

# Virginia



The Virginia Conservation Association promotes the care and preservation of cultural materials. The VCA offers education and training for those involved in conservation and provides a forum for discussion of pertinent issues and new developments in the field.

## CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

November 2017 Issue Vol. 27, No. 2



### *November Meeting!*

This month's program will be presented by Curatorial Registrar for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Jane Hohensee at 5:30 on Wednesday, November 15th at The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

See page 3 for more details.

# Letter from the President



KATE RIDGWAY, VCA PRESIDENT

Fall has arrived, even though in most of Virginia it still feels like summer. The leaves are starting to fall and everything has become flavored with pumpkin spice. Fall means Thanksgiving, so we like to talk about what we are thankful for. This year I think that we can all be thankful that Virginia was effected very little by the hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. The massive destruction of property and the loss of life was staggering. I'm not even sure if anyone has put a price on the destruction of cultural and historic property at this point.

The other half of Thanksgiving is "giving" though and with so much damage to areas of the United States due to hurricanes, massive fires, and other natural disasters, we as museum professionals should take some time to see what we can do to give back to our communities. Not everyone can go to disaster areas and provide professional support, but there are always local preservation issues that could be helped by a professional taking a little time and interest.

Maybe there is a local historical society that you could help with some preservation advice. Maybe a cemetery needs some trained individuals to help preserve gravestones. Maybe you can take time out of your busy schedule to spend a day helping those institutions that can't afford our services normally. Not everyone can do this, but if you can, please consider finding a good cause near you to help out. If you can think of any good causes that could use a larger effort, please talk to me or Kate McEnroe and maybe it would be an opportunity for our first "Helping Hands" project. If you already help out, and I know that many of us do, thank you so much for being a good advocate for VCA! Enjoy Autumn and all the good food it brings!





## November Program

*Wednesday, November 15th at 5:30 p.m. The American Revolution  
Museum at Yorktown. 200 Water St. Route 1020, Yorktown, VA  
23690*

The November VCA Program will take place at the recently opened American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Through comprehensive indoor exhibits and outdoor living history, the new museum offers a truly national perspective, conveying a sense of the transformational nature and epic scale of the Revolution and the richness and complexity of the country's Revolutionary heritage.

VCA members are invited to meet inside the museum at 5:30pm where light refreshments will be served in the classrooms. The formal program will commence with an introduction to the museum by Jane Hohensee, Curatorial Registrar for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

Melba Myers, Archeological and Objects conservator will describe her treatment of the 'Caldwell Collection', the Revolutionary War British Officer's Uniform Accessories and Great Lakes Indian Artifacts of Sir John Caldwell, King's 8th Regiment.

Members may then choose to tour the galleries at their leisure or join the public lecture at 7pm: "The Legacy of Henry Knox" in conjunction with the "AfterWARD" special exhibition. The Knox Museum Curator Matthew Hansbury will discuss the many contributions made by Washington's chief of artillery in his post-war years as the nation's first Secretary of War.

For more information, visit [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org)



Photo: David Stover © Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Representative Donald McEachin visits the David and Susan Goode Conservation Studio at VMFA in conjunction with the IMLS Collections Stewardship award which is being granted to VMFA on Sept. 19th. From the left: Jeanmarie Tucker, Pre-program Conservation Intern; Ainslie Harrison, Assistant Objects Conservator; Stephen Bonadies, Senior Deputy Director for Conservation and Collections; Donald A. McEachin, U.S. Representative from Virginia's 4th district; Casey Mallinckrodt, Andrew Mellon Assistant Objects Conservator.

## VMFA Awarded \$331,054 IMLS Grant for Conservation Education

The VMFA recently received generous IMLS funds to for its conservation education initiative, “Connect to Conservation” a three-year commitment that will support diversity and expand educational opportunities in art conservation. This program started in October focusing on three main goals: attracting and supporting pre-program conservation students, offering two-year fellowships for two post-graduate conservation students, and promoting collections care knowledge with various Virginia institutions. The Susan and David Goode Center for Advanced Study in Art Conservation has been expanding its labs since it re-opened in 2010 and has since been a leader in art conservation according to the VMFA Director, Alex Nyerges. The press briefing outlines its specific goals:

**Attract diverse candidates** to conservation careers. Industry research shows that conservation is one of the least diverse disciplines in the museum field. As VMFA works to build a team and develop exhibitions and related programs that reflect the communities it serves, this grant will support paid training opportunities and introduce conservation as a career opportunity to a more inclusive pool of applicants. By recruiting undergraduates—including those at historically black colleges and universities—for 10-week internships during their first two years of study, VMFA will assist those who discover a passion for conservation in choosing the best courses in both sciences and humanities. Interns, assigned in pairs to painting, paper or object conservation, will work in tandem with the museum’s conservation professionals. Over three years, VMFA

will hire 12 undergraduate students, who also will receive support in preparing their portfolios for graduate school, ongoing mentorship, and insights about the museum’s broader operations.

**Offer fellowships for postgraduates.** Advanced training and in-depth, multifaceted conservation projects will help new conservation graduates enhance their skills and knowledge of the workings of a major museum. The fellows also will publish or present on a specific project in professional journals or conferences; assist in planning and implementing major exhibitions; travel to other museums for research; and develop and present at new collections care workshops offered by VMFA. The fellowship is designed to help participants develop leadership skills and build collaborative relationships across departments. VMFA will hire two fellows for two-year appointments.

**Share knowledge and expertise.** VMFA plans to partner with the Virginia Association of Museums—the nation’s largest state museum service organization—to present two hands-on collections care workshops, taught by the museum’s senior conservators and fellows. Topics will focus on preventive conservation and collections care, aligning with VAM’s efforts to support their members’ need for and interest in object-based training for collection care, as well as methods to improve collections storage. The series will include a basic and advanced workshop on each topic. Read more at [vmfa.museum/pressroom/news/imls-awards-331054-grant-vmfa-conservation-education-initiative/#02EGUKwRxCtrWqe.99](https://vmfa.museum/pressroom/news/imls-awards-331054-grant-vmfa-conservation-education-initiative/#02EGUKwRxCtrWqe.99)



## VCA Scholarship

(Updated 12/5/2016)

The Virginia Conservation Association will offer two annual scholarships of \$250 each to be used towards costs associated with furthering education in the field. Use of funds may include conference or class fees or another related use as approved by the Board. Applicants must be VCA Student Members to apply. Applications will be accepted throughout the year and will be approved or declined by the VCA Board during the April and December Board meetings. Successful applicants will be notified within one week of the Board meeting and presented a check within the following 30 days. As a condition of the award, recipients will be required to summarize their experience as an article for an issue of the VCA newsletter. Applicants are welcome to apply again for consideration in the next year. **See bottom of pg. 8 for application information.**



## Job Opportunity

The Library of Congress is accepting applications for the position (2 vacancies) of Collection Care Technician in the Conservation Division Collection Stabilization Section. Full-time, permanent: \$36,281 to \$47,171 per year  
Open to: Anyone may apply – By law, employment at most U.S. Government agencies, including the Library of Congress, is limited to U.S. citizens. However, non-citizens may be hired, provided that other legal requirements are met and the Library determines there are no qualified U.S. citizens available for the position. The incumbent works under the direction of the Head of the Conservation Division Collection Stabilization Section performing stabilization treatments and constructing a wide variety of housings and protective enclosures for the Library's collections. **For a full description of the announcement and to apply, please visit: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob>**



## Helping Hands

VCA is in the early stages of developing an AIC-inspired Angel's Project to occur at some point next year. The goal of the project would be to assist a small or under-funded institution with a conservation or preservation-minded project. The project would ideally be more preventive than interventive, so that a wide-range of colleagues and conservators of any specialty could participate. For more information about Angel's projects, visit this website for a list of past AIC hosted projects: [www.conservation-us.org/annual-meeting/angels-project#.WZbiVz594dU](http://www.conservation-us.org/annual-meeting/angels-project#.WZbiVz594dU).

**Anyone interested in participating or with ideas of deserving institutions or projects can email Kate McEnroe, [katelmckenroe@gmail.com](mailto:katelmckenroe@gmail.com), or speak to her at the next meeting.**





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## September Program

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The September VCA meeting was presented by textile conservator Gretchen Guidess on the current exhibit, "Printed Fashions: Textiles for Clothing and Home." Held at Colonial Williamsburg, the event began in the gallery where Gretchen introduced the group to the origin and themes of the exhibit. Representing the culmination of curator Linda Baumgarten's career at Colonial Williamsburg, the exhibit had already been designed and much of the conservation work completed when Gretchen started work at Colonial Williamsburg. However, Gretchen explained how her primary role was to oversee the majority of the mount making, a crucial aspect of a fashion exhibit.

The exhibit highlights two different mount making methods. The initial style represented below is Linda's approach, where acid free tissue is skillfully used to pad out each item. Gretchen then served as project manager for the smaller, torso mounts, where skeletal preforms made of Ethafoam and acid-free tubes support the skin of Fosshape, a polyester material that can be steamed to hold its shape, and the show fabric. Gretchen brought examples of this type of mount and material with her to the presentation. The primary team in charge of making the mounts was Colleen Sinnott, Senior Museum Technician, and Jennifer Thornton, Senior Historic Interiors Technician. Examples of their work are visible below.

One lesson learned in the process was that rather than have each individual work on a mannequin from start to finish, it was more efficient to play to each other's strengths, such as padding out or blind stitching.

During the presentation, Gretchen highlighted various items, including a leather and brass chest lined with printed cotton as well as a man's cap whose interior preserves another rare design. She then ended her presentation with a quote from Benjamin Franklin that demonstrated both his delight at the newly available printed designs, and dismay that he may have selected the wrong colors to be sent back home. After answering questions and spending more time exploring the exhibit, the group moved to the museum courtyard for food, beverages, and the business meeting. Each officer spoke about upcoming items, highlights of which include more opportunities for educational workshops and new avenues for outreach and professional networking. It was a large turnout for the first meeting of the year and certainly set the stage for a great season of visits and meetings.

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## VCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum of Colonial Williamsburg

### September 21, 2017

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#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Kate Ridgway reported on the meeting in conjunction with VAM concerning the statues on Monument Avenue.

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#### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Christy Barranger reported that we have one student and 26 paid membership applications.

**Vice President's Report:** Kate McEnroe discussed the Helping Hands Project and is soliciting ideas for helping a small institution, a historic house, or a collection. She also requested that any members interested in helping with the project let her know.

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#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Education:** Bob Self and Terri Blanchette presented possible education programs. A survey sheet was passed out for members to complete. The survey will also be put out on Survey Monkey for members to complete.

Update: A sincere "thank you" to everyone who took time to respond to the survey about possible educational programs. We received a lot of great feedback and, along with the Board, have begun the planning process to bring you interesting and informative education options in 2018. Although the survey is closed, if you have ideas you would like to share, please contact either Bob Self (vabobcat@aol.com) or Terri Blanchette (tsbhistory@gmail.com).

**Outreach:** Casey Mallinckrodt reported the following: A letter was sent on behalf of VCA leadership to the Monuments Avenue Commission proposing professional participation or guidance. (<https://www.monumentavenuecommission.org>) -Commission Co-Chair, Christy Coleman, CEO of the American Civil War Museum responded that because they had received over two hundred requests for participation it would not be possible at this time. A follow up letter will be sent.

-At the suggestion of Maeve Bristow, the leadership of the Southeast Regional Conservation Association ([sercaconservation.org](http://sercaconservation.org)) was contacted to pursue future exchanges or collaboration between VCA and SRCA. It was noted that the next SERCA Annual Meeting will focus on gel and poultice treatments and is scheduled for March 9-11, 2018, North Charleston, SC.

-Virginia Association of Museums Top 10 Endangered Artifacts project (<http://www.vamuseums.org/?page=top10>) will accept nominations in November.

**Membership:** Dotty Robinson noted that there are problems with members getting the e-mailed newsletter. Please add [membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org](mailto:membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org) to your address book.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Kate Ridgway adjourned the meeting at 6:18 pm

## Student scholarship (from pg. 5)

Suggestions for applications:  
Applications should include a brief, one-page explanation of their proposed use of funds including information on the program, conference, class etc. Applicants should also explain their interest in conservation and how the VCA scholarship will benefit him or her in pursuing a career in conservation or a directly related field. Expenditures are welcomed but not necessary.

**Applications can be mailed to the VCA, P.O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221 or e-mailed directly to the current Education Committee Chairs.**

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## 2017-2018 VCA Board Members

This year, the VCA has many returning as well as new board members. Below are their names, positions if ever they need to be reached. Thank you again to the board for your service!

Kate Ridgway  
Kate McEnroe  
Deborah Pellman  
Christi Barranger  
Bob Self  
Terri Blanchette  
Dotty Robinson  
Casey Mallinckrodt

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Education Co-chair  
Education Co-chair  
Membership  
Outreach

Maeve Bristow

Programs Co-Chair

Emily Wronczynski  
Taylor Healy  
Carey Howlett  
Jane Hohensee  
Tom Snyder

Programs Co-Chair  
Publications  
Web Management  
Refreshments Co-chair  
Refreshments Co-chair

## Membership Update- Dotty Robinson

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership and continue your support of the VCA. If you haven't renewed yet, it is never too late! and there is a membership application attached to this newsletter for your convenience. A warm welcome goes to our new members:

Michael Barber – Dept. of Historic Resources

Sue Donovan – University of Virginia

Heather Godlewski – VMFA

Lesley Haines – The Mariners' Museum Park

Ainslie Harrison - VMFA

Mary Lescher – Richmond, Virginia – Supporter

Phil Mark – Stratford Hall

Christopher Mills – Chris Mills Conservation

Steve Roy – Steve Roy Art Restoration

Sarah Whiting – St. John's Church

katyridgway@gmail.com

katelmmcenroe@gmail.com

mpellmann@mindspring.com

gab1118@aol.com

vabobcat@aol.com

Tsbhistory@gmail.com

dotrob327@verizon.net

casey.mallinckrodt@vmfa.museum

blackcreekworkshop@gmail.com

ewroczyn@gmail.com

taylorihealy@gmail.com

fchowlett@mac.com

hohenj@cox.net

thomassnyder2@cox.net



# The Virginia Conservation Association

## Membership Application & Dues Payment

**\*Required**

**\*Date:** \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**\* \_\_\_\_\_New \* \_\_\_\_\_Renewing**

*(Name as you would like for it to appear in the Directory-Please indicate if you do **not** want to be included in the Directory)*

**\*First** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*Last** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*City** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*State** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Telephone: ( )** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title/Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am willing to serve on the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee**

*(Standing Committees: Membership, Programs, Refreshments, Publications, Education, Webmaster, and Outreach)*

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\_\_\_\_\_**Administrator**

\_\_\_\_\_**Conservator**

\_\_\_\_\_**Librarian**

\_\_\_\_\_**Appraiser**

\_\_\_\_\_**Conservation Technician**

\_\_\_\_\_**Post Graduate-Intern/Fellow**

\_\_\_\_\_**Collector**

\_\_\_\_\_**Curator**

\_\_\_\_\_**Supporter**

\_\_\_\_\_**Collection Mgr./Registrar**

\_\_\_\_\_**Framer/Preparator**

\_\_\_\_\_**Student**

\_\_\_\_\_**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?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you willing to serve as a Mentor?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to have a mentor?** \_\_\_\_\_

### Practicing Conservator/Consultant Conservators Only:

**Would you like your contact information included in our website's 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 check made payable to VCA for \$30 (Regular) or \$15 (Student: Enclose a copy of a valid student ID) to the address below.

Application and dues payment must be received by the first meeting in September to ensure inclusion in the VCA Directory.

**Note:** If you are **renewing** after the first meeting in September, please apply a \$5 late fee to your payment.

The Virginia Conservation Association  
P. O. Box 7023  
Richmond, Virginia 23221

**Reset Form**