



NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4314, Richmond, VA 23220

September 2014 ~ Volume 24, No. 1

From the President

Dear Fellow VCA Members,

A new year is before us and we will have numerous opportunities for learning, experiencing new places, fellowship and reaching out to potential future conservators. Our first meeting will take place on September 18th at the Robinson House on the VMFA property. Beth O'Leary, formerly with the VMFA, will present a talk and tour of the building. Soon the building will be undergoing a major renovation so we will see the pre-renovation condition. We will also have numerous items to discuss and a couple of items to vote on at our business portion of the meeting so it's important that you participate.

Looking forward, your ideas for enriching our membership experience and reaching out to potential new members are vital to making the most of the coming year. If you have ideas for classes, site visits, holiday party locations and lecture topics, please let the board know.

Our "Careers in Conservation" program will be presented again next spring at VCU. Speaking will be an important contribution to the future of the profession. Last year's program was very successful and we are considering a similar program in the Tidewater/Northern Virginia areas.

I'm looking forward to the coming year and what we can do to further our profession, learn from each other and enjoy times spent together.

All the best,
Rick Vogt

VCA Members' Meeting
Thursday, September 18th
5:30 p.m.



Photo credit: R. Tyler King

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF
FINE ARTS

200 N. Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia, 23220



"This Old House"

*Dr. Elizabeth L. O'Leary,
VMFA Associate Curator of American Art*

Lecture in Pauley Center Parlor, 6:30

More information on Page 3

Bring a snack!



BYLAWS CHANGE

The VCA Board discussed how to compile and distribute the VCA Directory earlier in the year. The proposal is to move the deadline for annual membership dues from the current date of November 15 to September 1, starting in 2015.

The section items on membership dues currently reads:

Bylaws Section D. Annual Dues,

2. The assessed dues shall be payable by November 15 of each fiscal year. A five-dollar late fee may be assessed after that date for renewing members.

5. New or returning members who join the VCA between June 1 and September 1 will be given membership that will expire November 1 of the following year.

The members will vote on whether to approve a change to the bylaws so that the section will read:

2. The assessed dues shall be payable by **September 1** of each fiscal year. A late fee may be assessed after that date for renewing members.

5. New or returning members who join the VCA between **April 1 and July 1** will be given membership that will expire **September 1** of the following year.



2014-2015 VCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President: Rick Vogt
Vice President: Marla Curtis
Secretary: Beth Fulton
Treasurer: Nancy Beck

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bylaws: Mark Lewis
Disaster Response: Katherine Ridgeway
Education: Lauren Fly
Membership: Bill Ivey
Outreach: Will Hoffman
Programs: Mary Scott Andrews
Co-chair, Kathy Gillis
Publications: Patricia Selinger
Co-chair, Dotty Robinson
Web Management: Valinda Carroll



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO PLAN THE HOLIDAY PARTY!

Contact Marla Curtis
curtisfineart@gmail.com



Do you have images of yourself or your fellow conservators at work?

Please help us build our
**CONSERVATORS AT WORK
IMAGE FILE!**

Send to Patricia Selinger peselinger@vcu.edu

Let's Grow VCA

JOIN NOW

See last page for Membership Form

VCA Members' Meeting Thursday, September 18, 2014

“This Old House” Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Richmond, Virginia

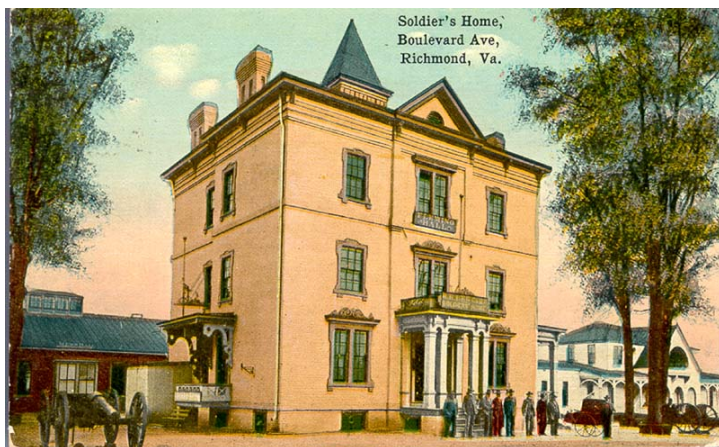


Photo credit: VCU Libraries Special Collections & Archives

Dr. Elizabeth L. O’Leary, independent art historian and retired VMFA Associate Curator of American Art, will present her lecture “This Old House” for the first VCA meeting of the 2014-2015 year.

Dr. O’Leary will discuss the research she carried out for the National Register for Historic Places into the history of the Robinson House. The House was listed in the National Register in December 2013.

The Robinson House was originally part of the Robinson family farm called The Grove. VMFA acquired it around 1963 and used it as the classroom center for nearly 30 years. VMFA plans to rehabilitate the house and turn it into a regional visitor center.

We will meet at 5:30pm outside the entrance to the Robinson House, located next to the main entrance to the museum on the Kensington Ave side. We hope to have an inside tour of the building during daylight. The tour will be followed at 6:00pm with snacks and a Business Meeting in the Sculpture Garden before we go to the Pauley Center Parlor at 6:30pm for Dr. O’Leary’s lecture. As there is no place for us to set up for refreshments for this meeting, everyone will have to bring their own snack and/or drink. Refreshments may be purchased at Best Café. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

2014 Calendar

Sept 4

Washington, D.C.

Washington Conservation Guild: Happy Hour and Trivia Contest

washingtonconservationguild.org

Evaluating Storage Materials: Alternatives to the Oddy Test

Topics in Preservation Series Lecture
Library of Congress Madison Bldg

Sept 8

Washington, D.C.

“Science and Art: The Painted Surface”
National Gallery of Art Auditorium

Sept 10

Deadline: AIC Annual Meeting Call for Papers

Sept 18

Laboratory Safety for Conservators

4-week online course begins

See AIC website/Education

Richmond, VA

Anderson Art Gallery Talk, 12:30-1:45

Sept 20

Ashland, VA

Virginia Art Chat with Lisa Freiman, 1pm
Gallery Flux

Sept 26

Richmond, VA

How to apply for a VMFA Fellowship, 1-2pm
VMFA, Founders Conference Room

Oct 27-28

Philadelphia, PA

Meant to Last? Preserving the Modern and Contemporary
CCAHA

Jan 15, 2015

Richmond, VA

Virginia Museum Advocacy Day

VCA BOARD

Meeting Minutes
August 19th, 2014
James City County Library

CAROL GIVENS, WILL HOFFMAN, KARRI RICHARDSON, MARY SCOTT ANDREWS, KATHY GILLIS, VALINDA CARROLL

ATTENDEES:

MARLA CURTIS
NANCY BECK
KATE RIDGEWAY
TOM SNYDER
BILL IVEY
DOTTY ROBINSON
PATRICIA SELINGER
RICK VOGT

ABSENT: BETH FULTON, MARK LEWIS, KATHY GARRETT-COX,

This meeting was intended to be an exchange between newly elected leadership and former incumbents. The few who attended enjoyed a lively but short meeting. Rick began with a review of incoming officers.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy reported 45 members paid already, a new record! Most members paid early to take advantage of last year's dues rate. Dues paid after August 30 increased to \$30. The Board discussed moving up the date for paying dues to September 1st and getting the directory out earlier. The proposed Bylaws change will appear in the newsletter and members will vote at the September meeting.

Our only expense so far has been paying for the post office box, which increased to \$62. The balance as of 8/19 is \$3130.62.

Since there is no Refreshments Committee, there are no funds for meeting refreshments. We discussed ways to appeal to the membership. Most members appreciate refreshments because meetings are right after work and it's helpful for networking. There is money for the Holiday Party but no one to organize it. Contact Marla Curtis at curtisfineart@gmail.com to help.

Outreach Committee

Rick requested another Careers in Conservation program at VCU and other colleges such as Mary Washington, Christopher Newport, William & Mary. Different conservators could speak at the different venues. Patricia will work with Will on a program for VCU.

Publications Committee

Patricia reported that she met with Dotty and Haley on newsletter design. She set up DropBox to share VCA images and files. They all have MS Publisher and want to set the newsletter up in a template. Scribus is a freeware version of MS Publisher and files should be compatible. They also discussed changes to content, such as leaving out directions to meetings, and brainstormed ideas for feature stories.

Website Committee

Valinda asks for people to please send pictures of meetings, or anything conservation related. We are particularly interested in pictures of conservators at work.

While Valinda was not at the meeting, the Board wants her to set up Paypal on the website for dues and other payments as soon as possible. Valinda investigated this last year and thought she could do it. The Board also discussed an online membership form, a password-protected member directory, and a report on click-build websites. The Board suggested she investigate homestead.com and wix.com and others she might discover. The current host expects a level of technical expertise that is rare in our membership.

Education Committee

Marla reported on behalf of Lauren Fly, incoming Education Chair. She received updates from Carol Givens on planning for Respirator Fit Testing. Lauren will be in contact with AIC to learn how their pilot program went and determine the status of an online course in development to help regional groups plan and carry out fit testing workshops. Lauren will also find out whom to contact at the state level within AIHA (American Industrial Hygiene Association). Lauren needs a preliminary VCA headcount on how many are interested in attending for planning and budgeting purposes. The workshop includes one hour of training and each person receives 20-30 minutes for personal fit testing. Location is another detail to secure early on. Let Lauren know if you can host this workshop (lauren@flyartsinitiative.com)

Lauren received a list of potential future workshops and needs to know the level of interest. The ideas seem very discipline-specific but she suggested organizing a full day of related sessions for a mini-conference.

Disaster Response Committee

Kate reported that she received the email list of Disaster Response Team members from Kathy Garrett-Cox. Kate is a member of MEST (Museum Emergency Support Team) which meets regularly in Richmond. MEST is planning a session called "Alliance for Response" that will have opportunities for VCA members to participate. The group will meet September 16 to plan.

Membership Committee

Tom and Bill talked about problems with the VCA webmail program. Bill will set up backups of the email list. Valinda will have to address this issue.

Programs Committee

Organized the first meeting of the year at VMFA. Mary and Kathy are working hard to pull together a full roster of programs before November.

VCA Members' Meeting

May 15, 2014

“A SPECIAL EVENING AT THE RICE HOUSE”



Beautiful views greet Suzanne Collins, Carol Givens, and David Voelkel as they enter the Rice House living room.



Richard Conti tells the history of the Rice House and how it is being conserved today.



The house is on Lock Island, overlooking the James River.



Modern sculpture are on the grounds.



Rice House was designed and built by architect Richard Neutra. The Science Museum changed some elements for safety and is working to complete exterior landscape per the original design.



Rainy weather promoted indoor socializing. Mosaic catered the event.

VCA Business Meeting Minutes May 15, 2014

Marla began the meeting by expressing our deep appreciation to the Science Museum, the Chief Wonder Officer, Richard Conti, and Beth Voelkel for coordinating and allowing us to meet at the Rice House.

Nancy passed out copies of the budget, and the budget proposal to be voted on. The VCA earned \$1.65 from our CD's this year. We also spent more than we took in and we need more members to renew next year. Next year, membership dues will be increased to \$30. Right now there is still no refreshments committee, and the board will discuss options in August. If you have any suggestions, please talk to a board member. A motion was made to approve next year's budget and it passed.

Keri Ragland read the list of nominations for new board members. Since no position was running unopposed, all new board members were approved.

Richard Conti then gave us a short history of the island and the house. James Balladyne bought and built the canal in the 18th century. During the Revolutionary War, a foundry was on the island, and was later burnt by Benedict Arnold. In 1960 Walter and Inger Rice commissioned Richard Neutra to design and build a house on the island. He was the ambassador to Australia, and after he died they gave the house to the Science Museum. She remained in the house for several more years. The Science Museum sensitively restored the house after Mrs. Rice left, while keeping an eye towards LEED certification. They made some changes, including adding a railing, and redesigning the roof. Now that work has finished inside, they are working on completing the exterior landscaping to Neutra's original design and plans.

It was a successful members meeting, with many in attendance despite the intermittent rain. Delicious food and a beautiful view capped off the evening.

Richmond Museum Emergency Support Team (R-MEST)

MEST provides an active network for local museums, libraries and archives to improve their collective emergency preparedness, better protect their collections, and coordinate mutual assistance in recovery from disasters affecting cultural resources in greater Richmond.

MEST is a meaningful supplement to an institution's own disaster planning efforts, including training, planning, and resources. The intention is to encourage a culture of preparedness among area cultural institutions.

In the spirit of professional cooperation, participation is encouraged by both public and private institutions. MEST provides a forum for communication, planning, and assistance outside of existing bureaucratic or institutional structures and restrictions.

MEST maintains a shared cache of emergency recovery and response supplies. Institutions needing supplies replace what they use. The supplies are kept in SmartBox storage. Members contact the Communications Chair to obtain supplies.

MEST is a forum for staff of collections-based institutions to build relationships and develop awareness of each other's locations, collections, and resources before emergency incidents, not during them. Becoming familiar with institutions prior to an emergency helps MEST direct resources and assistance during an incident affecting multiple locations.

Upcoming events include a training meeting at Meadow Farm Museum on how the staff there managed hurricane damage and a mold outbreak and a day-long symposium that will bring together central Virginia cultural institutions and first responders.

VCA members have and should continue to contribute to MEST by sharing knowledge and skills. Contact Katherine Ridgway for more information: Katherine.ridgway@dhr.virginia.gov, 804-482-6442.

VCA Field Trip to Gari Melchers' Belmont Estate
May 22



Bill Ivey described his work conserving the mahogany portfolio cabinet Melchers used. (likely A.H.Davenport Co, Boston, 1880-90)



Perry Hurt discussed the challenges and successes in the treatment of the Melcher collection, using *Nelson Berry's Store* (1919) as a case study.



Mary Andrews and Sandy Jensen discussed the cleaning and repair of the frame for Melchers' *Brabant Bride* (1929).



Belmont's Little Free Library honors Gari and Corinne Melchers' love of books and devotion to reading.

The Virginia Conservation Association

2014-15 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: _____

Website URL: _____

Conservator

Administrator

Curator

Conservation Technician

Collection Manager/Registrar

Appraiser

Postgraduate (Intern/Fellow)

Framer/Preparator

Collector

Student

Librarian

Supporter

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? _____

Practicing Conservators / Consultant Conservators Only:

Would you like your contact information included in our website VCA 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 \$30.00 (Regular) or \$15.00 (Student; enclose copy of valid I.D.) Application and dues payment must be received by November 15, 2014 for inclusion in the 2014-15 VCA Directory.

NOTE: If you are renewing after November 15th, please apply a \$5.00 late fee to you payment.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to the Virginia Conservation Association to the following address:

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