

Inside this issue:

<i>Landscape Planning for Capitol Square</i>	1
<i>VCA Program – March 17</i>	2
<i>Digital Photography</i>	3
<i>Board Contacts</i>	4
<i>Grant Deadlines</i>	5
<i>Professional Development</i>	5
<i>Minutes for the February 16, 2005 VCA Board Mtg</i>	7

Landscape Planning for Capitol Square

James E. Wootton
Executive Director, Capitol Square Preservation Council

The landscape of Richmond’s Capitol Square has experienced three periods of significant change—bringing order to the area in 1816, updating the Square in 1850, and altering the Square following additions to the Capitol in 1906.

At the height of the Revolutionary War, the General Assembly voted in 1779 to move the three-year-old Commonwealth’s capital from Williamsburg to Richmond, with Governor Thomas Jefferson leading the initiative. Jefferson recommended the site for the new Capitol at the crest of Shockoe Hill, a promontory overlooking the James River at what was then the western edge of Richmond.

Because of his time abroad, and

because several compromises were made to his design for the building, Jefferson was never an active participant in the construction of the Capitol or in its landscape design. Indeed, for the first decade after the Capitol’s completion in 1798, there was no formal landscape. Open springs had created deep ravines on either side of the hill, and paths and lanes irregularly traversed the “publick square.” In 1816, Maximilian Godefroy, a native of France living in Baltimore, came to Richmond and developed a plan to “regulate” the Square. Godefroy created an avenue leading from “G” Street (today’s Grace Street) to the three-year-old Executive Mansion, and he channeled the springs underground, filled in the ravines, and created pathways to ascend the hill.

After a period of fits and starts, the next major landscape effort occurred with the renewed movement in the late 1840s to place Virginia’s own

(Continued on page 6)

The nominating committee will be meeting to choose candidates for elections in May. Offices needing candidates are President, Membership, Education Co-Chair, Publications Co-Chair and Programs Co-Chair. If you are interested in running for office, please contact Lorraine Brevig at hisstah@aol.com

VCA Program – March 17, 2005

Pest Management in Unique Circumstances

Wilton House Museum

On March 17, 2005 Wilton House Museum and Curator, Dana Hand Evans, will host the next VCA program. Craig Duncan, president of Exterminating Unlimited, Inc. (EUI) will present a program entitled "Pest Management in Unique Circumstances". An overview of general pest management concerns will be included in the presentation. Thanks to Carol Givens, Conservator, Wilton House Museum, for her help in organizing this program.

Craig presented a very informative and entertaining talk to the VCA on pest management in 2003. EUI counts several VCA member institutions among its clients. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm with refreshments, followed by a brief business meeting. The program will begin at 6:00 pm.

Wilton House Museum is located at the end of Wilton Road off of the 5300 block of Cary Street .

From the north, take I-95 to 195. Take the Cary Street Exit. Turn right (west) onto Cary Street . South Wilton Road is on the left at the 5300 block of Cary Street.

From the south , take I-95 to 195. Take the Cary Street/Floyd Avenue Exit. Turn right onto Thompson Street , then turn right onto Cary Street . South Wilton Road is on the left at the 5300 block of Cary Street.

From I-64 , follow I-95 south to 195, and take the Cary Street Exit. Turn right (west) onto Cary Street . South Wilton Road is on the left at the 5300 block of Cary Street .

Registration forms for the Digital Photography 101 workshop will be mailed to members in March. Workshop fee is \$150 for members. Class size is limited to 20 people, so be sure to register early! For more information, contact Patricia Selinger at patricia.selinger@vcu.edu or 804-828-1096.

Digital Photography 101 with Yosi A. R. Pozeilov

May 6 –7, 2005

VCU Cabell Library

First Day

First Half - lecture

Introduction Digital Photography 101

Benefits and practical aspects of digital photography

- ◇ Cost analysis of analogue vs. digital
- ◇ Digital work flow (simplified)

Digital image capture device:

- ◇ Image processing
- ◇ Image Output

What is digital photography

Pixels

Resolution, Image Size and Number of Pixels

- ◇ Determining Image size
- ◇ Resolution
- ◇ Resolution and Image size
- ◇ Image File Size

File Compression, TIFF files or JPEG files

Lossless Compression (TIFF)

Degrading Compression (JPEG)

Uncompressed and RAW file

Image dimensions conversion

- ◇ Converting dimensions in Pixels to Inches
- ◇ Converting Dimensions in Inches to Pixels
- ◇ Converting Dimensions in Pixels to Pixels per Inch

Second Half - Hands on practice in different settings

Second Day

First Half - lecture

Image Sensors

- ◇ One-Shot Sensors
- ◇ Linear Sensors (Scanners)
- ◇ Aspect Ratios
- ◇ Sensitivity

Capturing color in the image

- ◇ Color Channels
- ◇ Color Depth (or Channel in Photoshop)
- ◇ The Arithmetic of Bits and Colors
- ◇ White Balance

Overview of digital cameras and storage media cards

Digital Cameras

Storage media cards

- ◇ CompactFlash Cards
- ◇ PCMCIA Cards
- ◇ Microdrive
- ◇ Smart Media
- ◇ Memory Stick
- ◇ SD Card

Photographing with Conservation Techniques

- ◇ Direct/reflected light
- ◇ Raking light
- ◇ Infrared photography
- ◇ Ultraviolet photography
- ◇ Transmitted light
- ◇ Photo Microscopy

Reading “Specifications”

Second Half – Hands on practice in different settings, review final Q&A

Officers

President	Lorraine Brevig 804-358-2006 HISSTAH@aol.com
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VCA Salon Organizing Committee

We are pleased to welcome Kathy Gillis into the Organizing Committee of the VCA Salon. Although still a fledgling group, we are always happy to have new faces and new ideas brought into the fold. Thank you, Kathy, for offering your time and talents!

Mary Andrews

SALON MEETING – Digital Photography or Traditional Photography ?

This is the subject for our next Salon meeting. Come, bring your experience, prejudice and open mind to join a discussion that promises to be very interesting.

When: Friday, April 29, 2005

Where: Scott Nolley home: 2605 East Franklin street

Time: 6.00 P M to 9.00 P M

If planning to attend, please call Bienvenida Ochs at: 644-5311

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION GUILD UP-COMING MEETINGS

APRIL 7 – HILLWOOD MUSEUM AND GARDENS

“THE CURIOUS ART OF THE SECRET FORE-EDGE PAINTING BY MARTIN FROST”

MAY 5 – NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN – SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED

MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY SCHEDULED FROM 5:00 TO 7:30 PM. FEE IS \$10 FOR NON-MEMBERS.

Grant Deadlines

Getty Grant Program at www.getty.edu/grants

- Ø Architectural Conservation Grants, Planning Grants: April 10
- Ø Architectural Conservation Grants, Implementation Grants: April 10
- Ø Special Initiative: Campus Heritage Grants: April 10

Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) at www.imls.gov/grants/index.htm

- Ø 21st Century Museum Professionals: March 15
- Ø Native American Museum Services Program: April 1
- Ø Native American Library Services Program: Enhancement: May 1

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) at www.neg.gov

- Ø Consultation Grants for Libraries, Museums, or Special Projects: March 22; September 16
- Ø Challenge Grants: May 3; November 1
- Ø Preservation Assistance Grants: May 16

- Ø Preservation and Access Education and Training Grants: July 1
- Ø Preservation and Access Research and Development Projects Grants: July 1
- Ø United States Newspaper Programs: July 1
- Ø Grants to Preserve and Create Access to Humanities Collections: July 15
- Ø Reference Materials Grants: July 15
- Ø Planning Grants for Libraries, Museums, and Special Projects: September 16

National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) at www.archives.gov/grants/index.html

- Ø Grant Proposals: June 1; October 1

Preserve America at www.preserveamerica.gov

Preserve America Communities: rolling deadlines: June 1; September 1, December 1, and March 1

Professional Development

The Conservation of Glass

Orlando Florida

March 21-25, 2005

This course (for 10 participants maximum) covers the principles and practices of historical and archaeological glass cleaning, care, conservation, and restoration. Discussions center on aspects of deterioration, restoration methods and proper conditions for storage and display. Practical sessions include the use

and choice of techniques and particular materials. Aimed at practicing glass and other conservators and taught by Stephen Koob (Corning Museum of Glass) and John Maseman (South Florida Conservation Center), the course will once again be held at Sydonie Estate House, north of Orlando. For details/enrollment visit www.academicprojects.co.uk

Landscape Planning for Capitol Square

(Continued from page 1)

“Washington Monument” on Capitol Square. John Notman, a native of Dublin, Ireland, was working as an architect and landscape gardener in Philadelphia when he entered the competition to design a suitable monument to the nation’s first President. Notman lost the competition, but in 1850 he gained a contract to beautify the Square in the “graceful” or picturesque style. Notman knew something about Richmond. Two years earlier, he laid out the design for Hollywood Cemetery, some distance southwest of Capitol Square. Notman’s “graceful” design for Capitol Square is one of the nation’s earliest examples of the picturesque landscape style in an American urban park.

Between 1904 and 1906, wings were added to the Virginia Capitol as new chambers for the Senate and the House of Delegates. Upon completion of this remodeling, a roadway was established around the perimeter of the Capitol, and the automobile became a fixture on Capitol Square. For the balance of the twentieth century, no single comprehen-

sive plan guided the placement or treatment of landscape features on Capitol Square.

In 1999 the General Assembly created the Capitol Square Preservation Council. An advisory group of fourteen persons, the Preservation Council had as one of its first charges the development of a landscape master plan for Capitol Square. The Assembly made a \$50,000 provisional allocation toward the plan, and within its first two years, the Preservation Council raised private funds to match the allocation. The firm of Rhodeside and Harwell of Alexandria, Virginia, was chosen in late 2002 to create the master plan, which was co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of General Services and by the Capitol Square Preservation Council.

While funds were still being raised for the landscape master plan, Richmond city planner Tyler Potterfield undertook the first comprehensive history of the landscape of Capitol Square.

Potterfield’s work was a major volunteer effort, with countless hours spent researching primary-source documents and uncovering several treasures. Among his most significant findings was the written report that John Notman made to the City of Richmond in 1850. In that report, Notman stated that his three goals for the landscape design of Capitol Square were to draw attention to the Capitol and to the anticipated Washington Monument, to increase ease of access into the Square, and to beautify the Square with appropriate planting. The landscape history of Capitol Square became the source upon which many of the decisions were made for the landscape master plan.

Over the next eighteen months landscape architect Elliot Rhodeside and his staff met repeatedly with members of the Preservation Council, with the Department of General Services, and with representatives from such bodies as the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the Garden Club of Virginia. The

(Continued on page 7)

Landscape Planning for Capital Square

(Continued from page 6)

resulting plan recognizes and preserves the landscape elements that survive from the three historic landscape initiatives while it provides for improved views both into the Square and out of the Square. Perhaps its most daring feature is its recommendation that no permanent parking be provided on the Square for vehicles.

In June 2004 the House and Senate Joint Rules Commit-

tee endorsed the Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan, followed later by a letter of endorsement by Governor Mark Warner. In his endorsement, Governor Warner pointed to the plan "as a tool for restoring and preserving this historic landscape as well as enhancing the Capitol Square experience for visitors and those who work here every day."



A late-19th century view of Capitol Square depicts the maturing of the picturesque landscape scheme designed by John Notman in 1850.

Minutes for the February 16, 2005

VCA Board Meeting

The meeting was held at the residence of Mary Andrews. Board members in attendance were Lorraine Brevig, Dianne Ball, Patricia Selinger, Mary Andrews, and Stuart Austin.

Reports

Education: Patricia Selinger, Education Co-Chair reported that funding has been granted from the AIC to help pay for the "Digital Photography 101" workshop scheduled for May 6 and 7, 2005. It will be taught by Yosi A. R. Pozeilov from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and held at VCU. The cost to VCA members is \$150. The size of the work-

shop will be limited to 20 people. Registration forms will be in the March VCA Newsletter. The workshop will not be publicized beyond the VCA Newsletter until after March 31, 2005 to avoid conflict with a planned workshop to be held in Atlanta. The workshop fee for non-members will be \$200.00

Patricia suggested that the VCA consider having a credit card to facilitate reserving hotel rooms for speakers, purchasing materials, etc. Dianne Ball, Treasurer, will check with the VCA's bank, Wachovia, to see what the options are.

Future possible workshops suggested by Mary Andrews, Disaster Response Chair, are a disaster recovery workshop and a lime mortar workshop.

Treasurer: Dianne Ball reported that the VCA bank account contains over \$3,000.00.

Programs: Stuart Austin, Programs Co-Chair, reported that the program for March 17, 2005 is set. Craig Duncan of Extermination Unlimited, Inc. will speak on pest management. The program will take place at Wilton House

(Continued on page 8)

Minutes from the Board

(Continued from page 7)

Museum. Possible future programs and/or fields trips are visits to Flowerdew Hundred and windmill conservation, Maymont House below stairs, Kenmore, Ferry Farm and the Timber Framers Guild, conservation of the Kugel and a railroad Pullman car at the Science Museum of Virginia, disaster recovery at Jamestown, and talks by various VCA members about recent projects.

Refreshments: Mary Studt, Refreshments Co-Chair, reported that expenditures were under budget.

Publications: The deadline for the March Newsletter is the end of February.

Nominating Committee: Lorraine Brevig, President, reported that Patricia Selinger and Bienvenida Ochs have volunteered to serve on the committee. Another committee member is needed to help seek members willing to be nominated for upcoming officer and committee chairs and co-chairs. The positions to be filled in the election at the May 2005 meeting are: president, education co-chair, programs co-chair, membership

chair, and publications co-chair.

Lorraine suggested that the publications chair appoint a web master to work on the VCA website.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned. Thank you to Mary Andrews for hosting the meeting and for the lovely dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Austin

Programs Co-Chair



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