Virginia

Conservation Association

January 2019 Vol. 28 Issue 3



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 issue and developments in the field.



Open House!

The November 14th open house at the Mariners' Museum and Park was a great event! See the meeting summary for more images of the evening and the new conservation space.

Letter From the President



Kate Ridgway, VCA President

I hope everyone is having an amazing holiday season! I'm not sure how others feel, but I am not a fan of social media. It makes me tired just to think of it. Due to a new format for the website at my work, I now have blog. (You check should it to help write https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/spotlight-on-dhr-collections/! Is what our PR person would want me to say right now.) As much as I feel like social media is taking over the world, it is a great tool for conservators and other museum professionals to teach the public about what we do, highlight projects, and just get the word out there in general.

I don't Tweet, I barely check my Facebook page, I'm not sure how Instagram or SnapChat work. I see this as an opportunity to let a younger generation teach me for once! I have so much knowledge to give them, but sometimes I forget that teaching and learning go in both directions. It also helps them with their confidence when it comes to their work in the profession and they can practice their writing skills. This is really a win-win situation.

We at DHR have a new conservator, Chelsea Blake, who is working here as a part of a National Maritime Heritage Grant from the National Park Service. Part of the requirements of this grant is outreach. She has all of these ideas for outreach that include Instagram and other social media outlets. So I guess this year, I will be diving into the deep end with that sort of activity and learning a lot. And working on my patience when it comes to this kind of outreach.

January Meeting: Tenacity Thursday, January 24th at 5:30 PM

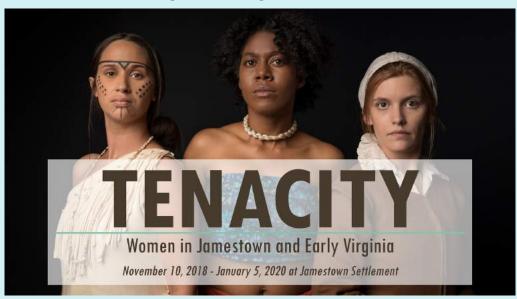


Image Courtesy of Jamestown Settlement

Our next meeting will take place towards the end of January at Jamestown Settlement and will focus on their new exhibition 'Tenacity: Women in Jamestown and early Virginia'. 'Tenacity' explores little-known, captivating personal stories of real women in Jamestown and the early Virginia colony and their tenacious spirit and impact on a fledgling society.

Along with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's collection of 17th-century objects, the special exhibition features more than 60 artifacts on loan from 22 international and national institutions, including the Victoria & Albert Museum, Museum of London, Master and Fellows of Magdalene College Cambridge, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, National Archives, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

This VCA program offers the opportunity to view the exhibition and will feature presentations from curators and conservators who were involved in bringing it to fruition.

Further information will soon be emailed out to the membership.

Website Workshop

When: Saturday, March 2 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2801 Kensington Ave Richmond, VA 23221

The VCA will be presenting a workshop for members interested in learning the ins and outs of website management. Presenter Dave Huckabay will be sharing his experience with attendees about what makes a good website, options for website management, and what to do when things aren't working quite right. A flyer containing further information is available at the end of the newsletter, before the membership application. This workshop is free of charge.

Helping Hands Outreach

When: February 2019

Where: Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2801 Kensington Ave Richmond, VA 23221

The first Helping Hands event is scheduled for February 2019. The event aims to rehouse a large volume of archives held by Petersburg Preservation Group. On site training will be provided so that VCA members of all backgrounds can participate. The event will be held at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on a Saturday. Firm details will be sent in an email in the coming weeks.



Pre-program Internship at the National Museum of African Art

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art is the only facility in the United States dedicated exclusively to the exhibition and preservation of Africa's traditional and contemporary arts. With generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the NMAfA is offering a paid pre-program internship for individuals preparing to apply to a graduate-level training program in art conservation. As part of an initiative to promote diversity in the field and conservation training, the program will offer the opportunity to gain broad experience in multiple specialties, which may include objects, textiles, paper or paintings.

Term(s): The 6-month, 40 hours/week internship will commence in Fall 2019 **Stipend:** \$600/week stipend plus additional funds to help defray the cost of travel to Washington DC.

Deadline: March 15, 2019

Contact Information: Dana Moffett,

moffettd@si.edu

For more information on the program and how to apply, visit the website below:

https://www.smithsonianofi.com/blog/ 2018/12/07/pre-program-internship-inconservation-at-the-smithsoniansnational-museum-of-african-art-2/

VCA Student Scholarship



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.

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 pg. 8 for application information.

2019 Virginia Museum Advocacy Day

When: February 7, 2019

Where: Virginia State Capitol

1000 Bank Street

Richmond, VA 23219

United States

Join the Virginia Association of Museums to visit legislators at the General Assembly, get training in museum advocacy, and celebrate with an evening reception. Advocacy is an important exercise for all of us, to make sure that legislators understand how important museums are to their communities, and to education in the Commonwealth. Whether this is your first Advocacy Day, or you are an expert, please plan to join us!

Registration is open until 2/1/2019 at 12:00 AM

Full schedule:

11:00 AM Meet at State Capitol to be recognized in the House and Senate chambers

12:00 PM Join us for lunch and training in advocacy basics at the Library of Virginia

2:00 PM Visits to legislators

5:00 PM Legislative reception at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture to honor the winners of the Top 10 Endangered Artifacts

For further information and a link to register visit the website below: https://www.vamuseums.org/events/2019-virginia-museum-advocacy-day

VCA Newsletter/November Meeting

November 14, 2018 The Mariners' Museum and Park Conservation Department Open House

The November meeting was an informal affair, allowing members to catch up with each other and meet new members. We started with a lovely Indian spread (Great idea Tom!) and then the proposed changes to the bylaws were approved by the membership. Afterwards we divided into groups to tour the lab spaces.

Laurie King, Assistant Archaeological Conservator, shows off the USS Monitor gun turret in its 90,000 gallon desalination tank.

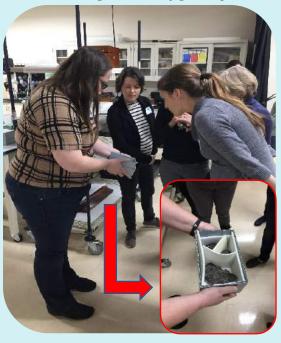


This medical chest is a new acquisition and arrived with most of its contents. Paige Schmidt, Assistant Objects Conservator, talks about chemical safety in collections and how the Museum handles unusual objects.





Hannah Fleming, Material Cultural Specialist, demonstrates the potential of photogrammetry.



Molly McGath, Analytical Chemist, has been testing manganese nodules to better understand their composition prior to exhibition with a model of research vessel Prospector, used for deep sea mining operations.



The paper lab is coming together! Assistant Paper Conservator Emilie Duncan discusses this fun paper boat she's preparing for an upcoming toy exhibit.

Student Scholarship (from page 4)

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.

2018-2019 VCA Board Members

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

Kate Ridgway
Kate McEnroe
Deborah Pellman
Christi Barranger
Terri Blanchette
Bob Self
Suzanne Collins
Paige Schmidt
Casey Mallinckrodt
Maeve Bristow
Lesley Haines
Allison Kelley
Lorraine Brevig
Jane Hohensee
Tom Snyder

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Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Education Co-Chair
Education Co-Chair
Membership Co-Chair
Membership Co-Chair
Outreach
Programs Co-Chair
Programs Co-Chair
Publications
Web Management
Refreshments Co-Chair

Refreshments Co-Chair

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vabobcat@aol.com
marion7@me.com
paigelschmidt1@gmail.com
casey.mallinckrodt@vmfa.museum
maevebristow@gmail.com
lchaines86@gmail.com
allison.kelley22@gmail.com
hisstah@aol.com
hohenj@cox.net
thomassnyder2@cox.net



Thinking About Having Your Own Website or Blog - BUT -

Confused by all the Web "Mumbo Jumbo"?

Join VCA Members for a FREE half-day workshop get straight answers to these questions -- and MORE!

- 1. Do I really need a website?
- 2. What is the difference between a website and a blog?
- 3. What "parts" does a solid website require?
- 4. FAQ about hosting, domains, and content management systems (e.g., Wordpress, Squarespace, etc.)
- 5. How hard is it to do?
- 6. Should I do it myself?
- 7. What are the costs if I do it myself or if someone does it for me?
- 8. What if my website breaks?



More than 20-years of expertise designing and supporting websites and blogs

At: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Ave, Richmond, VA 23221

Join us and ensure your website/blog project is a SUCCESS!!

RSVP to: Terri Blanchette - tsbhistory@gmail.com



The Virginia Conservation Association Membership Application & Dues Payment

*Required

*Date:	, 20	*New *Renewing
(Name as you would like for i	it to appear in the Directory-Please indic	cate if you do not want to be included in the Directo
*First	*Last	
*Address:		*City
*State*ZIP	*Telephone: ()
*Email:		Title:
Organization(s):		Website:
I Identify As:		
Administrator	Conservator	Librarian
Appraiser	Conservation Technician	Post Graduate-Intern/Fellow
Collector	Curator	Supporter
Collection Mgr./Registrar	Framer/Preparator	Student
Other (Specify)		
Areas of Conservation Exper	rtise:	
Objects	Furniture	Paintings
Ethnographic Objects	Frames/Gilded Objects	Painted Surfaces
Archaeological Objects	Textiles	Conservation Science
Architecture	Books and Paper	Preventive Conservation
Sculpture	Photographic Materials	Accept Private Contracts
Other (Specify)		
are you willing to be a Disaster Respo	onso Voluntoor in the event of an e	marganay?
de you willing to be a Disaster Respt	onse volunteel in the event of an e	mergency:
		hava a Mantar?
re you willing to serve as a Mentor?	Would you like to l	have a Mentor?
	Would you like to l	

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. To join online, visit **www.virginiaconservationassociation.org/wp/.**

Application and dues payment must be received by October 15th to ensure inclusion in the VCA Directory.

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