

From the President

The annual VCA Holiday Season Party was held last month on December 5th at the Richmond office of Preservation Virginia. The party was a grand success, with an abundance of good cheer, good food and good friends. It was quite cold that evening, but for the first time in a couple of years there was no snow accumulation to hinder the merrymaking. Wunderbar! A round of thanks and applause are in order for Mary Scott Andrews and Sandy Jensen, Co-Chairs of the Refreshment Committee, who organized the festivities. Our sincere special thanks are expressed to the staff of Preservation Virginia, and Curator of Collections Catherine Dean in particular, for the kindness to welcome the VCA membership into their home, which has proved to be a perfect space for the holiday gathering.

Calendar year 2011 will begin with the January VCA Members Meeting scheduled to feature a presentation detailing conservation treatment by F. Carey Howlett of the Worsham-Rockefeller Bedroom completed for the VMFA and the opening of the major new building wing there last year. The Programs Committee also is investigating possibilities for a VCA field trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh this spring. The NCMA also just completed a major expansion project in 2010, which included a new, 127,000 square foot building to showcase the permanent collection. The impressive changes and additions at the museum, and the opportunity to visit with our conservation colleagues in Raleigh, make the prospect of a field trip to the NCMA worthwhile and exciting. You will receive more information soon from the Programs Committee about the logistics of a field trip and a questionnaire to gauge the level of interest among the membership.

There continues to be an interest in the development of a new studio tips session for inclusion in a future members meeting program. Each VCA member is asked to think about the various conservation and collections care practices and procedures that are

VCA Members' Meeting Thursday, January 20th, 5:30 PM



Worsham-Rockefeller Bedroom

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
200 North Boulevard, Richmond



Details forthcoming via email

particularly useful. Those that are straightforward to describe and implement are good candidates for sharing with the membership as a studio tip. No tip is too simple or insignificant. Don't be shy! Please contact me or Programs Committee Co-Chairs Tom Snyder and Colleen Callahan right away with your tip idea, so that a presentation can be put together soon.

We also still need your help in creating a bank of photographs to use for the VCA website. If each member who has digital images showing conservation or collections care activities in progress submitted as few as one image, there would be enough pictures to keep the website visually dynamic for a long time. So please take a minute to send at least one image to Patricia Selinger or Valinda Carroll of the Web Management Committee. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

The VCA Newsletter is a primary tool used by the Board to provide the membership with general information and notice of programs, to solicit member participation and aid in various projects and activities, and to discuss other matters that are relevant to our collective conservation interests. VCA members may request space in the Newsletter to use for these purposes as well. Members also should feel free to provide the organization with news and updates about employment changes, involvement in interesting conservation or collections care projects, etc., which can be collected into a "Member News" section of the publication.

The Newsletter also can be a great way to disseminate technical data or research material. I strongly encourage members to submit conservation related articles, treatment notes or summations, and other such papers to the Board for possible inclusion in the Newsletter. A key to true professionalism is the desire to share with colleagues and engage in meaningful discourse.

This publication is the result of what we put into it as a group. So let's all work together to make the VCA Newsletter a must read from start to finish.

With the formal membership renewal period having concluded last November, I now give my sincere thanks to all of you who renewed membership in this organization. A hearty welcome is sent to all members who have just newly joined the VCA. By this time production of the new VCA Directory should be completed. It will be available for pick up at the January 2011 Members Meeting. If you know that you will be unable to attend the meeting, please contact Larry Ochs and Bienvenida Ochs of the Membership Committee to obtain a copy of the Directory. Thank you very much.

~ Frederick Wallace, President

January 2011 Members' Meeting At the VMFA

Please join your fellow VCA members at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on Thursday January 20th at 5:30 p.m. for a presentation by F. Carey Howlett entitled, **"Building Backwards: Forward-thinking Approaches to the Conservation and Installation of the Worsham-Rockefeller Bedroom."** Details regarding where to gather will be provided to membership via email.

~ Tom Snyder, Programs

Directions to the



From Interstates 95 and 64

- *Take Boulevard Exit 78*
- *Follow Boulevard (Route 161 South) for 1½ miles.*
- *Turn right onto Kensington Ave. (Virginia Historical Society is at the corner).*
- *Turn left on Sheppard St and travel ½ block.*
- *The entrance to the parking deck is on the left.*

From Powhite Parkway and I-195 Downtown Expressway

- *From I-195 take the Floyd-Cary exit.*
- *Follow Floyd Avenue east to Belmont (five blocks).*
- *Turn left on Belmont, and proceed 3 blocks to Stuart Ave.*
- *Turn right on Stuart and travel 1 block; the entrance to the parking deck is straight ahead.*

- *From the Powhite Parkway take the Cary St exit.*
- *Follow Cary St. east to Belmont (five blocks).*
- *Turn left on Belmont, and proceed 5 blocks to Stuart Ave.*
- *Turn right on Stuart and travel 1 block; the entrance to the parking deck is straight ahead.*

The parking deck is open until 9 pm on Thursdays. Parking is free to VMFA members with membership card, \$3 per day for nonmembers. The parking deck can be accessed from the main museum entrance on Boulevard, or from the intersection of Sheppard St. and Stuart Ave.



VCA Business Meeting Summary

November 18th, 2010
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Fred Wallace (VCA President) thanked the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for their hospitality in hosting the business meeting. He also thanked the Refreshment Chairs, Mary Andrews and Sandy Jensen, for their work in preparing the refreshments.

Tracy Bernabo (Publications Chair) informed those at the meeting that the deadline for submission to the next newsletter is Thursday, December 23rd, and that the next newsletter would go out on December 30th.

Colleen Callahan (Programs Co-chair) gave the preliminary plans for a bus trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh. The trip is tentatively planned for a Friday in April. Bus embarkation will be in Richmond and Williamsburg. Cost is estimated to be \$30 to \$40. The bus will leave in the morning, arrive at the museum in the afternoon and depart for Virginia in the evening. A show of hands from the members suggested strong support for the trip. Fred Wallace informed those in attendance that the trip is in response to the opening of a new wing of the museum.

Dale Wheary (Outreach Chair) spoke of the planning of a Speakers Bureau that will reach out to student groups and collectors. A conservation clinic is also in consideration and will be offered to the various audiences. More information on these programs will follow in newsletters and future meetings.

Fred commented on the possibility of VCA studio tips session during a future members meeting. Anyone who has useful tips concerning collections care or conservation treatments is asked to contact the VCA through the website or to correspond directly with a board member.

Web Management Committee member Valinda Carroll described some of the recent improvements and changes to the VCA website, including the link to the VCA Facebook page and operation of the "Contact Us" tab. She explained that the VCA email address is

now active. Messages sent to the organization in general (info@virginiaconservationassociation.org), will be redirected as appropriate. The email system will automatically forward all messages to Fred Wallace (VCA President), Patricia Selinger (Web Management Chair), Valinda Carroll (Web Management Committee member) and Heather Logue (VCA Vice-President). As Vice-President, it will be Heather Logue's responsibility to answer email inquiries or forward them to the concerned Board officer or committee. A request was made to the membership to provide digital photographs taken during various VCA programs or that show conservation projects in progress. These photographs will be posted in rotation on the web page. A second request was made to anyone having a working knowledge of php scripts for assistance with the website. Scripts will be added to provide security to the forums and facilitate the use of encrypted forms for online VCA work.

Fred ended the business portion of the evening by giving thanks to those who have renewed VCA membership. New members in attendance at the meeting were asked to raise their hands so that they could be acknowledged and welcomed.

Chris Wilkins, Secretary

Conservator Needed

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is seeking a conservator to conduct a Preventive Conservation Course with museum staff. Assistant Curator, Gretchen S. Winterer is specifically looking for someone to spend several days with staff to demonstrate and advise of best practices regarding the handling, packing and storing of diverse materials within the collection. If you are interested please contact:

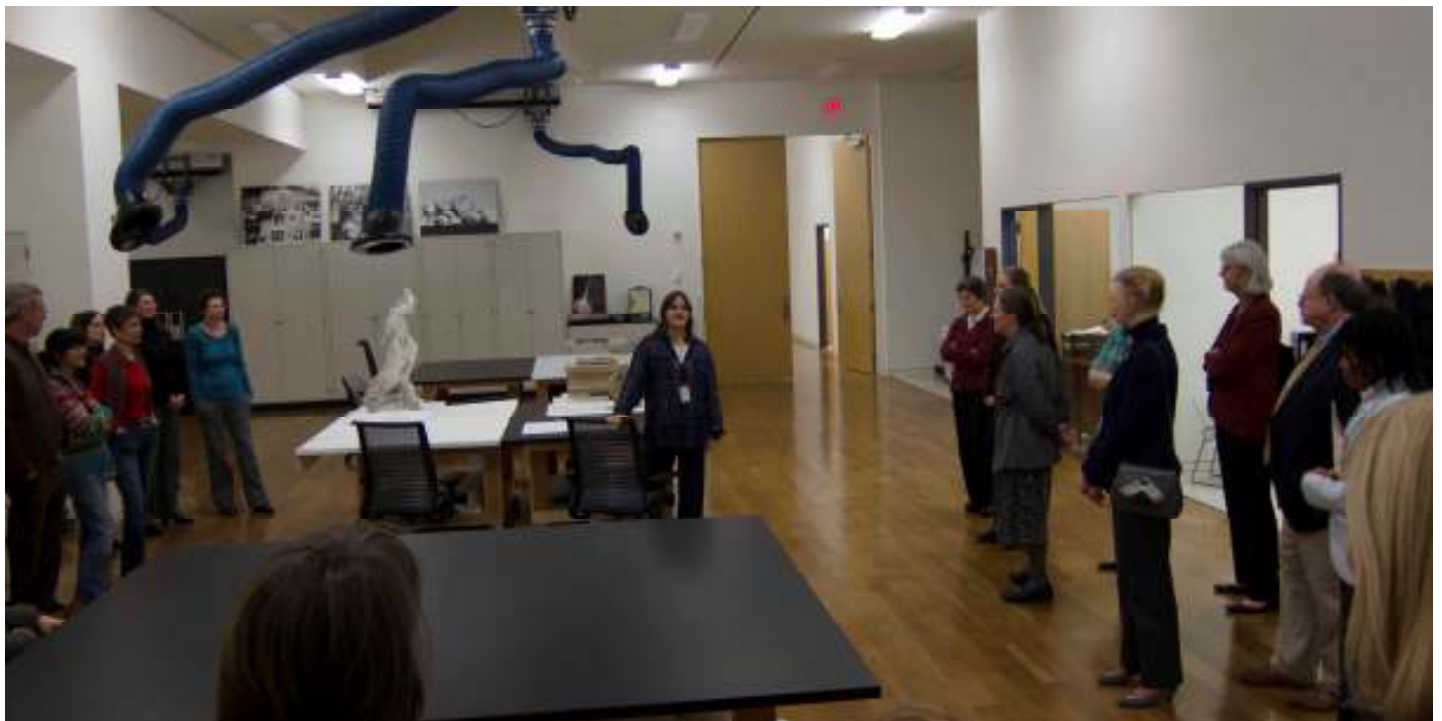
Gretchen S. Winterer
Assistant Curator, General Collection
National Museum of the Marine Corps
2014 Anderson Avenue
Quantico, VA 22134
703-784-2606
gretchen.winterer@usmc.mil

November 2010 Members' Meeting

VMFA Sculpture & Decorative Arts Lab

On Thursday, November 18th, more than 40 VCA members gathered at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to see the newly-constructed sculpture and decorative arts lab. After wonderful refreshments provided by Sandy Jensen and Mary Scott Andrews followed by a brief business meeting, Kathy Gillis, Head of Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, spoke briefly about the museum's new lab, detailing the long process of designing, choosing the furniture and hardware and beginning to work in a busy objects lab. The lab, more than 5000 square feet, is nicely outfitted with rolling work tables that can be ganged together to form large impromptu work surfaces, a flexible overhead exhaust system and plenty of natural light from banks of windows including clerestory windows.

- *Tom Snyder, Programs*



The Association for Preservation
Technology, DC Chapter and
The Washington Conservation Guild
ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
MARCH 24-25, 2011

◆ CALL FOR PAPERS ◆

**Topic: Climate Control for Historic
Buildings and Collections**

The Association for Preservation Technology DC Chapter, in conjunction with the Washington Conservation Guild, requests presentations for our Annual Symposium to be held in Washington DC on March 24-25, 2011. Presentations are to address the challenges of balancing the needs of building preservation, museum collections and visitor comfort. The Symposium would like to explore the decision making processes related to the introduction of environmental controls, best practices for climate control, successes and failures (including lessons learned), and the utilization of green practices and technologies.

All presentations that discuss case studies should address one of the above topics and presenters are encouraged to demonstrate how the case study contributes to the field by providing in-depth analysis of what was learned in the course of the study or project.

Abstracts should be 250 to 300 words and must include the title, the name of the speaker or speakers, the address of the speaker and any institution they are representing, email address of the speaker and the speaker's resume. Students are encouraged to submit work that is relevant to the topic.

Presentations are to be 30 minutes in length with time for questions.

Abstracts are due January 10, 2010 and should be sent to APT DC at info@aptdc.org with a copy to catherine_dewey@nps.gov.

Selection Notification/Speaker Responsibilities.
Please read the following guidelines carefully.

Each presenter will receive a complimentary registration for the symposium, lunch included. Presenters will not be paid. All travel and additional expenses are the responsibility of the presenter.

If your abstract is selected, you will be notified by January 31, 2011.

Presenters are encouraged to use PowerPoint technology to enhance their presentations. No other audiovisual requirements will be permitted. PowerPoint presentations must be submitted to APT DC at a specified deadline date in order to preload presentation to avoid on-site slow downs.

Selection Criteria

All abstracts are peer reviewed by an APT DC/WCG-appointed committee. Each abstract is evaluated in four key areas:

- ✓ Originality
- ✓ Quality of the abstract (clearly defines outcomes, flows smoothly)
- ✓ Relevance/significance to the field of Historic Preservation
- ✓ Objectives

We look forward to your participation in educating architects, conservators, house museum managers and preservationists. Contact info@aptdc.org, subject line "2011Symposium" with any questions.

www.washingtonconservationguild.org



**VCA Board of Directors
2010-2011**

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patricia.selinger@vcu.edu

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

www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org



Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Next VCA Members' Meeting:
Thursday, January 20th, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts ~ meeting place TBD
200 North Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220