

Virginia

Conservation Association

September 2019 Vol. 29 Issue 1



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.

A New Year and a New Board!

We are excited to begin the 2019-2020 year with so many new faces and fresh ideas on the VCA Board. We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

VCA

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Join the VCA

Don't Forget to Renew

Both New and Returning Members can both apply and pay for this year's membership at

<https://virginiaconservationassociation.org/membership/>

Be sure to submit the application and submit payment before October 15 to be included in the directory.

Letter From the President



Kate Ridgway, VCA President

This year I am looking towards VCA's future and assessing the changes that could be made to make it successful. I know that everyone is busy, but if you care about VCA and what the next steps are, then you should find the time to attend one of the special meetings that I will be organizing. The first meeting will be a general discussion and brain storming session. After that, we will likely have sessions to discuss the most viable sounding options that come up. I do not want this to become onerous, but it will take a certain amount of time.

I have heard from a few people and those ideas will be included in the discussion, but I would like to hear from more of you, hopefully in person. I recognize that location is also an issue and I am not sure what I can do about that other than hold these sessions in several locations. If anyone wants to offer up a meeting space, it would be greatly appreciated; otherwise, I will look for libraries that can host us.

Those who show up or find some other way to participate will be the ones ultimately making the decision. I have to admit that I do not think that I will have much patience for those VCA members who come to complain to me after a decision is made if they chose not to participate. We are all busy and I have heard from many of you that you think making major changes to the VCA is necessary for it to continue being a viable organization. I do not know what those changes will look like, but I cannot wait to see them!

September Members Meeting in Richmond

When: Monday, September 23
6:00 PM

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



A wooden bowl fragment as it was removed from its 30 year old treatment solution. Image courtesy of Chelsea Blake

The first members meeting of the year will be Monday, September 23 at 6 pm. The meeting will be at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Conservator Chelsea Blake will be discussing her work on the materials from the *Betsy*. We will then have refreshments and our business meeting.

The *Betsy* re-treatment project was funded by a National Park Service Grant to address the conservation concerns for objects recovered over thirty years ago during the Yorktown Shipwreck Project. This project focuses on the organic artifacts from the *Betsy* and has involved a number of unforeseen challenges. This lecture presents a number of these challenges and the responses to them.

Conservation Clinic Workshop: Framed! Preventive Care for Your Art

Where: Smithsonian American Art Museum

Meet in G Street Lobby

When: Saturday, September 28th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Cost: \$15 for materials

At this hands-on workshop, Frames Conservator Martin Kotler reveals his secrets for keeping the frames in SAAM's collection in top condition. Prior to the demonstration in the MacMillan Education Center, Kotler will lead a highlights tour of historical frames in the permanent collection galleries. Participants will receive a preventative care kit to take home. Space is limited.

<https://americanart.si.edu/events/conservation-clinic-workshop-framed-preventative-care-your-art-september-28-2019>

Collections Care Conservator

Biltmore Estate
Asheville, NC

Description:

Full Time: a position working 35+ hours per week.

The Collections Care Conservator will report to the Chief Conservator and work as part of a team of museum professionals to ensure the long-term preservation of objects in Biltmore's collections. The Collections Care Conservator will undertake examination, documentation, technical analysis, conservation research and treatment of a wide variety of objects in Biltmore's permanent collection with an emphasis on objects in storage. Other duties will include rehousing of stored objects, assisting with environmental monitoring, responding to emergency collection incidents, preventive care, maintenance and conservation consulting on all the collections, and collections research where appropriate. In addition, the incumbent will provide general assistance and support for leadership, the department, and company as required.

Some Requirements:

1. Master's degree in conservation from a recognized training program, with an emphasis on general collection care and/or preventive conservation.
2. Minimum of three (3) years of post-graduate experience in collection care. Equivalent combination of education/experience considered.
3. Will need to travel between locations on the estate; valid driver's license required.

For more information and to apply:

<https://www.biltmore.com/careers>

-Click on Search Jobs, search for Collections

Welcome New Board Members

We have many newly elected board members this year and we are excited for their fresh input and new ideas. Please extend to them a warm welcome as we begin the 2019-2020 meeting cycle!

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	kragland@maymont.org
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