing their memberships prior to the deadline.

Heather Logue (VCA Vice-President) spoke on behalf of Sheila Payaqui (Education Chair) who wrote in an email about upcoming education events. Sheila has contacted Chris Stavroudis to determine if he would be willing to give a lecture form of his workshop. He replied that this had been tried in the past but was not particularly successful. Sheila also spoke with Sandy Jenson who said she would be happy to conduct a faux food workshop again. Kathy Garrett-Cox (Disaster Response) suggested that this be well-advertised in advance to allow interested parties to shift their schedules.

~ Chris Wilkins, Secretary

Dolley Madison’s Life Through Fashion: Dressing the Part AT MONTPELIER



Colleen Callahan has organized program for the Costume Society of America’s Southeastern Region on Saturday, November 12th, in conjunction with the exhibit, *Dolley Madison’s Life Through Fashion: Dressing the Part*—this exhibit was mentioned in VCA’s September issue. The exhibit is on view at James Madison’s Montpelier in Orange, Virginia until April, 2012. The program includes a tour of the mansion, the exhibit and a lecture by collector Mary Doering, who will show early 19th century pieces from her extensive historic clothing collection. The cost for VCA members would be \$20. If you are interested in finding out more about this program, contact Colleen at jette_2@msn.com or 804-261-4998 by November 7th.

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VCA

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www.virginiaconservationassociation.org

Or on Facebook!
[Virginia-Conservation-Association](https://www.facebook.com/Virginia-Conservation-Association)

VCA MEMBERS MEET THE At Carter & Carter Historic Wallpapers

By Colleen Callahan, Programs Co-Chair



The September meeting was held at the studio of Carter & Company Historic Wallpapers in Richmond. Carter & Company is a family business run by founder Robert Carter, who started the business in San Francisco Bay area in 1990, his wife, Argine, and son, Paul. Over the years, the Carters have worked on many interesting projects, creating silk screened reproductions of historic wallpaper patterns for historic house museums and private clients.

The Carters recreate wallpaper designs from both fragments of historic originals and by interpreting period photographs and paintings. Paul demonstrated the stages of silk screen wallpaper production and showed VCA members several historic fragments and the Carters' replicas of these pieces. Laid out on long tables for silk screening were lengths of the wallpaper commissioned by Steven Spielberg's production company for the movie *Lincoln*, currently being filmed in Richmond. Using their knowledge of period wallpaper patterns and coloration, the Carters designed this dark green wallpaper for the set of Lincoln's office from a black and white photograph of Lincoln's office where the original wallpaper can be just barely be seen in the background. In chatting with Argine Carter while preparing this report, she mentioned that Carters have subsequently produced all of

the period wallpapers needed for the movie, choosing appropriate wallpaper patterns from their stock of over 350 historic designs.

Carter & Company is a unique resource for wallpapers needed in the restoration of period homes. We are pleased that they have relocated to Central Virginia and thank them for being gracious hosts for VCA's first fall meeting.

Submitted by Colleen Callahan

VCA MEMBERS' MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22TH, 2011
Carter and Company Historic Wall Papers
BUSINESS MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Fred Wallace (President) welcomed everyone to the member's meeting and thanked Mary Andrews and Sandy Jensen (Refreshments Co-Chairs) for the refreshments.

Fred reminded the membership that the annual VCA membership renewal is due in November.

Fred announced Fort Lee History Day in which visitors may bring various historical documents for digital reproduction. The VCA was asked to be present to field questions concerning care and preservation of the various types of documents that the visitors have brought. Wendy Cowan will represent the VCA at the event. Those interested in the event or in helping with the event can contact a board member.

Fred informed the membership that Nancy Beck has offered to accept the position of VCA Treasurer through May 2012. By a show of hands the membership voted her into the position.

Charles Phillips (Publications Co-Chair) informed those present that the next member's meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 17.

Fred suggested that members with interesting ideas for future meetings or field trips should contact Colleen Callahan or Suzanne Collins (Programs Co-Chairs).

Dee DeRoche informed the membership that October is Virginia Archaeology Month. Dee provided several free posters and announced that more could be obtained through her at the Department of Historic Resources.

Velinda Carroll informed the present members about the Virginia Collections Initiative (VCI), a part of the Connecting to Collections Grant that was awarded to the

The Virginia Conservation Association

2011/12 Membership Application & Dues Payment

Name (as you would like it to appear in the Directory): _____

Address: _____

Title/Institutional Affiliation: _____

Work Telephone: () _____ Home Telephone: () _____

Fax: () _____ Email: _____

Are you a Conservator? _____ Conservation Technician? _____ Conservation Student? _____

Museum Professional? _____ Other (Specify)? _____

Areas of Conservation Expertise:

____ Archaeological Objects

____ Furniture

____ Sculpture

____ Architecture

____ Objects

____ Textiles

____ Books & Paper

____ Paintings

____ Other (Specify below)

____ Ethnographic Objects

____ Photographic Materials

Are you willing to be a Disaster Response Volunteer in the event of an emergency? _____

Would you like your contact information included in our website Conservation Services Directory? _____

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 \$15.00 (Student; enclose copy of valid I.D.) Application and dues payment must be received by November 15, 2011 for inclusion in the 2012 VCA Directory. A \$5.00 late fee may apply to applications from renewing members received after this deadline. If you require an invoice or receipt for your records, please photocopy this form before sending.

Note: If you are a renewing member mailing this form after the November 15th, 2011 deadline please apply the \$5.00 late fee to your payment. Thank you.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to the Virginia Conservation Association to the address below before November 15, 2011.

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

Virginia Association of Museums. The VCA is partnered with this and Christina Newton (VCI Project Manager) should be at the November meeting to recruit VCA conservators and to answer questions regarding the VCI. Fred informed the members that the Virginia's Top Ten Endangered Artifacts list is the first publicly visual manifestation of the VCI. There are other elements and programs in-which the VCA will be asked to participate in the near future.

Fred thanked Robert, Argine and Paul Carter of Carter and Company Historic Wall Papers for hosting the September member's meeting.

~ Chris Wilkins, VCA Secretary

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**2011/12 DUES ARE DUE
BEFORE 15 NOVEMBER
RENEWAL FORM IS AVAILABLE AT**

WWW.VIRGINIACONSERVATIONASSOCIATION.ORG/PDFS/MEMBERSHIP_FOR_M11_12.PDF

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

www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org