

# NEWSLETTER OF THE Virginia Conservation Association

P.O. Box 4314, Richmond, VA 23220

September 2011 ~ Volume 21, No. 1

# From the President

Welcome to the 2011-2012 VCA program season. Another exciting slate of programs is planned for the upcoming meetings. The initial Members' Meeting of the year will be held in Richmond on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, courtesy of Carter and Company Historic Wallpapers. Future meetings being planned are expected to take place in Richmond and in Williamsburg, with various other venues under consideration. There also are plans for at least one conservation workshop to be offered to the membership during the second half of the season.

As of the last VCA election at the May 2011 meeting in Newport News at The Mariners' Museum, the VCA Board Of Directors will serve your interests with five new members. The new Board members are: Mark Lewis (Bylaws Committee Chair); Elsa Sangouard (Membership Committee Co-Chair); Will Hoffman (Outreach Committee Chair); Suzanne Collins (Programs Committee Co-Chair); and Charles Phillips (Publications Committee Co-Chair). Please join me in wishing that our new Board members find their terms in office to be professionally stimulating, fruitful and fun. Much appreciation should be extending to all of our Board, new members and those returning, who selflessly volunteer their own time in the service of our organization.

Unfortunately the Board did lose one of its finest members late this summer. Caitlin O'Grady, now former Treasurer of the VCA, tendered her resignation from the office in August. Caitlin has relocated to accept employment outside Virginia. May she find grand success in furthering her career and conservation interests. That leaves the position of VCA Treasurer open to be filled. The Board presently is working to find a replacement to nominate and offer to the membership for vote at the next Member Meeting. Anyone who is interested in the position of VCA Treasurer or who would like to nominate another member willing to sit in that office should contact the Board as soon as possible by email through the VCA internet homepage.

As I write these words central Virginia and much of the eastern United States are just a few days past the experience of a large-scale earthquake, fairly rare in this

# VCA Members' Meeting Thursday, September 22, 5:30 p.m.



CARTER & COMPANY HISTORIC WALLPAPERS, LLC 1509 Belleville St. ~ Richmond, VA 23230

> **CR** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE PAGE 3

part of the country. Another potential emergency of nature looms nigh, it being the impending Hurricane Irene. By the time you read this column it will be known if, as with the earthquake, little significant widespread damage resulted from the storm in this region – wishful thinking of course. However, if the hurricane does have a significant negative impact, VCA members hopefully will be ready and able to lend assistance as required to any cultural institutions and collections that are affected, potentially for many months after the actual event. These serious threats to cultural collections should be a reminder to us all of the importance of creating an emergency preparedness and disaster response plan for the collections under our care. Today many resources exist to aid and support the development of emergency plans. So now is the time to be proactive and do so without delay. Collections for which such plans already exist should be attended to by practicing emergency procedures, revising and updating the plans as appropriate, and maintaining a proper inventory of emergency supplies.

The 2011-2012 VCA membership form now is available. I encourage you to renew your membership, to join us again for fellowship and the sharing of our mutual interests in the conservation of art and artifacts.

Amazingly, this summer marked the start of my second term as VCA President. It has been a tremendous experience to be part of this fine association and to have been honored with the position. I will continue to do my best to act towards the advancement of the organization and in the direction of your concerns. In doing so I hope to improve upon my work of the past two years. Please bear with me!

I hope to see you each at the September Members' Meeting. Thank you very much.

~ Frederick Wallace, President



#### **Officers**

**President**: Frederick Wallace **Vice President**: Heather Logue Emerson **Secretary**: James Christopher Wilkins **Treasurer**: Vacant (to be filled ASAP)

#### **Committee Chairs**

Bylaws: Mark Lewis Disaster Response: Kathy Garrett-Cox Education: Sheila Payaqui Membership: Alfred Lawrence Ochs, Ph.D Elsa Sangouard Outreach: Will Hoffman Programs: Colleen Callahan Suzanne Marion Collins Publications: Tracy Bernabo, Charles Phillips Refreshments: Mary Scott Andrews, Sandy Jensen Web Management: Patricia Selinger

# **BOARD POSITION VACANCY**

# $\sim$ VCA TREASURER $\sim$

The VCA Board is seeking nominations to fill the position of *Treasurer* for a one-year term.

If you are interested in serving as VCA's new Treasurer, or if you know of someone who may be interested, please contact the VCA Board at:

info@virginiaconservationassociation.org

Members will vote to elect the new Treasurer at the next Members Meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Refreshments Committee Needs Your Help!

With members' meetings growing in size the Refreshments Co-chairs are hoping to find extra hands to assist them. There are five meetings each year at various venues, so help at any, some, or all locations is much appreciated! Help entails...

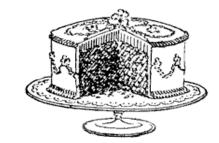
Bringing drinks and ice Bringing paper products Lending a hand in the transport refreshments to and from vehicles Help with clean up Storing things until the next meeting

Please contact Refreshments Co-chairs

Mary Scott Andrews andrewsmm@mac.com (804) 741-8970 home

or

Sandy Jensen (804) 537-5041





# NEXT VCA MEMBERS' MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> AT 5:30 P.M. **CARTER & COMPANY HISTORIC WALLPAPERS, LLC** 1509 BELLEVILLE ST., RICHMOND, VA 23230



Please join fellow VCA members for a chance to learn about the handprinted historic wallpaper reproductions made by Robert, Argine and Paul Carter. Their firm has created faithful replicas from original fragments and currently has over 300 patterns in their collection. Refreshments and a brief business meeting will precede the program.

# Directions to Carter & Company:

#### From Interstates 95 and 64

- Take Boulevard Exit 78
- Follow Boulevard (Route 161 South)
- Turn right onto Norfolk St. (go 7 blocks)
- Turn left onto Belleville St.
- Carter & Company will be on the left

## From the Downtown Expressway (I-195)

- Follow I-195 West toward Charlottesville
- Take exit toward Broad St. / US-33 / US-250
- Merge onto West Clay St.
- Left onto Roseneath Rd.
- Left onto West Leigh St.
- Right onto Belleville St.

# From Powhite Pkwy at Midlothian Turnpike:

- Take VA-76 North / Powhite Pkwy ramp from Midlothian Turnpike
- Continue onto I 195 North (5.7 miles)
- Take exit toward Broad St. / US-33 / US-250
- Merge onto West Clay St.
- Left onto Roseneath Rd.
- Left onto West Leigh St.
- Right onto Belleville St.

# VCA BUDGET 2011 – 2012

(APPROVED BY VOTE AT THE MAY 2011 MEMBERS' MEETING)

## Income:

\$2,375
\$45

\$2,420

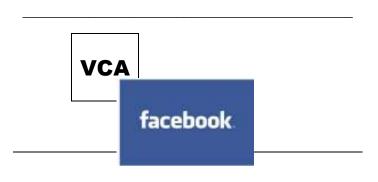
## Expenses:

Total

\$100	
\$275	
\$750	
\$100	
\$70	
\$300	
\$300	
\$100	
\$100	(for VCA President)
\$25	(State Corp.Com filing fee)
\$300	(one day registration for 2 VCA speakers)
	\$275 \$750 \$100 \$70 \$300 \$300 \$100 \$100 \$25

Total

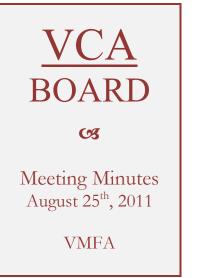
\$2,420



## Visit us online at

www.virginiaconservationassociation.org

#### Or on Facebook! Virginia-Conservation-Association



ATTENDEES: FRED WALLACE HEATHER LOGUE MARY SCOTT ANDREWS TRACY BERNABO SUZANNE COLLINS KATHY GARRETT-COX WILL HOFFMAN PATRICIA SELINGER ELSA SANGOUARD SHEILA PAYAQUI CHARLES PHILLIPS CHRIS WILKINS COLLEEN CALLAHAN

Fred Wallace (President) thanked Sheila Payaqui (Education Chair) for providing a meeting space for the August VCA board meeting.

Fred announced that the search is on for a new treasurer to replace Caitlin O'Grady who has accepted a new position outside of Virginia. The nominating committee will be consulted and an announcement will be placed into the newsletter. VCA members can nominate themselves or put forward a name by contacting The Board through the website or by some other means. A vote will be conducted at the next Members' Meeting subsequent to a nomination of a candidate.

Suzanne Collins (Programs Co-Chair) has several tentative dates and venues set for membership meetings. The September 15 meeting at Carter and Company Historic Wallpapers has been moved to September 22. The November 17 meeting venue is tentatively set for the Valentine Museum but this is subject to change. The January 19 meeting at Bruton Heights School in Williamsburg has been confirmed. The May 17 meeting venue is tentatively in Montpelier. This leaves the March 17 meeting to be filled.

Tracy Bernabo (Publications Co-Chair) stated that a quantity of VCA rack cards will be printed and ready for distribution at the upcoming American Association for State and Local History Conference (September 14-17, Richmond) and the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Preservation Virginia Conference (September 25-27, Winchester).

Fred announced that new membership forms will be ready by the September meeting. Forms will also be sent to the VCA membership through email and will be available in the September newsletter

Mary Scott Andrews (Refreshments Co-Chair) communicated that storage and transportation of refreshments have become more difficult as the membership has increased. She is soliciting help from the membership to assist in setup and cleanup during member meetings.

Sheila Payaqui (Education Chair) is continuing to work with Chris Stavroudis in setting up a workshop on developing cleaning systems for painted surfaces. This may be developed for later this season or may be postponed until next season.

Will Hoffman (Outreach Chair) stated that the VCA has been asked to participate in an outreach program at Fort Lee (Petersburg) on October 22. The organizers are interested in participation by VCA conservators to assess the condition of artifacts brought by those attending, mostly paper-based objects and photographs, and to discuss safe storage methods for these privately owned objects. Fred and Patricia Selinger (VCA Webmaster) stated that they had prepared materials for this type of outreach in the past. Will presented several ideas for outreach that will make the public aware of the VCA and general conservation aspects. Some of these ideas include condition assessments of objects presented by the public, creation of a YouTube channel or podcast devoted to conservation public outreach, and connecting with local universities that maybe lacking a conservation aspect. Some of the many ideas presented will be isolated and further developed.

Fred announced that the Conservation Services Directory on the web-page is continuing to be developed. Elsa Sangouard (Membership Co-Chair) has been working on the participating member database. Patricia Selinger (VCA Webmaster) foresees a link on the home page of the VCA that directs the user to a list of specialties. Clicking on a specialty link will direct to user to a list of participating members of that specialty whose names appear in alphabetical order. The project is continuing to be developed and will possibly be implemented by the end of this season.

Finally, with the recent earthquake and hurricane, Fred suggested sending messages to the disaster response team to be ready to mobilize.

~ Chris Wilkins, VCA Secretary

# CONSERVATION LECTURE SERIES CONCLUDES AT THE DEWITT WALLACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM



The DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum in Colonial Williamsburg invites you to a continuing series of lectures in which conservators share details of how objects in the Colonial Williamsburg collection are cared for and preserved. Most of the 2011 talks have passed, but mark your calendars now for the remaining two lectures listed here. Both 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.

## 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

#### 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 reinterpretation.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **RICHMOND CONSERVATION STUDIO**

After more than twenty-four years at 1322 West Broad Street, Richmond Conservation Studio is pleased to announce our move to a new and larger location at:

Richmond Conservation Studio 3202 Rosedale Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23220 804-358-2006

www.richmondconservationstudio.com

The studio also wishes to introduce Andre Phillips and conservator Yoonjo Lee who have joined L. Cleo Mullins, Lorraine Brevig, and Beth Fulton on staff and will be working in the studio as well as on the Charles Hoffbauer murals at the Virginia Historical Society.

#### FORT LEE HISTORY DAY OCTOBER 22, 2011

On October 22, 2011from 9am-3pm, the US Army Quartermaster Museum & US Army Women's Museum, Fort Lee will be sponsoring "Operation Capture History" as part of Fort Lee History Day. The event invites visitors to bring diaries, letters, photographs, maps, etc. in an effort to digitize the history of the area. VCA members plan to be present to pass out materials, and offer advice on the proper care and conservation of the diverse works on paper brought by visitors to the event. If you are interested in participating, contact Outreach Committee Chair, Will Hoffman, at whoffman@marinersmuseum.org

> DOLLEY MADISON'S LIFE THROUGH FASHION: DRESSING THE PART

June 15, 2011- March 31, 2012 James Madison's Montpelier To learn more about this remarkable exhibition visit <u>www.montpelier.org</u>

# VCA MEMBERS' MEETING THURSDAY, MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 MARINERS' MUSEUM



# • BUSINESS MEETING PROCEEDINGS •

Fred Wallace, VCA President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Speaking on behalf of the Nominating Committee, Valinda Carroll opened the floor for last-minute VCA Board nominations from those attending the meeting. There were no additional nominations. All positions on the ballets were uncontested. A motion was made to accept all candidates by acclamation with a second from the floor. The motion was approved and all candidates were accepted into their prospective positions on the board. Valinda thanked Melba Myers and Marla Curtiss for their work on the nominating committee. Valinda also thanked everyone who was nominated and voted in. These include Heather Logue (Vice-President), Chris Wilkins (Secretary), Mark Lewis (Bylaws), Elsa Sangouard (Membership Co-Chair), expenses associated with the Speakers Bureau program, an outreach initiative proposed for future developementFred added that some of the money allocated to Outreach will be used in the publication of a new VCA brochure. A motion was made to accept the budget as is with several seconds from the floor. The motion was accepted and the budget was approved.

Fred thanked the nominating committee as well as incoming and outgoing board members. He also thanked Mary Scott Andrews and Sandy Jensen (Refreshment Co-Chairs) for their hard work.

~ Chris Wilkins, VCA Secretary

### • PROGRAM REPORT •

On Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 nearly 40 VCA members gathered at The Mariners' Museum to hear Emily Williams, archeological conservator at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, discuss her experiences as a site conservator at Tell Umm el Marra near Aleppo, Syria. Emily's presentation covered the history of the Early Bronze Age inhabitants (2500-2200 BCE), the evolving use of the site over centuries and eventually ending as a Byzantine settlement and the archeological finds. Emily also detailed what it was like to live and work on an archeological dig in modern Syria and her experiences with the local Syrian population, resulting in a thrilling presentation that covered nearly 4000 years of history.

~ Tom Snyder, Programs Co-Chair

Suzanne Collins (Programs Co-Chair), Charles Phillips (Publications Co-Chair), and Will Hoffman (Outreach).

Caitlin O'Grady (Treasurer) presented a draft of the budget for the coming fiscal year. She made note that the VCA is continuing to provide a membership to Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) for the VCA president and two one-day registrations for two VCA speakers at the VAM annual conference. She also noted that an increase in membership has led to an increase in funds. Some of this increase may be used to offset the travel



## • Maymont Receives National Collections Award •

Congratulations to the Maymont Foundation, which received the 2011 Ross Merrill Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections, an award presented annually by Heritage Preservation and the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC).

In 1975, the Foundation was given responsibility for maintaining and operating Maymont, a 100-acre Gilded Age estate in Richmond,



Virginia. In the years since, the Foundation has transformed the dramatically deteriorating mansion at the heart of the estate into a vibrant and important steward of American history. This award recognizes an organization that has been exemplary in the importance and priority it has given to conservation concerns and in the sustained commitment it has shown to the preservation and care of cultural property.

The Maymont Mansion's curatorial staff has found ways to create this success story not with a sudden significant infusion of funding but through years of thoughtful planning and follow-through. By seeking grants, building a friends group - the Maymont Council for Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration - establishing a long-term conservation program, bringing in conservators, and educating the public, Maymont demonstrates what the staff of other historic house museums can accomplish when dedication and perseverance are joined with a sustained planning effort in the interest of collections care.

Careful strategic planning and deliberate execution of the ensuing plans have enabled the Maymont Mansion to accomplish this transformation with modest resources. Through dedicated work of curatorial staff and the preservation friends group, this historic house museum will continue to educate future generations of visitors and inspire caretakers of other important historic properties

 $\sim$  Excerpt from June 14, 2011 Heritage Preservation Press Release

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

www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org



Next VCA Members Meeting & Annual Elections September 22nd, 2011, 5:30 p.m. Carter & Company Historic Wallpapers, LLC 1509 Belleville Street, Richmond, VA 23230 www.carterandco.com

# The Virginia Conservation Association 2011/12 Membership Application & Dues Payment

、 •	appear in the Directory):			
Address:				
Title/Institutional Affiliation:				
Work Telephone: ( )	Home Telephone:	( )		
Fax: ( )	_ Email:			
Are you a Conservator? Con	servation Technician? Conse	ervation Student?		
Museum Professional? Oth	er (Specify)?			
Areas of Conservation Expertise:				
<ul> <li>Archaeological Objects</li> <li>Architecture</li> <li>Books &amp; Paper</li> <li>Ethnographic Objects</li> </ul>	Objects Paintings	Sculpture Textiles Other (Specify below)		
Are you willing to be a Disaster Response Volunteer in the event of an emergency?				
Would you like your contact info	rmation included in our website co	onservation 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 mem please apply the \$5.00 late fee to	ber mailing this form after the No your payment. Thank you.	wember 15th, 2011 deadline		
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 Associa P.O. Box 4314 Richmond, VA 23220	4001		