

## From the President

As the spring season begins, there is much on the horizon for the VCA membership and many opportunities of which to take advantage.

From 12-15 March the Virginia Association of Museums will conduct its 2011 Conference. On Tuesday 15 March the VCA formally will contribute to the conference by presenting a session titled *Simple, Practical Procedures for Conservation and Collections Care*. VCA members Valinda Carroll, Tom Snyder and I will discuss various straightforward ways to bolster the conservation program at collecting institutions. A brief description of the VCA will be part of the presentation, hopefully spurring an interest to join among session participants.

Our next Members Meeting is set for 24 March. The program will feature a presentation by Andrew Baxter, Scott McKee and James Robertson, during which they will describe conservation work undertaken on the Indian Stone Garden Pavilion at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Please join us at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond for this exciting evening!

The 2011 Hennage Conservation Lecture Series has commenced at the Dewitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum of Colonial Williamsburg. Each month a member of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Conservation staff will make a presentation about efforts towards the care and preservation of objects in the Colonial Williamsburg collection. Due to the thoughtful consideration of CWF conservation staff, the museum generously will allow free admission to the lectures for VCA members throughout the series. Simply state that you are a VCA member upon entering Hennage Auditorium and the charge for the program will be waived. A lecture is held one Thursday each month of the year. The next lecture is scheduled for 31 March and will focus on preservation work at Drayton Hall. Thank you to our friends and colleagues at Colonial Williamsburg!

## VCA Members' Meeting Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.



*Indian Stone Garden Pavilion at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*

## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond  
&  
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
200 North Boulevard, Richmond



*Join us at the DHR for a Reception, Business Meeting  
and Presentation by Andrew Baxter, Scott McKee and  
James Robertson ~ Followed by a visit to the VMFA*

**For More Information  
See Next Page**

A VCA field trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh has been confirmed. The trip will occur on Friday 15 April. This provides a great opportunity to visit with our conservation colleagues at the NCMA and see the expansive, newly built exhibition wing that highlights the permanent collection. Chartered bus transportation will be available. Please contact Colleen Callahan of the Programs Committee to be counted among the many who will want to take part in the journey. (Further information follows in this issue of the Newsletter).

A special workshop, *Fundraising for Preservation and Conservation*, will be offered on Friday 29 April at Maymont House. The program has been produced by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, based in Philadelphia. Lee Price, CCAHA Director of Development, will be the lead presenter. The workshop is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Both the VCA and VAM have agreed to partner with CCAHA in promoting the workshop. More details about the workshop, including the start time, will be announced soon (see page 7), so hold this date!

Spring also is the season to prepare for the annual election of new VCA Board members, which occurs during the Members Meeting each May. I encourage all of you to review the list of positions open for election and to sincerely consider running for one that you find appealing. Is there something about the VCA you'd like to change or improve? Is there a program or initiative with which you think the VCA should move forward? The best way to help your ideas about the VCA to bear fruit is by being an active member of the Board. I think that you would find Board membership to be fulfilling and enjoyable. If you have a desire to run or have questions about the election please contact Melba Myers, Valinda Carroll or Marla Curtis, members of the 2011 Nominating Committee, as newly appointed by the Board. (Details about the election are provided on page 4 of this newsletter).

In closing, I ask that you remember two ongoing requests. Feel free to submit any news, program notices, employment postings, project updates, etc. that have relevance to our collective conservation interests, for inclusion in the Newsletter ("Member News"). Also, digital images showing collections care activities in progress still are needed for rotation on to the VCA Website. The Web Management Committee is waiting for your contributions, so send in your pictures.

Thank you very much. See you soon.

~ *Frederick Wallace, President*



## VCA Member's Meeting Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 5:30 p.m.

Please join your fellow VCA members at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for a presentation by Andrew Baxter, Scott McKee and James Robertson on their conservation treatment of the Indian Stone Garden Pavilion, a 27 ton structure installed in the South Asian Gallery at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. After refreshments, a brief business meeting and the conservation team's presentation, Andrew, Scott and James will walk us over to the VMFA for a special tour of the pavilion.

### Directions and Parking:



#### From the East and South:

- Exit I-64 West at exit 78 toward Boulevard
- Turn sharp left at Hermitage Road
- Take the first right onto Robin Hood Rd.
- Turn left onto Boulevard, drive 1.2 miles and turn right onto Kensington Avenue
- The DHR entrance is accessible on Kensington Avenue just east of the loading dock. DHR parking is available in the VHS parking lot, which is accessible on Kensington Avenue or at the VMFA parking deck (fees apply)

#### From the West and North

- Exit I-64/I-95 at exit 78 Boulevard
- Keep right at the fork, follow signs for VA-161S and merge onto Boulevard
- Drive 1.4 miles, turn right on Kensington Ave
- The DHR entrance is accessible on Kensington Avenue just east of the loading dock. DHR parking is available in the VHS parking lot, which is accessible on Kensington Avenue or at the VMFA parking deck (fees apply)

# VCA BOARD

Meeting Minutes  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## ATTENDEES:

FRED WALLACE  
TRACY BERNABO  
HEATHER LOGUE  
BIENVENIDA OCHS  
LARRY OCHS  
CAITLIN O'GRADY  
SHEILA PAYAQUI  
TOM SNYDER  
CHRIS WILKINS

VCA President, Fred Wallace welcomed everyone to the February VCA board meeting. He thanked Caitlin O'Grady and Department of Historic Resources for providing a meeting space.

Fred discussed the proposed website conservation directory. Current VCA application/renewal has a space provided to enter details if a VCA member is interested in being listed on the website conservation directory. Larry Ochs (Membership Co-Chairperson) said that several members renewed using older VCA application/renewal forms that lacked this space. These members will be emailed to determine if they are interested in being listed in the on-site directory. Fred said that members who are interested will be contacted to confirm their interest and contact information as they wish to have it listed. This information will be sent to web management committee who will compile the information and design the directory around it. This will be submitted to the board for approval. Upon being approved by the board it will be made active on the VCA website.

The VCA board members elections will take place on May 19, 2011. Members who wish to nominate themselves or other people need to contact the Nominating Committee. The board has approved the selection of Melba Myers, Marla Curtis and Valinda Carroll who will serve as the Nominating Committee. The VCA membership will receive notification of nominated members for board positions 30 days in advance of the elections. Notification will occur through email. Members without email will be sent the notification by post. Board positions needing to be filled include 1 for Outreach, 1 for Publications, 1 for Programs, and 1 for Bylaws chairperson. Other positions may become open prior to the elections.

Fred and Education Chair, Sheila Payaqui, announced that a workshop entitled "Fundraising for Preservation and Conservation" will be held on April 29, 2011. It will be conducted by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) and co-sponsored by

the Virginia Association of Museums and the VCA. The Maymont Foundation will host the workshop.

Programs Co-Chair, Tom Snyder, and VCA Treasurer, Caitlin O'Grady, announced that the March meeting will be held at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) but will be pushed back a week from March 17 to March 24. The business meeting, refreshments and presentation by Andrew Baxter, Scott McKee and James Robertson will take place at the DHR followed by a short walk to the VMFA for an exclusive tour of the Garden Pavilion led by the three conservators.

Tom Snyder announced that the May meeting venue has not been secured. Fred suggested that the Mariners' Museum may serve as an alternate meeting venue (assuming the Mariner's Museum schedule permits) if another venue does not become available.

The April field-trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art to visit the new exhibit spaces will take place on Friday, April 15. Travel to the museum can be by personal car or bus. The bus journey will consist of either one or two buses with an 8 AM pickup in Richmond followed by a pickup in Williamsburg. The road trip is expected to take three hours. Admission into the museum is free. Visit will include an afternoon in the museum consisting of a self-guided tour of the gallery spaces, a tour of conservation spaces for those who are interested, and, if desired, a tour of various works of art with associated stories of conservation that occurred in preparation for the exhibition of the works. For members interested in taking the bus, the number of buses will be dependent on the number of interested members. Non-members will be accepted depending on space available. Price per person will be between 40 and 50 dollars depending on the number of people attending. Snacks will be available on the bus. Members who want to ride the bus will be required to confirm their interest by March 10. The resulting tally of interested and committed members will be submitted to the bus company allowing the VCA to make bus reservations. Individual member payments for those interested in taking the bus should be made by March 31. Interested members can pay for the trip during the March meeting on the 24th. Registration forms will be sent to the membership soon. Currently lunches and dinner will not be provided but can be bought at the museum.

Fred and Tom announced that a decorative paint workshop has been proposed by Chris Swan and Suzanne Collins. The VCA has agreed to sponsor the workshop tentatively scheduled for late this year or early next year.



Fred announced that over the recent past the membership has been solicited to provide articles concerning conservation for the newsletter. The response has been slow. VCA board agrees that members known to have interesting articles or projects concerning conservation will be solicited directly. Any ideas should be sent to Sheila Payaqui, Education Chair.

Fred announced that the Outreach and Education Committees will take on the Speakers Bureau program and should have some results by early next season.

Fred announced that one of the goals of the VCA website is for a majority of membership-wide communication to occur through the website. Messages that go out to membership currently go through the membership committee. Having these messages sent through the website will allow the messages to be sent by the VCA and not individual chairpersons or committees.

~ Chris Wilkins, Secretary



## • 2011/2012 VCA • BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

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### PRELIMINARY NOTICE

A three person Nominating Committee has been appointed by the VCA Board to solicit and accept candidates for Board positions to be filled at the annual election in May. The members of the 2011 Nominating Committee are Valinda Carroll, Marla Curtis and Melba Myers.

Positions open for the election are listed here. Incumbents who have offered to stand for re-election to a second term are listed with their respective offices. Any member desiring to join the Board is encouraged to run for office. This includes those for which an incumbent will be on the ballot, as contested elections are welcomed.

Current VCA Members who are interested in candidacy for a particular open position should contact one of the 2011

Nominating Committee members. Contact information for each committee member can be obtained from the VCA Directory.

For a description of the Board positions, duties and responsibilities refer to Article 5 of the VCA Bylaws (included in the VCA Directory and available at the VCA website). Note: as stated in the Bylaws (Article 5; Section D; line 3), no member shall hold more than one office at a time. The election will be held at the Members' Meeting on 19 May 2011.

### VCA OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION

**President** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. Frederick Wallace, current VCA President, will stand for re-election.

**Vice President** - one year initial term; two year subsequent term. Heather Logue, current Vice President, will stand for re-election, dependant on her application to graduate school. Another candidate will be needed if Heather is accepted to school and leaves Virginia.

**Secretary** - one year initial term; two year subsequent term. Chris Wilkins, current VCA Secretary, will stand for re-election.

**Membership Co-Chair** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Bienvenida Ochs, outgoing). Current Co-Chair Alfred "Larry" Ochs will stand for re-election. Elsa Sangouard, currently a sitting member of the Membership Committee, has offered to run for election to the open position.

**Outreach Chair** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Dale Wheary, outgoing)

**Program Co-Chair** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Tom Snyder, outgoing)

**Publications Co-Chair** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Russell Bernabo, outgoing) Current Co-Chair Tracy Bernabo will stand for re-election. The other Co-Chair position needs to be filled.

**Bylaws Chair** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (James Robertson, outgoing)



Visit us online at  
[www.virginiaconservationassociation.org](http://www.virginiaconservationassociation.org)  
Or on Facebook!  
Virginia-Conservation-Association

# CONSERVATION LECTURE SERIES AT THE DEWITT WALLACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM

The DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum in Colonial Williamsburg invites you to join them each month as a conservator shares details of how objects in the Colonial Williamsburg collection are cared for and preserved. The January and February 2011 lectures have passed, but mark your calendars now for the upcoming lectures listed below. All lectures will be presented at 5:30 p.m. in the Hennage Auditorium. The museum generously will allow free admission to the lectures for VCA members throughout the series. Simply state that you are a VCA member upon entering Hennage Auditorium and the charge for the program will be waived. A Colonial Williamsburg Admissions Ticket, a Museum Pass, or a Good Neighbor Card also provides access for the public. For more information visit the web at: [http://www.history.org/history/museums/dewitt\\_gallery\\_lectures.cfm](http://www.history.org/history/museums/dewitt_gallery_lectures.cfm)

**March 31, 2011**

**Matt Webster, Director of Historic Architectural Resources**

**Preserving A National Treasure: A New Look At Drayton Hall:** Matt Webster, Director of Historic Architectural Resources at Colonial Williamsburg will discuss the history, preservation efforts, and new research at the 1738 Charleston, South Carolina plantation.

**April 21, 2011**

**Pam Young, Conservator of Paper**

**The Conservation of Two Rare Watercolor Portraits of African-Americans:** Pam Young, Foundation conservator of works on paper, will discuss the history behind these unusual portraits, and the techniques used to conserve fragile watercolor paintings.

**May 26, 2011**

**Gordon Hanlon, Head of Furniture & Frame Conservation, Boston Museum of Fine Arts**

**Distinguished Scholar Lecture, Old Walls within New:** Gordon Hanlon will discuss the conservation trials and triumphs of both de-installing as well as re-installing period rooms in the Boston MFA's new American wing.

**June 16, 2011**

**Emily Williams, Conservator of Archaeological Materials**

**Stories in Stone: the excavation and conservation of two 19th century tombstones:** In 2004, the Foundation excavated the tombstones of a manumitted slave and her father in the Merchant's square area. This lecture will discuss the excavation and subsequent conservation of these tombstones.

**July 21, 2011**

**Shelley Svoboda, Conservator of Paintings**

**Revealing Surfaces – Conserving a Southern Painted Room:** Shelley Svoboda will discuss the history, ongoing conservation treatment and current research on this rare and beautiful painted room from 1836. Behind-the-scenes images will give insight into the complex treatment.

**August 18, 2011**

**John Watson, Conservator of Instruments and Mechanical Arts & Associate Curator of Musical Instruments**

**Conservation and the Paradox of Restoration:** How can one approach restoration so it preserves the historical record inscribed in old surfaces? The program explores conservation approaches to restoration that recognize the existence, value and vulnerability of historical evidence. By using new, less intrusive restoration methods conservators seek to preserve not just the beauty or function of old things, but the record of history within them.

**September 15, 2011**

**Leroy Graves, Conservator of Upholstery**

**Reading the Evidence: 18<sup>th</sup>-century Upholstered Chairs:** Leroy Graves shares some of the insights he has gathered from his many years of analyzing, deciphering, and treating 18<sup>th</sup> century upholstered furniture.

**October 13, 2011**

**Chris Swan, Conservator of Furniture**

**Revealing Color in Early American Common Furniture:** This presentation challenges our assumptions of what early furniture in America looked like. Contrary to popular belief, conservators and analysts continue to find evidence of a brightly colored Colonial world often heavily obscured by the patina of age, overwrought restorations and historically revived re-interpretation.

*Programs and exhibitions at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum are supported by the DeWitt Wallace Endowment Fund.*



*DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum at Colonial Williamsburg*

## VCA Members' Meeting

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts



Nearly 50 VCA members gathered January 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to listen as conservator Carey Howlett of F.C. Howlett and Associates detailed his team's conservation work on the recently installed Worsham-Rockefeller Bedroom (pictured above). The installation is a fully-furnished Aesthetic Movement room that was once part of a New York mansion owned by Richmond native Arabella Duval Yarrington and was donated to the VMFA by the Museum of the City of New York. Following Carey's presentation, the VCA members proceeded to the gallery where they were allowed an up-close look at the interior of the room as the barriers were temporarily removed.

### **Business Meeting Summary**

VCA President, Fred Wallace, thanked the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for their hospitality in hosting the January VCA members meeting. Fred specifically thanked Kathy Gillis and the conservation staff of the VMFA.

Larry Ochs, Membership Co-Chair, announced that current VCA membership is 105. Copies of the 2010-2011 VCA Membership Directory were handed out to those in attendance. Those not in attendance will be sent copies of the directory in the mail. Fred and Larry announced that a corrections page would be sent to the membership if there were found to be several problems with the directory entries.

Fred made a call for a show of hands of newly attending members and non-members, welcoming them to the VCA.

Fred announced that the April field-trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh is still in the planning phase and to keep an eye on upcoming newsletters and the website for updated information. [www.virginiaconservationassociation.org](http://www.virginiaconservationassociation.org)

Fred stated that in March he, Tom Snyder and Valinda Carroll will represent the VCA at the Virginia Association of Museum's (VAM) Annual Conference where they will make a presentation entitled, "Simple and Practical Conservation Procedures." Their attendance is in part to let those present at the conference know that the VCA is available to them as a resource.

Fred announced that a workshop entitled, "Fundraising for Preservation and Conservation" will tentatively be held on April 29, 2011. It will be conducted by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) and co-sponsored by VAM and VCA. More information will be forthcoming.

The VCA would like to present "Studio Tips" sessions at upcoming meetings. Fred asked that if anybody had potential sessions in mind to let the VCA know by contacting a VCA board member or submitting the idea through the VCA website "Contact" tab.

- *Chris Wilkins, Secretary*



*Above: Installing the bed cornice*



## FUNDRAISING FOR PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION SAVE THE DATES!

*Presented by the Conservation Center for  
Art & Historic Artifacts*

### **WATERFORD, NY - APRIL 27, 2011**

#### **Hosted and Cosponsored by:**

Bureau of Historic Sites  
Pebbles Island Resource Center (PIRC)  
Division for Historic Preservation  
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation

### **RICHMOND, VA - APRIL 29, 2011**

#### **Hosted by:** The Maymont Foundation

**Cosponsored by:** The Virginia Association of  
Museums and The Virginia Conservation Association

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### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Through thoughtful planning and effective grant writing, your organization can be competitive in the race for public and private funding to preserve cultural collections. This workshop will examine the planning process that funders want to see in place and the components that make a grant request compelling. With examples drawn from success stories at museums, historic sites, libraries, and archives, program participants will gain an understanding of how to effectively develop and implement a funding strategy to raise money for their collections.

The workshop will address:

- **PLANNING:** Moving from a preservation needs assessment to a funding strategy
- **POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES:** Triaging your time to focus on your best funding prospects
- **WRITING THE REQUEST:** Anticipating the funder's questions and answering them concisely
- **EVALUATION:** Incorporating the new standards

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Lee Price, Director of Development at the CCAHA, has worked as a fundraising consultant for many regional and national cultural institutions. He has written successful grant requests for preservation funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Save America's Treasures.

### REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Program Fee: \$110.00

Registration Deadline: 2 weeks prior to program date

Registration, secure credit card payment, and additional program information are available on our website at:

[www.ccaha.org/education/program-calendar](http://www.ccaha.org/education/program-calendar)

### COURSE CREDITS

The Academy of Certified Archivists will award five Accreditation Recertification Credits (ARCs) to eligible Certified Archivists (CAs) attending this program. For more information, go to: [www.certifiedarchivists.org](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org).

The Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) will award one credit in External Affairs or Collections Management to students in the Virginia Certificate in Museum Management program who attend this program. For more information about the VAM program, go to their website page at: [www.vamuseums.org/ProgramsandServices/CertificateinMuseumManagement/tabid/64/Default.aspx](http://www.vamuseums.org/ProgramsandServices/CertificateinMuseumManagement/tabid/64/Default.aspx)

*Major funding for this program was generously provided by the  
**National Endowment for the Humanities.***

**To learn more about CCAHA and its programs and services, please visit our website at [www.ccaha.org](http://www.ccaha.org).**

### QUESTIONS?

Call 215-545-0613 or email [psoc@ccaaha.org](mailto:psoc@ccaaha.org)

# VCA Field Trip Spring 2011



Exciting News! The VCA Field Trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh this spring has been confirmed. The trip will occur on **Friday 15 April 2011**. VCA Members will be guests of the NCMA Conservation Department and have an opportunity to see the new 127,000 square foot permanent collection galleries. Family members and significant others are welcome to come along.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**  
**NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART ~ RALEIGH, NC**

Plans include chartering a bus to provide the option of group travel for those who do not wish to drive to Raleigh or otherwise need transportation. The bus will make stops in both Williamsburg and Richmond, to accommodate a wide span of the membership. Initial cost estimates for a bus ticket is from \$35 to \$50, which includes a round-trip seat and light refreshments. The actual cost will depend on the number of persons needing a seat and the bus size.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity! **If you want to join the fun, please contact Colleen Callahan of the Programs Committee by Thursday 10 March (see Colleen's contact info below). Be sure to indicate if you plan to ride the bus, how many will be in your party and whether you will get the bus in Williamsburg or Richmond.**

Once the number of interested members is known, the Committee can confirm what size bus to charter and calculate the ticket charge. A registration form will be sent out to VCA membership soon after 10 March.

Colleen Callahan: [jette\\_2@msn.com](mailto:jette_2@msn.com) (804) 261-4998

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

[www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org](http://www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org)



**Next VCA Members Meeting**  
**April 24th, 2011, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221  
Followed by a visit to the VMFA