

From the President

As we begin the 2010-2011 VCA program season I am confident that we can look forward to another fantastic year. Right away we will be visiting two of the major cultural institutions in the state. Our first Members' Meeting of the year will be 23 September in the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum at Colonial Williamsburg, where we will have an opportunity to see the special exhibition "Conservation: Where Art And Science Meet". Then in November we will gather in Richmond at the Virginia Museum Of Fine Arts, to learn first hand about conservation work included in the major renovation just completed a few months back. What a great way to get the ball rolling!

The VCA Board strives continuously to provide membership with programs that are enticing, informative and enjoyable. We want to make the VCA the kind of organization that you desire, and the best way for that to become a reality is with your guidance. I enthusiastically encourage you to send us any ideas you have for future meetings, workshops, field trips and other programs or events.

The VCA website remains a primary point of attention. The goal of course is to make this resource as dynamic and useful as possible for the membership and any other interested party. During a members' meeting last season we discussed the possibility of adding a directory to the website, one that would list VCA members who are available for conservation consultation, treatment and other related services. We hope to make the web directory a reality in the near future. Each of you will be contacted about this matter soon, with the question of whether or not you want to be included in the directory. Contact information will only be provided for those persons who answer in the affirmative.

Last year the VCA made a renewed commitment towards professional outreach, strengthening communication with others within the Arts community. Such outreach efforts, along with the on-going website improvements, should help the VCA to realize a higher profile among our peers and the general public. This season plans for outreach will include further possibilities for better engagement and interaction with collectors, patron groups and others with an interest in the conservation of historic materials.

As of this summer I am in to my second term as VCA President. At times serving in this position has been a challenge, but not one that was unexpected. Over the course of the past year I became better acquainted with many in our association and others of like kind, and I have made some new good friends. This part of the experience is what cannot be measured in value. Please join me in welcoming our new and returning Board members with a pat on the back and a show of gratitude for their service to the organization. It is my hope and belief that they all will find their time with the VCA to be as meaningful as has been true for me. Perhaps each of you will consider joining a committee or accepting a role on the Board in the future as well.

One last point – the membership renewal period is fast approaching. Please renew membership without haste, and continue to be a part of the VCA as we grow and evolve. See you all at the September Members' Meeting.

~ Frederick Wallace, President

Members' Meeting

Thursday, September 23rd, 5:30 PM



DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum
326 West Francis Street, Williamsburg, VA



Starting with Reception & Business Meeting at
The Bruton Heights School
301 First Street, Williamsburg, VA

September Members' Meeting at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum

Please join your fellow VCA members at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum on September 23rd for "Conservation: Where Art and Science Meet", a rare exhibition concentrating on the techniques, materials and thought processes that conservators use in examining and treating art objects.

The business meeting and refreshments will begin at 5:30 p.m. at The Bruton Heights School, located at 301 First Street, a historic structure in its own right, the school was renovated to provide classroom and meeting space, offices for the Research Division, and facilities for Colonial Williamsburg Productions. We will then take a short drive to the museum where the galleries will be open until 8:00 p.m.

~ Tom Snyder, Programs

Free Hygrothermographs Available!

*A Notice to VCA Members from Patricia Silence,
Conservator of Museum Exhibits and Historic Interiors,
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

The Colonial Williamsburg Conservation Department has gone digital for most of its environmental monitoring. We have 27 hygrothermographs of various types to give away. No guarantees or warranties, but some have instruction books and a few have charts. If you would like one, be prepared to take it with you the night of the VCA meeting. A great gift for that small museum you've been consulting with, or to keep in your lab in case you've wondered about the conditions.



Directions to The Bruton Heights School



From Richmond and points West:

I64 east to exit 238 for VA-143 toward US-60
Slight right at VA-143
Continue onto Capitol Landing Road
Slight left at Page Street
Take first right toward Capitol Landing Road
Take third right onto First Street
Park on left opposite the Rockefeller Library
The School is at 301 First Street

From Norfolk and points East:

I64 West to exit 242A, merge onto Rt. 199 West
Take US-60 West, Williamsburg/Busch Gardens
Turn left at US-60 West/Pocahontas Trail
Continue onto Lafayette Street
Turn right onto Capitol Landing Road
Turn right onto 1st Street
Park on left opposite the Rockefeller Library
The School is at 301 First Street

Driving directions from The Bruton Heights School to the DeWitt Wallace Museum:

Turn right on Capitol Landing Road
Continue straight onto North Waller Street
Turn right on Francis Street
Turn left at South Nassau Street
Park behind the museum and enter through
the front door of the Public Hospital
The Museum is at 326 West Francis Street

VCA Programs

Attention VCA Members: Are you working on a project you think would be of interest to other VCA members? If so, please contact VCA program chairs, Tom Snyder at thomassnyder2@cox.net or Colleen Callahan jette_2@msn.com to discuss presenting at a VCA meeting in 2011.

VCA Board of Directors 2010-2011

Board Officers:

President, Frederick Wallace
fwallacedjo@hotmail.com

Vice President, Heather Logue
heather.logue@hotmail.com

Secretary, James Christopher Wilkins, chrismwilk@gmail.com

Treasurer, Caitlin R. O'Grady
Caitlin.O'Grady@dhr.virginia.gov

Committee Chairs:

Bylaws, James Robertson
catfishjrobertson@gmail.com

Disaster Response, Kathy Garrett-Cox
kgarrett@maymont.org

Education, Sheila Payaqui
sheila.payaqui@vmfa.museum

Membership, Bienvenida Ochs
bochs@vcu.org; Alfred Lawrence Ochs, Ph.D. ALBASystems@vcu.org

Outreach, Dale Wheary
dhwheary@maymont.org

Programs, Thomas A. Snyder
thomassnyder2@cox.net
Colleen Callahan jette_2@msn.com

Publications, Tracy Bernabo
tracybernabo@comcast.net
Russell Bernabo
russell@russellbernabo.com

Refreshments, Mary Scott Andrews
andrewsmmm@mac.com
Sandy Jensen, 804.537.5041

Web Management, Patricia Selinger
patricia.selinger@vcu.edu

Fred said that the budget line item of \$50 for annual VAM membership for the standing VCA President is inadequate. Membership must fall to the VAM business/ institution member rate of \$100. So an additional \$50 will need to be reallocated from another portion of the budget. This will be announced to the membership at the September Meeting.

Outreach Committee Chair and Maymont Mansion Director Dale Wheary announced that the Maymont presentation "Funding a Sustainable Museum Environment", scheduled for 21 September, which also was set as the main event of the September VCA Members' Meeting, must be postponed until 6 October. VCA members still are encouraged to attend the Maymont program (see back page for details).

Postponement of the Maymont program also meant that the September VCA Members' Meeting date had to be changed as well. Fred and Programs Committee Co-Chair Tom Snyder suggested that the September Members' Meeting be rescheduled to Thursday 23 September. First choice for a new meeting site was the Dewitt-Wallace Museum at Colonial Williamsburg, to take advantage of the special exhibition about conservation currently is on view at that museum. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts was named as a second choice in case the DeWitt Wallace Museum was unavailable. Fred and Tom said that they would contact colleagues at those respective museums with the VCA meeting requests.

Tom said that future meetings for this VCA Program season have not yet been confirmed. He and Programs Committee Co-Chair Colleen Callahan will continue to investigate ideas and possibilities that they have in mind. Tom indicated that he and Colleen should have announcement about the remainder of the meeting schedule prepared fairly soon.

Tracy gave the date of 26 August as the deadline for making submissions to the September 2010 issue of the newsletter. Tracy plans to send the newsletter out to the membership on 2 September. She also expects to send out a publication schedule for the rest of the season to help guide the membership in making submissions to the newsletter by each deadline.

Fred named two possibilities that previously had been identified as worthwhile additions to the VCA website. One is an email contact capability so that general inquiries can be fielded by the organization. (such as: email@virginiaconservation.org). It was suggested that primary responsibility for monitoring and responding to inquiries could fall to the Vice President. Email responses would be made in consultation with other Board Members as necessary and appropriate. The other new website feature would be a directory of VCA members available for conservation consultation, treatment, etc. Persons named on the list will be those who have given permission in advance for their inclusion in the limited directory and also indicated the specific contact information to be provided to the public. Fred soon plans to renew conversation with VCA Website Manager Patricia Selinger regarding initiation of these new website features. In advance of this, the Membership Committee will need to complete a new poll to determine which members desire inclusion in the directory.

VCA Board Meeting Summary: August 19, 2010

Attendees: Fred Wallace, Dale Wheary, James Robertson, Tracy Bernabo, Mary Andrews, Caitlin O'Grady, Sheila Payaqui, Tom Snyder

VCA President Fred Wallace welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new program season. Each of the Board Members in attendance gave his or her name and Board position as an introduction.

Fred asked if any of the new Board members had any questions about their specific responsibilities and reminded everyone to be thoroughly familiar with the position descriptions given in the VCA Bylaws for the Board Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and the various Board Committee Chairs.

Fred stated he thought the VCA would benefit from having a formal mission statement, one more concise and succinct than the existing descriptions of the VCA's purpose, such as that in the Bylaws. He read aloud a draft mission statement that he had prepared, and said he will email the draft to the full Board for review and comment.

New VCA Treasurer Caitlin O'Grady said that previous Treasurer Dotty Robinson provided her with a plethora of documents and electronic information to help her transition to that office. Caitlin is readying to receive membership applications / renewals / payments once the 2010-11 forms are made available in the near future. She will forward the approved 2010-11 budget to Publications Chair Tracy Bernabo for inclusion in the September VCA Newsletter so it can be reviewed by all members.

Dale reported that the Outreach Committee meeting scheduled prior to the Board meeting had been canceled. She will send an email soon in regards to rescheduling the meeting. This year plans are to develop more outreach efforts that engage and interact with the general public having interests in historic materials and conservation. Meanwhile the VCA of course will continue to foster relationships and collaboration with other organizations / professional colleagues.

New Education Committee Chair Sheila Payaqui was made aware of previous Board discussions on the idea of making articles that contain useful and educational information about conservation a regular part of the VCA newsletter. Solicitation of the membership for suitable articles or identification of articles from other sources (along with obtaining reproduction rights as necessary) would be a task for the Education Committee. The Board and members-at-large could be called upon to aid in this endeavor.

There was discussion concerning the mechanism for VCA involvement in disaster response strategies among collaborating regional museums and historic sites. Mary Andrews, current Refreshments Committee Co-Chair and past Disaster Response Committee Chair offered some insight. Caitlin said that she participates in the Museum Emergency Support Team (MEST) for central Virginia. Current VCA Disaster Response Committee Chair Kathy Garrett-Cox also attends meetings of this MEST, and there was agreement that participation in the MEST program by the VCA Disaster Response Chair should be standard to the position.

~ Fred Wallace, President

Virginia Conservation Association

Approved Budget 2010-2011

Income:

Source:	
Dues-Regular	\$2,000
Dues-Student	\$40
Directory Sales	
Gifts	
Field Trips	
Late Fees	
Classes	
Reimbursements	
Total	\$2,040

Expenses:

Source:	
Newsletter	\$100
Directory	\$300
Refreshments	\$750
Web Site	\$100
P.O.Box Rent	\$50
Classes	
Speaker Expense	\$300
Outreach Expense	\$200
Misc.	\$50
VAM Membership (for VCA President)	\$50
Va. SCC	\$25
Total	\$1,925

~ Caitlin O'Grady, Treasure

VCA Treasurer's Report

The operating budget shown above was submitted and approved at the May 20th Members' Meeting.

Income: Income from members' dues has run about \$2,000 a year for the past 4-5 years and is our primary source of revenue. For the past several years, the VCA has held classes that have generated net income, but given the uncertainty of this income source, it is not included in our budgets.

Expenses: Since the budget was approved for 2010-2011, there has been a change in the cost of supporting annual VAM membership for the standing VCA President. The current \$50 is inadequate. The membership actually must fall to the VAM business/ institution member rate of \$100. Therefore, it is proposed that an additional \$50 be reallocated from another portion of the budget.

The VCA currently has an end-of-year bank balance of approximately \$7800. There has been discussion of using these funds in the future to underwrite an educational workshop for VCA members.

If you have any questions or comments about the approved budget, you may contact me, Caitlin O'Grady at ogrady.caitlin@gmail.com.

The Virginia Conservation Association 2010/11 Membership Application & Dues Payment

Name (as you would like it to appear in the Directory): _____

Address: _____

Title/Institutional Affiliation: _____

Work Telephone: () _____ Home Telephone: () _____

Fax: () _____ Email: _____

Are you a Conservator? ___ Conservation Technician? ___ Conservation Student? ___

Museum Professional? ___ Other (Specify)? _____

Areas of Conservation Expertise:

<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Textiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Books & Paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Paintings	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnographic Objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Materials	_____

Are you willing to be a Disaster Response Volunteer in the event of an emergency? ___

Would you like your contact information included on our referral list? ___

The Virginia Conservation Association is open to all interested individuals. To become a member, complete this form and return it with your dues payment of \$25.00 (Regular) or \$15.00 (Student; Enclose copy of valid I.D.) Application and dues payment must be received by November 15, 2010 for inclusion in the 2010/11 VCA Directory. A \$5.00 late fee applies to applications received after this deadline. If you require an invoice or receipt for your records, please photocopy this form before sending.

Note: If you are mailing this form after the November 15th, 2010 deadline, please apply the \$5.00 late fee to your payment.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to the Virginia Conservation Association to the address below before November 15, 2010:

Treasurer
The Virginia Conservation Association
P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220

Maymont/VCA Presentation

Wednesday, October 6th, 2010
5:30 PM – Garden Hall

**MICHAEL C. HENRY, PE, AIA, &
WENDY CLAIRE JESSUP**

FINDING A SUSTAINABLE MUSEUM ENVIRONMENT

**A presentation offered by Maymont in
collaboration with the
Virginia Conservation Association**

**Wednesday, October 6th, 2010 at 5:30 PM
Garden Hall ~ Maymont, 1700 Hampton Street, Richmond, VA**

The Maymont Mansion invites you to a presentation on navigating the choices to balance collections needs and sustainability for museum environmental management, using the current planning project at Maymont as an example. Michael C. Henry and Wendy Claire Jessup will discuss the current thinking and opportunities for sustainable collection environments in historic buildings.

Mr. Henry is Principal Engineer/Architect at Watson & Henry Associates and is an Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been visiting teacher in the Master's program for Sustainable Heritage Centre at University College London. Ms. Jessup is a conservator in private practice specializing in preventive conservation. Ms. Jessup and Mr. Henry have worked together for many years as a consulting team for museums and are now concluding an IMLS-funded environmental survey for the Maymont Mansion. Light refreshments will follow the presentation.

For more information, contact Kathy Garrett-Cox, Maymont Collections Manager,
804-358-7166 ext. 303; kgarrett@maymont.org.

Virginia Conservation Association
P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220

www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org



DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum

Next VCA Members Meeting: September 23rd, 2010, 5:30 p.m.

Reception & Business Meeting at The Bruton Heights School
Followed by program at DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum