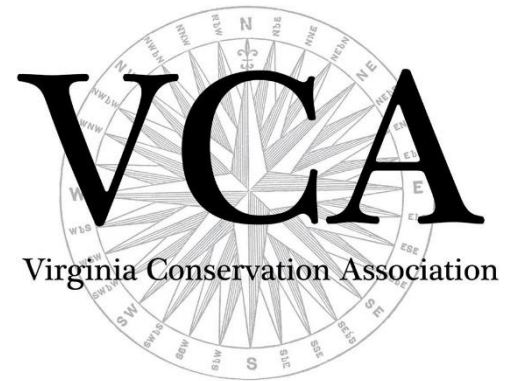


VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



September 2021 | Volume 31 | Issue 1

The Virginia Conservation Association (VCA) 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.

The VCA is open to anyone with an interest in the care and preservation of art and historic artifacts.

virginiaconservationassociation.org

Next Virtual Member's Meeting

**Tuesday, October 5
6:00 pm**

Submission Deadline for
the November Newsletter

October 20, 2021

Letter from the President

Greetings, VCA! Welcome to the 2021-22 Program Year. While my name, Paige Schmidt, may be familiar from past emails as the Membership Chair, this is my first letter to membership as the President, and I'm excited for what's in store. The Board has already hit the ground running, with two meetings under our collective belt to discuss potential projects and programming for the upcoming year, including a joint grant application with VAM and an informational asbestos workshop for collections care professionals. Check out our meeting Minutes for more information about those particular projects, stay tuned, and please join us at our first member meeting to discuss these opportunities further! We encourage, welcome, and NEED your input to make all of the above happen.



Paige Schmidt, VCA President

From a bird's-eye view, the upcoming two years will be a time of continued reflection and change for the VCA. While I will be manning the helm (sorry, many nautical idioms to come) for the day-to-day business of the VCA, Kate Ridgeway has graciously agreed to continue the work she started during her tenureship as President to explore ways to create a more sustainable VCA. In addition to our regular programming, Kate will organize further discussions with membership and the Board, and we also ask for your engagement with this process. Ultimately, we want the VCA to thrive as a useful and fulfilling organization for its members, and as such we need member engagement to make this happen.

If anyone has questions, comments, thoughts, or ideas about the year to come, please feel free to reach out to me and I will do my best to facilitate feedback, discussion, and networking.

Paige

VCA Meeting Summary May 20, 2021

The final meeting of VCA's 2020-2021 year was hosted by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The conservation staff at the VMFA, with the help of an iPad and microphone on a rolling computer stand, gave the membership a virtual tour of their beautifully designed conservation spaces. The Susan and David Goode Center for Advanced Study in Art Conservation is a 9,500 square foot space that opened in 2010 as part of the latest expansion to the museum. The center includes three areas of specialties: Paintings Conservation, Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation, and Paper Conservation. The tour included an overview of the department's analytical equipment, ongoing conservation treatments, and a glimpse of upcoming exhibitions at the VMFA.



Screenshots from the virtual tour of the VMAF conservation lab



The virtual tour was followed by a brief business meeting, during which the results of the board elections were announced and Kate Ridgway thanked the outgoing board and membership as her term came to an end!

Upcoming VCA Meeting

Our first members meeting will take place via Zoom on October 5 at 6:00 pm. Apologies to all for not holding the meeting in September, we went with a date that best suited a speaker. The meeting will feature a presentation by Ethan Bullard, Museum Curator for the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site and Richmond National Battlefield Park. Bullard will share a National Park Service perspective on the digital experience during the pandemic. In the year + with its archives closed to in-person researchers and its museum closed to on-site visitors, learn how the Maggie L. Walker NHS adapted to the challenge with virtual exhibits, digital archives, Zoom tours, video, and social media. Ethan will walk us through the site's various digital platforms to demonstrate how one of the state's preeminent civil rights museums stayed accessible and relevant to a public eager to understand the roots of Richmond's social justice movement.

VCA Member's Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, October 5**

Time: **6:00 pm**

Look for an email with a Zoom link to attend!



VCA Craft Night!

In lieu of a field trip this year, VCA held a virtual craft night on June 30th, which was attended by several members. Terrarium kits were provided by the VCA for interested members, though a few joined in the Zoom call with their own craft project. Members chatted about their work projects and plans for the upcoming year as they assembled their terrariums. Everyone was impressed with the variety of styles implemented and the creativity shown by each member.



Unique landscapes were carved out, and many people chose to add a figurine of an animal or miniature object to set the scene in their terrarium. Junior-VCA member Louisa Hoffman (Will Hoffman's daughter) was especially impressed by the owl figurines Kate Ridgeway incorporated in hers. Overall, the craft night was a huge success and enjoyed by all who participated. We may see another craft night in the VCA's future, regardless of whether meetings are virtual or in person.



Want to know more about terrariums?

David Allen in the 1960s wrote [The Victorian Fern Craze](#), and it is about how the British were so enamored of making terrariums that in the space of not many years they very nearly made extinct the native small fern species that were perfect for the small, glassed-in gardens.

Find [The Victorian Fern Craze](#) [here](#) and [here](#)!

Virginia Conservation Association 2021 Board of Directors Election Results

At the end of the last VCA season, the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget was approved and the new board was elected. New Board terms began August 1, 2021. Meet our new board members below!

Many thanks to everyone who voted and to the members who volunteered to serve on our board!

Board

President: Paige Schmidt
Vice President: Tina Gessler
Secretary: Sutton Hastman
Treasurer: Keri Ragland Spangler

Committee Chairs

Education: Debbie Linn
Membership: Elizabeth Robson
Outreach: Ann Cuss
Programs: Laurie King & Jennifer Myers
Publications: Jackie Peterson-Grace
Web Manager: Lorraine Brevig
Refreshments: two positions vacant

Paige Schmidt is an Objects Conservator at The Mariners' Museum and Park in Newport News. She attended Buffalo State College's Masters Program in Conservation. While she is from the Pacific Northwest, Paige has been an intern and fellow at several east coast institutions, including Biltmore in North Carolina, and Colonial Williamsburg. Paige's personal interests include woodworking, tree identification, and all things nautical, especially canoes. When not working in her shop, Paige can be found (or not found) exploring the wilderness, at a climbing gym, or at a beer garden.



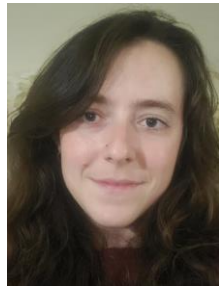
Tina Gessler is the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Samuel and Pauline Clarke Conservator of Objects. After completing her graduate internship at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Tina received her Masters in Science with a Certificate in Art Conservation from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation in 2005. Upon graduation, Tina worked as an Assistant Objects Conservator at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History and as an Associate Conservator at the Chicago Conservation Center. Following a move to Vancouver, British Columbia in 2009, Tina explored the world of contract conservation through work with several institutions, including the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Museum of Vancouver, and the Burnaby Village Museum. She has been with Colonial Williamsburg since 2011 and has recently taught Preventive Conservation Concepts for George Washington University's Museum Studies Distance Education Program. Tina is a Professional Associate with AIC and served on AIC's Sustainability Committee from 2015-2017.



Ann Cuss' work encompasses all aspects of cultural heritage through the conservation and preservation of the built environment and material culture. She specializes in the documentation, assessment, and conservation treatment of archaeological, architectural materials, and large-scale threatened metal artifacts utilizing a holistic approach of traditional and technologically innovative methods to care for historic materials. Ann's multi-faceted professional role focuses on coordinating multidisciplinary, international teams of tradespeople and preservationists, advocating for culturally informed long-term planning needs of local sites, and providing hands-on training to the next generation of cultural heritage professionals and tradespeople. She serves as the Regional Director of North America for the World Monuments Fund, the leading independent organization devoted to safeguarding the world's most treasured places to enrich people's lives and build mutual understanding across cultures and communities.



Sutton Hastman has been with Richmond Conservation Studio since 2019 as a paintings conservation technician, where she learned structural skills and treatments to help preserve paintings. She graduated from Mary Baldwin with degrees in Chemistry and Art History. She enjoys doing creative projects and spending time outdoors.



Elizabeth Robson has been the Post-Graduate Fellow in Paintings Conservation at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for two years. She received her Master's degree from SUNY Buffalo State College in 2019, after completing her third year internship at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, FL. She also volunteered and worked in Colonial Williamsburg's conservation labs pre-program, and she is excited to be back in southeastern Virginia again!



Debbie Linn is the Assistant Chief Conservator at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Prior to joining VMFA in September 2019, she worked at the Field Museum in Chicago where she gained extensive experience in project management, exhibitions, preventative conservation, and disaster recovery. Her additional experiences working on a wide variety of materials include the Chicago History Museum, the Newberry Library, and in private practice. She has held internships at the Library of Congress, Freer-Sackler Galleries, National Museum of American History, and Harvard University Library.



Jackie Peterson-Grace is the Assistant Textile Conservator at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. She completed a Master of Science from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation in 2018 with concentrations in textile and preventive conservation and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation Studies from Marist College. As a graduate student, she completed internships in the textile conservation labs at the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Peebles Island Resource Center. She has worked closely with collections care staff at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Cambodia since 2018 to address textile preservation needs.



Laurie King is an Archaeological Conservator at The Mariners' Museum and Park, and has been at Mariners' since 2016. Laurie received her MSc Conservation Practice from Cardiff University in Wales, specializing in objects and archaeological materials. During her education at Cardiff, Laurie worked as a conservation intern at the Çatalhöyük Research Project in Turkey. Laurie is a Virginia native and grew up visiting all her local museums. She also worked in conservation labs at Colonial Williamsburg and The Mariners' Museum both before and after completing her Masters. Outside of the lab, Laurie's interests include fiber crafts and women's history, specifically WWII reenactment.



Jennifer Myers is the current NEH Paintings Fellow at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk. She recently graduated from WUDPAC in 2020 after completing her third-year working under Gianfranco Pocobene in private practice and at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Jennifer hails from the Pacific Northwest, having lived in Seattle for the better part of a decade before moving east for graduate school. While any painting might shed light on the intersections of technology and society, her favorites come from the middle of the 20th century. Jennifer shares living space with her thirteen-year-old canine roommate, Charlie.



The VCA at AIC

Congratulations to the VCA members who participated in this year's virtual American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting! The meeting was jointly held by AIC and SPNHC and occurred over Zoom from May 10 to June 24, 2021. Recordings of the presentations are available online to registered meeting attendees through October 31, 2021.



Sue Donovan and Krystal Appiah

University of Virginia, Charlottesville

The Jessie Fuller Scrapbook: Balancing Access and Context in the Treatment of an Important Black Sorority Scrapbook from 1949 with a Unique but Damaging Structure

Sun Donovan

University of Virginia, Charlottesville

Conservator and Stakeholder: Lessons from Unearthing a Time Capsule Underneath a Confederate Monument

Kate Gabrielli

National Air and Space Museum

Materials and Meaning in the Study of a Kongo Nkisi Nkondi: The power of collaboration

Gretchen Guidess

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Lessons Learned: Pandemic Edition Panel Discussion

Holly Herro and Kristi Wright

National Library of Medicine and Wright Conservation & Framing

Leather Selection and Use: the impact of conservators' choices

Lisa Isbell

The US National Archives and Records Administration

An Investigation into the Stability of Thermal Copying Records in the US National Archives Produced from the 1950s to the 1970s

Jackie Peterson-Grace

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

An Atypical Approach for a Typical Problem: Loss Compensation for a 19th Century Quilt

Caroline Shaver and Chris Swan

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

A Minimally Invasive Treatment on an Églomisé Looking Glass

Sarah Towers

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation / The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

String Theory: The Comparative Treatments of Two Musical Instruments

ECPN Regional Liaison Update

The Williamsburg Regional Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN) welcomes a new liaison: Perrine LeSaux. ECPN is a subgroup of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) that helps people find a network to support the beginning of their career in conservation. Whether you are just getting your foot in the door, trying to get into a conservation program, are a graduate student, or have recently graduated we welcome you as an emerging professional.



Perrine LeSaux, ECPN Liaison

Perrine is a post-graduate fellow at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation working in paper conservation. She graduated from the SUNY Buffalo State Art Conservation Program in 2020 and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in illustration at the University of Hartford with a minor in art history in 2011. She has had the opportunity to intern at many institutions, as well as a regional center, and private practices since she began her career in 2014.

As the new liaison she is hoping to grow the Williamsburg network and invite new faces to our events. If you would like updates and have not received emails from Williamsburg ECPN in the past, please email Williamsburg.ecpn.liaison@gmail.com to be added to the list. Perrine also welcomes any questions about starting your path into conservation or if you need help and advice, she is happy to talk to you!

We look forward to having a casual meet and greet and possibly visit a local conservation lab in the fall. Stay tuned to the ECPN emails for more information.

Useful Links:

Read more about the ECPN AIC group and find excellent resources on our website:

<https://www.culturalheritage.org/membership/groups-and-networks/emerging-conservation-professionals-network>

See what is new, check us out on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/419707523031/>



ECPN members met in person on Colonial Williamsburg's Palace Green in the spring

Sustainability in Conservation

There are a wide range of tools and tips to help cultural heritage professionals make sustainable choices and lower the environmental impact of their work, some of which are shared here.



Sustainability Tools in Cultural Heritage (STiCH)

A product of the Life Cycle Assessment project undertaken by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC), Northeastern University and Pratt Institute with financial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, STiCH is a free online tool for cultural heritage professionals. The website includes a life cycle assessment carbon calculator that allows users to select specific materials and processes used in cultural heritage sites to calculate the resulting greenhouse gas emissions or compare the relative impacts of various options. A library of case studies and information sheets can also be found on the site.

Visit the website to learn more about their initiatives and to explore the available tools!

<https://stich.culturalheritage.org/>

Opportunities and Resources

The American Institute for Conservation turns 50!

In 2022 AIC will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The annual conference will be held in person in Los Angeles May 15-17, with plans to live-stream the opening session and some of the other programming through a more accessible virtual format. The call for submissions is open now and abstracts that focus on the theme of reflecting on the past and imagining the future will be accepted through September 17, 2021.

Learn more about the upcoming conference and how to submit at this link:
<https://www.culturalheritage.org/events/annual-meeting/current-meeting>

AICCM's 10 Agents over 10 Months

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material's Preventive Special Interest Group has been presenting an online forum series that expands the traditional 10 Agents of Deterioration to cover relevant and timely themes including climate change, repatriation, and Covid.

Recordings of the first five sessions (temperature/relative humidity, physical forces, dissociation, lighting, and pests) are available online and the remaining sessions will be uploaded over the course of the rest of the year.

They can be found at this website:
<https://aiccm.org.au/events-and-webinars/webinars/10-agents-10-months/>

VCA Membership Renewal

Membership renewal is upon us for the 2020-2021 year! Please renew your Membership by **October 30** to be eligible for member benefits and to ensure your inclusion in the Directory. You can renew online by visiting the link below. Complete the application form and submit it before adding the membership to your card and making your payment.

<https://virginiaconservationassociation.org/members>

As requested last year, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM IN ITS ENTIRETY. The VCA Services Directory will be updated to reflect any conservators and/or preservation specialists who want to be searchable through the VCA website for private work (as opposed to the general membership online directory). Please check the box in the last question on the form only if you want to be searchable for Private Practice.

You can also print the application at the end of the newsletter and submit payment via mail to:

The Virginia Conservation Association
PO Box 7023
Richmond, VA 23221

AIC Wiki Contributions

The AIC Wiki is sponsored by the American Institute for Conservation with content created by the Specialty Groups, Networks and Committees.

Each specialty group has its own approach for adding new material, but new content is always welcome! Content can range from creating new pages to adding bibliographic references or summarizing previously published research. Visit [this website](#) to learn more about how to contribute!

VCA AUGUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Board Meeting - August 23, 2021

ATTENDEES

Paige Schmidt, Debbie Linn, Jennifer Myers, Keri Ragland Spangler, Elizabeth Robson, Ann Cuss, Jackie Peterson-Grace

Call to Order: President Paige Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (PAIGE SCHMIDT)

Paige asked all board members present to introduce themselves before discussing organization and content of the VCA shared Google Drive. Some board members are still working on gaining access to their Google accounts. Upcoming possible events and initiatives were discussed, including the SHARP grant application submitted by the Virginia Association of Museums and the possibility of pursuing FAIC funding to support an asbestos workshop tailored to the needs of conservators.

TREASURER'S REPORT (KERI RAGLAND SPANGLER)

Due to technical difficulties, Keri was unable to report.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (TINA GESSLER)

Tina was not present to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee (Laurie King and Jennifer Myers)

The committee reported on possible upcoming events including virtual lab tours and speakers who may be willing to present in the spring.

Education Committee (Debbie Linn)

Debbie expressed support and interest for the proposed workshops and other outreach activities.

Membership Committee (Elizabeth Robson)

Elizabeth will update the membership web form before the call for membership renewal is sent out.

Publications Committee (Jackie Peterson-Grace)

Jackie reported on the newsletter deadline and requested content be sent to her. The VCA's presence on social media, specifically Facebook, was also discussed.

Outreach Committee (Ann Cuss)

No outreach events have been planned yet, but something may be able to be coordinated with the Virginia Association of Museums annual meeting to be held in March, 2022.

Meeting adjourned by President Paige Schmidt at 7:02pm



Virginia Conservation Association

2021 – 2022 Board Members

Paige Schmidt president.vaconservation@gmail.com	President
Tina Gessler vp.vaconservation@gmail.com	Vice President
Sutton Hastman secretary.vaconservation@gmail.com	Secretary
Keri Ragland Spangler treasurer.vaconservation@gmail.com	Treasurer
Debbie Linn education.vaconservation@gmail.com	Education Chair
Elizabeth Robson membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org	Membership Chair
Ann Cuss outreach.vaconservation@gmail.com	Outreach Chair
Laurie King programs.vaconservation@gmail.com	Programs Co-Chair
Jennifer Myers programs.vaconservation@gmail.com	Programs Co-Chair
Jackie Peterson-Grace publications.vaconservation@gmail.com	Publications Chair
Lorraine Brevig webmanager.vaconservation@gmail.com	Web Management
Vacant	Refreshments Co-Chair
Vacant	Refreshments Co-Chair

VCA Student Scholarship

VCA offers two annual scholarships of \$250 each to be used for furthering education in the field. Use of funds may include conference or class fees or other professional-development expenses. Applicants must be VCA student members to apply. Applications are accepted throughout the year and will be evaluated during the April and December Board meetings.

To apply, submit a one-page proposal for use of funds that specifies how the scholarship will assist in the pursuit of a career in conservation or a directly related field. To apply, email our Education Committee Co-Chairs or mail paper applications to the VCA, P.O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221

Contact Us

Virginia Conservation Association

P.O. Box 7032
Richmond, VA 23221

www.virginiaconservationassociation.org
www.facebook.com/VaConservation/

Contribute to the Newsletter!

Are you working on an interesting or challenging treatment? Have you made exciting research discoveries, come across valuable resources, or attended an inspiring professional development event? We want to hear from you!

Our all-volunteer publishing team regularly calls for content and any VCA member is welcome to contribute. If you are interested in writing for the newsletter but would like some advice and guidance, please get in touch with our Publications Chair to discuss your ideas.

The deadline for the November Newsletter is **October 20**