

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Timber Framing at Ferry Farm</i> | 1 |
| <i>Minutes from Membership Meeting March 17</i> | 2 |
| <i>Board and Committee Candidates</i> | 3 |
| <i>Board Contacts</i> | 4 |
| <i>Employment Opportunity</i> | 4 |
| <i>Grant Deadlines</i> | 5 |
| <i>Celebration of Textiles</i> | 5 |
| <i>May Membership Meeting</i> | 7 |
| <i>Minutes from the VCA Board Meeting—April 28</i> | 7 |

VCA Field Trip—April 2

Timber Framing at Ferry Farm

Undeterred by the weather the first Saturday in April, several hardy members of the VCA embarked on a field trip. After visiting Ferry Farm and watching the Timber Framers Guild members at work we drove to downtown Fredericksburg for lunch after which we went to Kenmore, the home of Fielding and Betty Lewis (George Washington's sister). David Voelkel, Director of Curatorial Operations, took us on a tour of the new installation of the exhibits of the recently refurbished Crowninshield Gallery. The group then toured the house with David. It is much changed since the VCA's last visit in 2004. Most of the rooms have been painted or papered in preparation for furnishing in the future. Restoration work has uncovered more architectural detail in the drawing room making evident that it was a very grand, high style room of the day.

History of the Timber Framing Project

The Timber Frame Structure

The structure, which will be used as an educational space for the Foundation, is a 24' x 48' five-bent, four-bay open pavilion. Its roof mimics that of the 1770s-era Ken-

more Plantation house of Washington's sister, and it uses a kingpost truss system with principal rafters, principal purlins, and common rafters. The connection at the wall plate is the English tying joint. The frame was cut on site and raised using period appropriate technology, such as gin pole, shear legs, and block and tackle.

The Timber Framers Guild joined with George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation and the Virginia Military Institute in building the structure. VMI cadets were on hand to help with final cutting, fit-up, and the raising. The cadets also cut the 8' x 24' shed frame and raised the shed.

Background

In 1996 the Wal-Mart Corporation sought to purchase Ferry Farm, the Washington family home where George Washington resided from 1738-1772, and to erect a store on the site. At that point, the Kenmore Association (now called George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation) and other preservation groups initiated steps to preserve the property. Today the site is

(Continued on page 6)

The next newsletter will be published in September 2005. If you have any information (articles, events, employment opportunities) you would like to include in the newsletter, please forward to Tracy Bryan at tbryan@vahistorical.org by August 25.

VCA Minutes Membership Meeting

March 17, 2005

Location: Wilton House Museum

Guest Speaker: Craig Duncan, Exterminating Unlimited, Inc.

The meeting was called to order and the following announcements were made:

It is time to nominate a slate of officers for the following positions:

President, Membership Chair, Publications Co-Chair, Education Co-Chair, Programs Co-Chair

An appeal was made for members to serve on the nominating committee. Patricia Selinger, Tracy Bryan and Bienvenida Ochs volunteered to be on the nominating committee and prepare a slate of officers.

Education Committee, Patricia Selinger: The VCA Digital Photography 101 Workshop will be held May 6-7 at the Library Instruction Classroom, 3rd Floor, James Branch Cabell Library,

Virginia Commonwealth University. The cost is \$150 for VCA members. Registration forms are now available from Patricia Selinger.

Program Committee, Stuart Austin Bailey: The May membership meeting will be held at the Science Museum of Virginia. The program will focus on the conservation of the Kugel Sculpture and possibly the Pullman Car. The Program Committee is also working on a possible spring fieldtrip to Flowerdew Hundred or a private house in Port Royal. Details on the fieldtrip will be forthcoming.

Following announcements, Craig Duncan gave an enlightened presentation on pest control. His focus included treatments for termites, powder post beetles and bed bugs.

GRAND OPENING:

IN SERVICE AND BEYOND: DOMESTIC WORK AND LIFE IN A GILDED AGE MANSION

A New Permanent Exhibition Tells the Other Half of the Maymont Story

Public Opening: Sunday, May 22, 12-5pm

Maymont House Museum

Celebrate the grand opening of Maymont's new permanent exhibition, a restoration project 10 years in the making. Step back in time and enjoy a day of activities and entertainment for the entire family. See the living history performance "Kitchen Tales" and learn about domestic life and work from the perspective of the head cook who worked at Maymont when it was James and Sallie Dooleys' home. Explore the technological marvels, appliances, household products and tasks of 100 years ago through special outdoor displays and demonstrations. For children, fun hands-on activities and games will bring the past to life. Everyone will enjoy old-fashioned picnic fare and the music of long ago. And of course, as the centerpiece of this exciting day, you will be among the first to tour the restored kitchen, laundry room, wine cellar, pantries, butler's bedroom and other belowstairs rooms. The new exhibition expands interpretation of Maymont House Museum as both a Gilded Age showplace and a workplace for the men and women employed as butlers, maids, cooks, laundresses and chauffeurs during a time of dramatic change.

Candidates for Election

Virginia Conservation Association

Board and Committee Positions

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for officer positions. Election of these officers will take place during the business meeting on May 19, 2005. Each officer serves for a 2-year term.

President

- Carol Boyers Givens is presently an Objects Conservator in Private Practice and the Consultant Conservator for Wilton House Museum. She was recently selected to work on Lady Astor's American Indian Collection, for the University of Virginia Art Museum. Selected objects in this collection (southwestern beaded pipe bags, spirit bags, baskets, painted shields, medicine bags of the Pacific coast) are to be exhibited in concurrence with the 200-year celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Additionally, she completed work for the James Monroe Museum, on the James Monroe Presidential marble top commode and Mrs. Monroe's jeweled tiaras.

Membership Chairman

- Melba J. Myers has been the Archaeological Materials Conservator for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for 13 years. She designed the DHR laboratory in Richmond and provides conservation support for the Department's collection of approximately 6 million artifacts as well as providing technical assistance for many groups around the Commonwealth. Myers completed a Museum Studies Master's Degree at George Washington University and 4 semesters of training at the Anthropology Conservation Laboratory, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian, with Carolyn Rose. Before coming to Richmond Myers worked on assorted archaeology projects in the Mid-Atlantic, in Alaska, and in Puerto Rico, as well as spending 6 years in a Decorative Arts objects conservation studio working with Sidney Williston. Since 1991, Myers has been on the Board of the Virginia Conservation Association in one function or another, including Programs and Education.

Education Co-Chair

- Kathy Gillis has worked in Objects Conservation at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for 7 years. She has previously served on the Board of the Virginia Conservation Association as Chair of Emergency Response and Newsletter Committee. Gillis specializes in furniture conservation, but looks after all three dimensional objects at VMFA.

Programs Co-Chair

- Valinda Carroll, Preservation Manager for the Hampton University Library, earned an M.A. in Museum Studies from Hampton University in 1993 and an M.A. and certificate of advanced study in Art Conservation from Buffalo State in 1999. Currently, she co-chairs the AIC conference poster session, and she has previously served the VCA as Education Chair. Since her first conservation work-study job at Northwestern in 1988, she has worked or interned for libraries, regional centers, and museums in six states plus the District of Columbia (but remains a Virginia Beach girl at heart).

Publications Co-Chair

- Michelle McClintick received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History-Museum Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1996. She currently works as a Library Assistant in the Tech-

Officers

| | |
|----------------|--|
| President | Lorraine Brevig 804-358-2006 HISSTAH@aol.com |
| Vice President | Traci Horne Flores 804-358-2006 LaArtsa@hotmail.com |
| Secretary | Karri Richardson 804-358-7166 ext. 303 krichardson@maymont.org |
| Treasurer | Dianne Ball 804-282-7307 Dartsnt@aol.com |

Chairs

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| By Laws | Jayne Harding 804-648-1889 jayneharding@yahoo.com |
| Education | Carey Howlett 804-366-1233 cell fchowlett@mac.com |
| Membership | Melba Myers 804-367-2323 ext. 130 mmyers@dhr.state.va.us |
| Programs | David Voelkel 540-373-3381 ext. 15 voelkel@gwffoundation.org |
| Publications | John Fralin 804-649-4095 john@fafas.com |
| Refreshments | Mary Studt 804-222-7133 mestudt@earthlink.net |
| Disaster Response | Mary Scott Andrews 804-741-8970 andrewsmmm@earthlink.net |

Employment Opportunity

Conservation Technician

Three Lakes Nature Center in Henrico County, VA is interested in locating people with a background in artifact care or cleaning to assist with the cleaning of approximately 27 bird mounts dating from the early 1900s. These mounts are part of a collection once owned by James Bellwood, an agricultural innovator and amateur naturalist who was chosen to represent Virginia's natural resources with a large-scale exhibit at the 1913 Panama Pacific World Exposition in San Francisco. In August 2004, Tropical Storm Gaston caused extensive flooding at Three Lakes Nature Center, and many of Bellwood's bird mounts were damaged by water. Training for the conservation of these birds will be provided. Pay will be \$15 per hour. Dates and times have not been determined. For more information, contact Tom Thorp at (804) 501-8228 or tho56@co.henrico.va.us.

VCA Webmaster

At the April 28th board meeting, Tracy Bryan, publications co-chair, made a motion to appoint Lorraine Brevig as webmaster for the VCA's website. The motion passed with unanimous approval!

VCA members are encouraged to utilize the website for announcements, job postings, and general conservation information. Please forward requests for posting to Lorraine Brevig at HISSTAH@aol.com

Grant Deadlines

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

- Ø Consultation Grants for Libraries, Museums, or Special Projects: September 16
- Ø Challenge Grants: 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

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

Candidates for Election

(Continued from page 3)

nical Services Department of the Virginia Historical Society where she is responsible for managing the serial collection, creating serial analytic records, and assisting the Director of Technical Services with acquisitions and preservation activities. McClintick has been a member of the Virginia Conservation Association since 2002.

Celebration of Textiles

Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5

Join The Textile Museum in June for Celebration of Textiles, an annual festival of hands-on fun and learning. Visitors of all ages are invited to explore the textile arts and cultures of the world through a multitude of activities and demonstrations in the Museum's galleries, historic buildings, and garden. See and try out a variety of looms based on the Braille typewriter that a lo-

cal weaver invented for blind users. Meet fiber artists from Springwater Fiber Workshop, Woodmont Weavers, Capital Crocheters & Knitters, and more. Use wax dye to create a batik cloth inspired by textiles in the exhibition *Textiles for This World and Beyond: Treasures from Insular Southeast Asia*.

A slightly different selection of dem-

onstrations and hands-on activities will be available on Sunday, June 5. For more detailed information, please visit the Museum's web site at www.textilemuseum.org

Note: Celebration of Textiles is part of the Dupont-Kalorama Museums Consortium's Museum Walk Weekend.

Timber Framing at Ferry Farm

(Continued from page 1)

owned and operated by George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation, a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of what is now a National Historic Landmark.

While none of the Washington related structures remain, the site is rich with archaeological resources. Over the next several years archaeologists and architectural researchers will gather information on the site and recreate the Washington farm. In the process, the Foundation has created interpretive and educational programs that have expanded dramatically. In the first nine months of 2004 more than 10,000 students benefited from Ferry Farm educational programming.

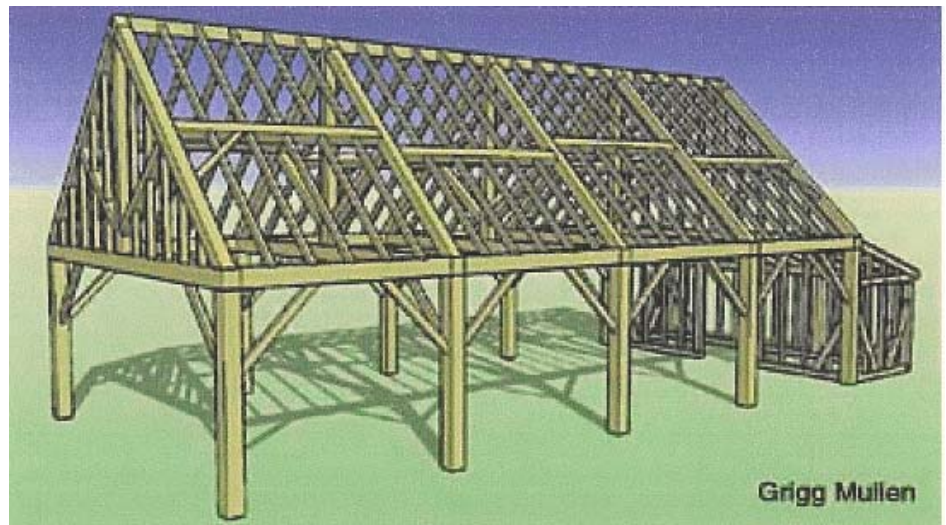
Great Oak Pavilion

The Great Oak Pavilion, while not in the historic core, will provide an important role in educational programming and interpretation of the site. This structure will provide additional space for programs, and the entry into the historic core area. The structure has been designed to show framing and framing techniques similar to what would have been seen during the Washington period. In fact, the roof structure is similar to the framing seen at Kenmore.

Ferry Farm is George Washington's boyhood home, which he inherited in his father's will. It lies across the Rappahannock River from the old town of Fredericksburg, Virginia. For more information and directions, please call (804) 370-0732 or visit www.ferryfarm.org

Washington's Ferry Farm is located at 268 Kings Highway, Fredericksburg, VA. Ferry Farm is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through December 30, 2005. Closed Thanksgiving Day, December 24, 25, and 31.

Timber Framing details and information courtesy of George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation Press Release—February 18, 2005



May Members Meeting and Program

Thursday, May 19, 2005 5—7 p.m.

Location: Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St, Richmond, VA.

Dr. David Hagan, staff physicist will address the membership on the Kugel project. His talk will commence at 6pm and last approximately 45 minutes and will include a tour of the Kugel. He will provide background on the design and the fabrication of the Kugel as well as the crack and the planned conservation of this important Richmond landmark sculpture.

Dr. Hagan's presentation will follow a reception to be held in the new Atrium at the Science Museum. This 5 p.m. reception will be catered by Mary Studt and Jennifer Zemanek. Please use the entrance to the

IMAX theater in order to access the new Atrium space. This is the lower level overlooking the train car.

Located in the historic Broad Street Station designed by renowned architect John Russell Pope, the Science Museum of Virginia is easily reached via Interstate 95 and Interstate 64.

From the north or west:

Take I-95 south or I-64 east to Richmond (I-95 and I-64 run together through Richmond). From I-95, take the Boulevard exit (# 78), bear right onto Boulevard. Take Boulevard to West Broad Street (US 250) (4th traffic light). Turn left onto West Broad Street and go two

blocks. The Science Museum is on your left.

From the south or east:

Take I-95 north or I-64 West to Richmond (I-95 and I-64 run together through Richmond). From I-95, take the Boulevard exit (# 78) and bear left onto Hermitage Rd. Take Hermitage south for 1.3 miles to West Broad Street (US 250). Turn right onto West Broad St. and proceed for one half mile. The Science Museum is on your right.

There is ample free parking adjacent to the museum.

Minutes from the VCA Board Meeting

April 28, 2005

Officers present: Lorraine Brevig, Karri Richardson, Dianne Ball, Stuart Bailey Austin, David Voelkel, Tracy Bryan, Patricia Selinger, and Mary Studt.

Meeting was called to order 7:15 PM.

Education Committee, Patricia Selinger: The digital photography workshop is set for May 6 & 7.

Approximately 27 people from Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, New York & New Jersey are scheduled to attend. Suggestions are being taken for cutting costs for the workshop including cutting back on lunches and snacks. David suggested we seek donations from Ukrop's. Patricia questioned whether VCU would allow outside catering. As finances stand at this point, the VCA would make approximately \$3000 in profit from this workshop.

Patricia raised the question of obtaining a credit card for the VCA to cover costs for events such as this workshop. Dianne reported that Wachovia denied our credit card application. It was suggested that we apply to other banks such as First Market. Dianne will check into this.

Nominating Committee: Tracy Bryan:

The slate for next year's officers is as follows:

President: Carol Givens

Membership: Melba Myers

Education Co-Chair: Kathy Gillis

Programs Co-Chair: Valinda Carroll

Publications Co-Chair: Michelle McClintick

It was noted that Stuart Austin Bailey will run for VCA president in 2007. It was agreed that voting will take place at the next membership meeting via verbal affirmation. Biographies of the nominees will be included in the May newsletter.

Publications Committee, Tracy Bryan: The deadline for the newsletter is Wednesday May 4, 2005. Programs Co-Chairs David and Stuart will submit an article on the April field trip and include information on the next membership meeting program. A report on the VCA salon will also be submitted for the newsletter.

Programs Committee, Stuart Bailey Austin and David Voelkel: the May membership meeting will take place at the Science Museum May 19. The subject will be conservation of the Kugel

(Continued on page 8)

Minutes from the VCA Board Meeting

April 28, 2005

(Continued from page 7)

globe, the Pullman Car or the Space Capsule. David will verify the topic and will report same for the newsletter.

David discussed the idea of the VCA sponsoring an event or having a presence at the annual ASTC (Association of Science and Technology Centers) Conference in September here in Richmond. Board members thought this would be a good marketing opportunity for the VCA. It was suggested that the VCA host tours of various conservation labs in Richmond including Richmond Conservation Studio, Fulton Hill Studios, DHR and VMFA. David will find out more information about this and the VCA will try to organize something before our next board meeting.

Upcoming programs will include:

September – possible visit to Flowerdew Hundred to discuss windmill conservation.

November – In lieu of a conservation lab meeting, members are invited to Maymont to see the new belowstairs exhibit and ongoing conservation projects by the following VCA members: Sandy Jensen will speak on the regilding of the

Pink Drawing Room mantle; Amy Fernandez will talk about her work removing paint in the Swan Room and cleaning sculpture throughout the house; Nancy Beck will talk on the restoration of the Swan Room ceiling, Mary Andrews will speak of her role conserving objects for the belowstairs exhibit, and Dale Weary and Doty Robinson will discuss the restoration of the basement.

January – Proposed presentation: Scott Nolley and Amy Fernandez to talk on three dimensional object conservation.

March – Visit to Kenmore. The house will be nearing completion or finished; possible presentation by Claudia Walpole on the conservation of the eighteenth century Kenmore stays.

April – Possible field trip to Camden in Port Royal with lunch at the Port Royal Tavern. Another suggestion was a trip to Hampton University.

May 2006 meeting – stained glass conservator Scott Taylor suggested that we consider a program given by a physical therapist who would

speak on repetitive motion injuries.

Other program suggestions included: fiber optic lighting at Agecroft, Scott Nolley's work on a Walliston portrait of Randolph at Wilton, Scott Nolley's work on an unusual porcelain piece, and possibly a program at Colonial Williamsburg.

Treasurer's Report, Dianne Ball: the current balance in the VCA account is \$2,033.89.

Membership Committee, Melba Myers: No report.

Refreshments Committee, Mary Studt: Refreshments will be needed at the May meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 pm.



VCA

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