

Virginia

Conservation Association

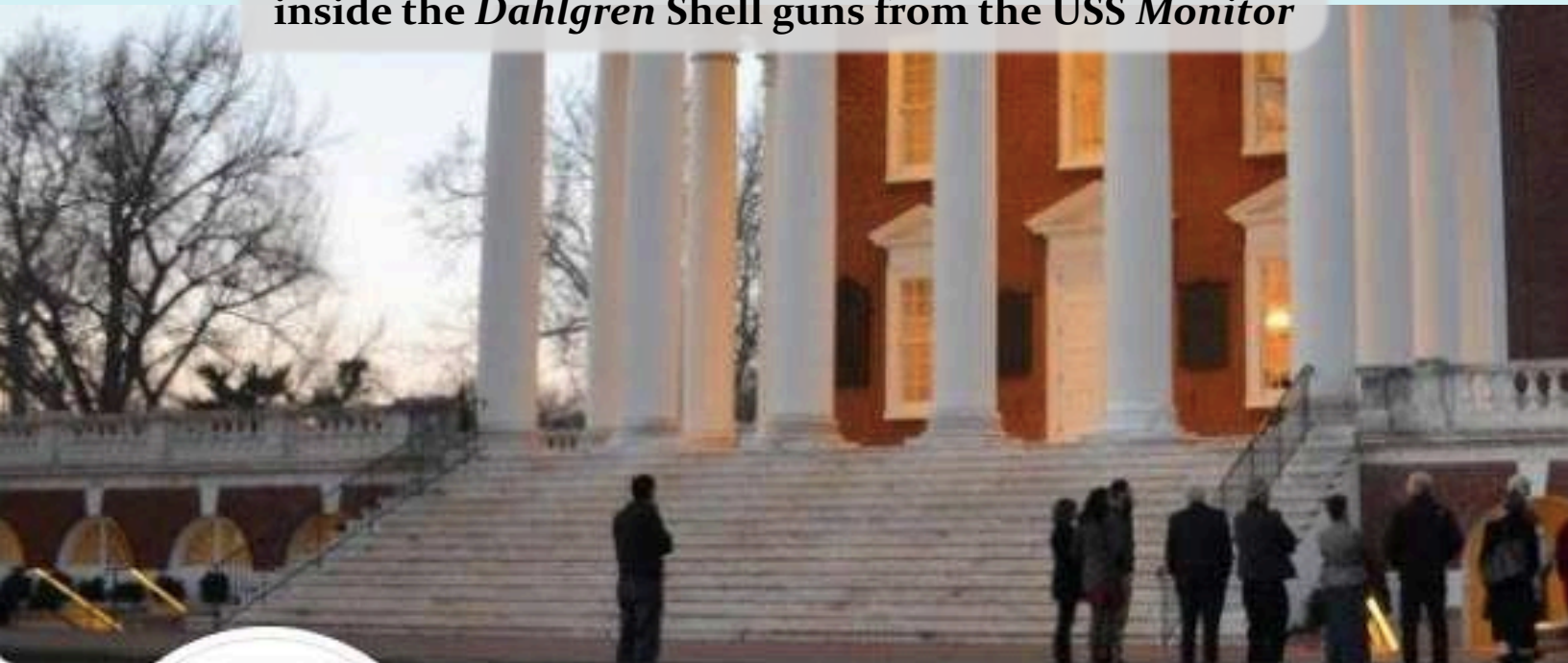
May 2020 Vol. 29 Issue 5



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.

An Inside Look!

The VCA meeting goes virtual this month on our Facebook page, but that won't keep us from going inside the *Dahlgren* Shell guns from the *USS Monitor*



**Virginia Conservation
Association**

Nonprofit Organization

Letter From the President



Kate Ridgway, VCA President

COVID-19 sucks. I hope everyone is staying safe and finding ways to stave off boredom and cabin fever. I am sure that we all miss seeing each other and the VCA Board is working on figuring out how to have a virtual meeting for May. Thanks especially go to Laurie King and Lesley Haines for their work solving the IT issues that go along with this challenge. Hopefully, we can pull this off, and being pretty mediocre at technological things myself, I really appreciate everyone on the Board for their help with working through this.

Elections are coming up in May and we are also working on that. There is never massive interest in being on the Board and due to COVID-19 and the work being done to reorganize VCA, there is an extra special lack of interest this year. The Board would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to volunteer their time by being on the VCA Board. The positions that we need filled most are Membership and Programs (see page 8 for a full list of open positions). Please consider helping out the VCA as we consider the future of our organization. I know that taking on a Board position can seem daunting, but it looks great on your resume!

Please everyone stay safe and keep an eye out for our fall programs, when we can reunite with friends, reconnect with colleagues, and continue our discussions about the future of VCA.

May Meeting Goes Virtual:

At the core of the problem: A new method used to clean the bores of USS Monitor's XI-Inch Dahlgren Shell Guns.



When: Thursday,
May 14 6:00 PM
Where: VCA Facebook
Page

Photo by Brock Switzer, The Mariner's
Museum and Park

Due to the need for social distancing with the COVID-19 outbreak, we will not hold an in-person members meeting for May. However, we will be holding a virtual meeting, hosted online through the VCA Facebook page on May 14th at 6pm. For anyone unfamiliar with how to attend a live stream event on Facebook, there will be a follow-up email with instructions, or feel free to contact the program chairs.

Erik Farrell, archaeological conservator at The Mariners' Museum and Park, will provide a presentation detailing the development and use of a custom-designed coring apparatus to clean inside the bores of USS *Monitor's* Dahlgren shell guns.

When the turret from USS *Monitor* was recovered in 2002, it contained hundreds of artifacts including the ship's two XI-Inch Dahlgren Shell Guns. All of these were initially covered in a hard, thick material called "concretion," composed of sediment, marine life, and corrosion. Over time, this material has been removed from the guns' exteriors and, just recently, the Dahlgren's interiors were cleaned. Erik will explain the process behind boring the guns, and what this means for the rest of their conservation treatment.

Online Resources for Professional Development and Personal Entertainment

As we settle in for the duration of Virginia's stay at home order, it's important for us to continue to connect, learn, and have some fun. This list is a mix of professional resources, cool heritage projects, and learning activities for the young (and young at heart!). If you'd like to share a resource, post it on the VCA Facebook page. Thank you to Kate Ridgway and the DHR staff for compiling the majority of this list.

Professional Development

- Duke University Library and Archives - Preservation Underground blog post: *Working from Home Options for Conservation Labs*. This is an awesome list of preservation webinars, seminars, and articles, many of which are free. It also has a list of possible work tasks that may need tackling.
<https://blogs.library.duke.edu/preservation/2020/03/11/working-from-home-options-for-conservation-labs/>
- FutureLearn - Offers free university seminars on a range of topics including history, archaeology, art, law, and computer science. Courses are free unless you want to earn credits. The University of Glasgow runs a class on antiquities trafficking and art crime:
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/art-crime>
- [English Heritage](#) has a variety of conservation projects on their website with links to related published articles.
- The [Canadian Conservation Institute](#) has an assortment of resources, including videos on a variety of topics.
- Collections Trust is a UK organization focused on institution standards. If you're using this time to write or revise policies check out the multitude of [guides and actual policies](#) from museums around the world.

Online Resources for Professional Development and Personal Entertainment

Learning Resources for All Ages

- Both the [Society for American Archaeology](#) and the [Archaeological Institute of America](#) have educational resources for all ages including videos and podcasts.
- Heritage preservation and architecture enthusiasts should check out Calder Loth's "[The Foundations of Classical Architecture](#)," a four part YouTube series from the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA) and his [Historic Brickwork: A Design Resource](#), which examines different brickwork styles found on American buildings from the colonial period into the twentieth century.
- The [National Parks](#) and [Smithsonian Institute](#) also have distance learning programs.
- The [Khan Academy](#) is geared toward students and provides free resources and daily schedules for students ages 2-18. But honestly, this is the perfect time to go back to basics and brush up on your organic chemistry!

Just for Fun

- [Google Art and Culture](#) has paired with institutions around the world to create some truly unique content
- Smithsonian magazine has compiled a list of [68 Cultural, Historical and Scientific Collections You Can Explore Online](#) from the comfort of your living room. Whether you're in the mood to virtually explore [ancient Rome](#), read [past presidents' personal papers](#) or download [coloring pages](#) from dozens of international [cultural institutions](#), this roundup has you covered. Listings are bolded and organized by field. (See *Smithsonian's* lists of [museums you can virtually visit](#), ways to [virtually experience the Smithsonian Institution](#))

Online Resources for Professional Development and Personal Entertainment

Just for Fun (Continued)

- Many museums have virtual tours and interactive media on their own sites including [Mount Vernon](#) and the [National Trust of Historic Sites](#) . For something different, check out the [Taipei National Palace Museum](#) (with content in English). Or check in with the conservators working on [Rembrandt's the Night Watch](#).
- Sketchfab, a repository for 3D models, has sections devoted to art, architecture, and cultural heritage! Check out the [Rosetta Stone](#), the [V&A's fine art](#) collection, Virginia's own [DHR collections](#), shipwrecks of NOAA's [National Marine Sanctuaries](#), and [historic sites](#) around the world.
- My favorite social media campaign by far is the quarantine art challenge, started by Instagrammer [Between Art and Quarantine](#), and picked up by the [Rijksmuseum](#) and the [Getty](#), which challenges you to recreate works of art with household items. A great activity for all ages!

Virginia Related Resources

- Library of Virginia,
https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp
- Encyclopedia Virginia, <https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/>
- Jamestown Rediscovery, materials for educators and students,
<https://historicjamestowne.org/education/for-educators/>
- James Madison's Montpelier
"Digital Doorway" for online digital content
<https://digitaldoorway.montpelier.org/>
online courses for high school and college age students
<https://www.montpelier.org/center-for-the-constitution/online-courses>
- George Washington's Mount Vernon online educational resources
<https://www.mountvernon.org/education/>
- Monticello digital resources for educators,
<https://www.monticello.org/research-education/for-educators/>

Online Resources for Professional Development and Personal Entertainment

Virginia Related Resources

- Virginia Slave Housing Project, this site does not have activities or lesson plans but does have content that teachers, parents, and students can use to learn about slave housing
<http://www.savingslavehouses.org/slave-house-research/virginia-slave-housing-project/>
- Virginia Museum of History and Culture learning resources
<https://www.virginiahistory.org/learn/learning-resources-o>
 - Virtual Tours:
[The Story of Virginia](#)
[Landscapes of Virginia](#)
[Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality](#)
[Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today](#)
 - Banner Lectures Online:
More than 250 hours of recorded lectures by world renowned authors and speakers. Topics cover a variety of aspects of Virginia history. A few recent lectures include:
[Bound to the Fire: How Virginia's Enslaved Cooks Helped Invent American Cuisine](#) by Dr. Kelley Fanto Deetz
[Inventing Disaster: The Culture of Calamity from the Jamestown Colony to the Johnstown Flood](#) by Dr. Cynthia A. Kierner
[Searching for Stonewall Jackson: A Quest for Legacy in a Divided America](#) by Ben Cleary
Watch and listen to past Banner Lectures here:
[Website Archive](#) | [Vimeo](#) | [YouTube](#) | [SoundCloud](#)
- American Civil War Museum, educator resources for grades 5-12
<https://acwm.org/learn/educator-resources/>
- Colonial Williamsburg
<https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/explore-from-home/?from=homecarousel>

Board Positions Open for 2020 Elections

Officers-

Secretary: One-year term. The VCA Secretary takes minutes at membership and Board of Directors meetings, retains a record of VCA communications, and sends out meeting notices to VCA membership

Committee Chairs-

Membership: Two-year term. The Membership Chair receives and processes applications for membership, maintains updated membership lists, sends out messages on behalf of Board and VCA members

Programs: Two-year term. Along with a second co-chair, the Program Committee prepares draft programs for events at venues reasonably accessible to the members, usually in September, November, January, March, and May. Final decisions regarding speakers, program format, and expenses will be determined by the Board.

1 of 2 slots open.

Publications: Two-year term. The Publication Chair produces a newsletter containing meeting notices, informational material, and other information pertaining to the VCA.

Refreshments: Two-year term. The Refreshments Chair will organize refreshments to be available before or after meetings. The cost for refreshments will be paid out of the VCA account.

Members interested in running or with questions about the positions, please contact Tina Gessler (vp.vaconservation@gmail.com) We plan hold to hold online elections in May.

2019 – 2020 Board Members

Kate Ridgway	President	katyridgway@gmail.com
Tina Gessler	Vice President	tgessler@gmail.com
Arianna DiMucci	Secretary	amdimucci@gmail.com
Keri Ragland	Treasurer	keri.lily@gmail.com
Sue Donovan	Education Co-Chair	suedonovan@virginia.edu
Stacy Rusch	Education Co-Chair	srusch@virginiahistory.org
Suzanne Collins	Membership Co-Chair	marion7@me.com
Paige Schmidt	Membership Co-Chair	paigelschmidt1@gmail.com
Chelsea Blake	Outreach	blake.c.elene@gmail.com
Lesley Haines	Programs Co-Chair	lchaines86@gmail.com
Laurie King	Programs Co-Chair	lking@marinersmuseum.org
Allison Kelley	Publications	allison.kelley22@gmail.com
Lorraine Brevig	Web Management	hisstah@aol.com
Jane Hohensee	Refreshments Co-Chair	hohenj@cox.net
Tom Snyder	Refreshments Co-Chair	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: _____

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 Expertise:

_____ 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 Response Volunteer in the event of an emergency? _____

Are you willing to serve as a Mentor? _____ Would you like to have a Mentor? _____

Are you interested in serving on the VCA board in the future? (see website for details) _____

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. 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