



# NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4314, Richmond, VA 23220

March 2013 ~ Volume 22, No. 4

## From the President

The March 2013 VCA Members Meeting, set for the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month, promises to be another exciting event. On this occasion the proceedings will be split between two, neighboring Richmond venues. To begin, the reception and business meeting will be held at the Virginia Historical Society. Stacy Rusch, Chief of Conservation at the VHS, deserves much appreciation for helping to procure a space in the Society building for our use. Then we will make a very short stroll down the block, to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, for the feature presentation of the evening. Kathy Gillis, Head of Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation at the VMFA, will discuss the issues leading to an extensive, irreversible surface treatment performed on a Belter Sofa. Please try to arrive as early as possible for the 5:30 pm start of reception, because the meeting schedule will be quite tight to allow time for walking from the VHS to the VMFA. The plan is for all members to gather in the atrium near the Membership Desk of the museum by no later than 6:45 pm, so that we can be escorted as a group to the room where Kathy will commence her talk.

Once again the VCA Board is pleased to offer a spring field trip for the membership, scheduled on Friday 19 April 2013. Suzanne Collins, Co-Chairperson of the Programs Committee, has organized a special visit for VCA members to Montpelier, the historic home of President James Madison and his wife, Dolley Madison, the first "First Lady" in U.S. history. The estate is located less than an hour drive northeast of Charlottesville, in scenic Orange County, Virginia. The full day itinerary is to include a tour of the Madison mansion, a lecture by well known architectural historian Mark R. Wenger, and free time to enjoy the spacious grounds of the estate and grand views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. As with past field trips, VCA members are welcomed to invite family members and friends to join us on this journey. The visit is being priced at a reduced rate of \$10 per person for the VCA

VCA Members' Meeting  
Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>  
5:30 p.m.



*Sofa by John Henry Belter, c. 1850, photo by Travis Fullerton©*

## THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

428 North Boulevard, Richmond  
&

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
200 North Boulevard, Richmond



*Join us at the VHS for a reception and business meeting followed by a visit to the VMFA featuring a presentation by the museum's Conservator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Kathy Gillis*

**More Information on Page 3**

entourage. It will be possible to pre-order lunch from a local gourmet caterer at a reasonable price as well.

A registration form with more details will be provided in the near future so that members may sign up for this marvelous excursion.

An important, greatly anticipated event on the VCA horizon is the Modular Cleaning Program Workshop. This is a superb, educational and professional development opportunity for practicing conservators which presents a specific methodology to devise optimum procedures for cleaning works of art utilizing aqueous mixtures, emulsions, solvents and solvent gels. The five day workshop has been set for the week of 15 July 2013, and will be conducted in the Conservation Labs of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Chris Stavroudis, private conservator from southern California and designer of the Modular Cleaning Program, will lead the workshop. Carol Givens, VCA Chairperson of Educational Programs, has done much to make this workshop, which has been requested by VCA member conservators for several years, finally come to being for the organization. Conservators who are interested in possibly participating in the workshop should contact Carol as soon as possible. In February a 2013 FAIC Workshop Development Grant application was submitted by the VCA requesting funds to help defray the total cost of the workshop. Notification of grant award recipients is expected to be made in late March.

The 2013 Nominating Committee will be chaired by Patricia Selinger, she being elected to the position by vote of the membership at the Members Meeting this past January. The Nominating Committee is formed each winter to develop the slate of candidates for the annual election of the Board of Directors at the May Members Meeting. At this time two positions still are open in the Nominating Committee, so any VCA members who are able to help prepare for the annual election should contact the Board via the VCA website as soon as possible. A full description of the election process and a list of the positions which are open for the 2013 election is included in this issue of the VCA Newsletter. Having been an officer of the VCA for some years now, I can state from personal experience that serving on the Board of Directors is rewarding and enjoyable. On behalf of the Board, I ask that each of you strongly consider taking a more active role in operation of the organization by becoming a Board officer or member of a Board committee. If you do have such an inclination, please communicate this desire to Patricia Selinger or a current member of the Board, to discuss which positions might suit you well.

Thank you very much.

~ *Frederick Wallace, President*

## WELCOME!

### NEW VCA MEMBERS

- Andrea Buono
- Katherine Ridgeway
- Grace Zell

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### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please note the following corrections in red:

- Beck, Nancy, [goldfingers7@gmail.com](mailto:goldfingers7@gmail.com)
- **Daddona**, Talitha
- **Garrett-Cox**, Kathy
- Ivy, William R., 2710 West **Cary** Street
- **Logue Emerson**, Heather; (804) 519-4970

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## REFRESHMENTS

### VCA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to bring a dish to share at the next VCA member's meeting at the VHS on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

If you are able to help, please contact Heather Logue Emerson ([heather.logue@hotmail.com](mailto:heather.logue@hotmail.com))

Thank you!



Visit us online at [www.virginiaconservationassociation.org](http://www.virginiaconservationassociation.org)  
Or on Facebook!  
Virginia-Conservation-Association



## VCA Member's Meeting Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

### *A Tale of Two Sofas: Belter Furniture At the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*

In 2005 the American Galleries at the VMFA were deinstalled to prepare the space and a number of the objects for reinstallation in the new McGlothlin wing. Two sofas by John Henry Belter, which have been in the collection since the 1950s, came to conservation for discussion about possible treatment. At the very minimum, the gilding needed extensive cleaning, as there had been regilding, touch-ups and even bronze paint campaigns over the years, some prior to their entering the VMFA collection. The appropriateness of the upholstery was also under examination.



Photos by Travis Fullerton©

After research, testing, consultation with specialists in furniture conservation, gilding conservation, curators and furniture historians, the decision was made to remove the gilding from one of these sofas. The considerations that led to a different treatment for each sofa and the decision to carry out an irreversible treatment of removing the gilded surface from one of them involved ethical, educational, and artistic intent issues that were not undertaken lightly. The process and final results will be discussed in this presentation.

Please join your fellow VCA members on Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Virginia Historical Society, 428 North Boulevard, for a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by a business meeting from 6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Members are to enter the VHS at the main entrance facing the VMFA. A VHS staff member will escort you to the 2nd floor Conference Room.

We will then walk next door to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 200 North Boulevard, for a presentation given at 6:45 p.m. by Kathy Gillis on the subject of two Belter sofas in the museum's permanent collection

**NOTE:** If you can only attend the presentation at the VMFA, please meet VCA members in the museum atrium near the Membership Desk between 6:35-6:45 p.m. where we will be gathering to be escorted to the presentation.

### Directions and Parking:



#### From the East and South:

- Exit I-64 West at exit 78 toward Boulevard
- Take a sharp left at Hermitage Road
- Take the first right onto Robin Hood Road
- Turn left onto Boulevard, drive 1.2 miles
- The VHS is on your right at the corner of Kensington Avenue and Boulevard.
- Free parking is in the VHS lot behind the building or on the street.

#### From the West and North

- Exit I-64/I-95 at exit 78 Boulevard
- Keep right at the fork, follow signs for VA-161S and merge onto Boulevard, Drive 1.4 miles
- The VHS is on your right at the corner of Kensington Avenue and Boulevard.
- Free parking is in the VHS lot behind the building or on the street.

# VCA BOARD

Meeting Minutes  
February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
James City County Library

## ATTENDEES:

FRED WALLACE  
NANCY BECK  
TRACY BERNABO  
VALINDA CARROLL  
SUZANNE COLLINS  
KATHY GARRET-COX  
HEATHER LOGUE EMERSON  
KARRI RICHARDSON

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## Summation of Discussion Highlights

**2013 Election Update:** Fred Wallace provided a document showing the positions to be included in the May 2013 election for the Board of Directors. The names of various VCA members to contact for possible candidacy to the Board will be sent to 2013 Nominating Committee Chairperson Patricia Selinger. Two more persons still are being sought to join Patricia in that committee.

### Modular Cleaning Program Workshop Update:

Fred reported that planning continues for the upcoming VCA Modular Cleaning Workshop. The workshop will be held 15-19 July 2013, at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, presented by Los Angeles based private paintings conservator Chris Stavroudis. Educational Programs Chairperson Carol Givens has submitted a VCA application for a FAIC Workshop Development Grant, to request financial support for the workshop. The full cost for offering the workshop is such that VCA reserve funds will be necessary to manage the expenses, even with an FAIC grant award. For this reason, it was stressed that a future Members Meeting should be devoted to sharing the workshop material as much as possible with the full, interested membership.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Nancy Beck passed out the February 2013 financial report. A bank account balance of \$10512.23 was shown. Nancy is planning to have a draft of the 2013-2014 VCA budget prepared for the April Board meeting. Therefore budget request figures for each Board office and committee should be submitted to Nancy by 28 March.

**Programs Committee:** The March Members Meeting itinerary has been settled. The reception and business meeting, beginning at 5:30 pm, will be held at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Once the business meeting has concluded everyone will proceed

to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, for a talk by VMFA conservator Kathy Gillis about treatment of the Belter Sofa. Everyone should gather in the VMFA main lobby near the Membership Desk by 6:45 pm, from where the group will be led to a meeting room for the Gillis presentation.

Suzanne Collins has planned a VCA field trip to Montpelier, the Virginia home of President James Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison. The trip is to occur on Friday 19 April 2013. VCA members, friends and family will be treated to a tour of the Madison mansion and a talk by Architect and Historian Mark R. Wenger, who will journey from Williamsburg. The cost for the tour program will be \$10 per person. A prepared lunch from nearby Stonefire Kitchen will be available at additional cost. Suzanne asked that the VCA provide Wenger an honorarium and reimbursement for his travel expenses, which the Board approved. Registration forms for the field trip will be provided to the membership soon.

Karri Richardson will be conducting a survey of all VCA members to find out information about the kinds of topics and programs that would be of most interest to the membership for possible future VCA events. The survey form will be included in the March 2013 Newsletter and also given out at the 2013 March Members Meeting.

**Publications Committee:** Tracy will begin including the names of new VCA members in each issue of the Newsletter, to inform the membership about persons who have joined and to welcome them to our organization. An errata document will be produced as an addendum to the 2013 VCA Directory, to correct mistakes that have been identified. The errata document will be sent to the full membership in the near future.

**Web Management Update:** Valinda Carroll requested that any information that is to be provided to the full membership be sent to her immediately, to help insure that the information is posted to the VCA website and Facebook page as applicable while it still is relevant. Valinda soon is to receive the current member roster data from Membership Chairperson Tom Snyder, with which she will finalize the prototype of the VCA Professional Services Online Directory. The VCA now is listed on the website of the AIC, in the Regional Associations section of the Resource Center. The listing includes a description of the VCA and a hyperlink to the VCA website.



• 2013-2014 VCA •  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS**

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**PRELIMINARY NOTICE**

The 2013 Nominating Committee Chairperson is Patricia Selinger, who was elected to the Committee by vote of the membership at the January 2013 Members' Meeting. The Nominating Committee is tasked with composing a slate of candidates for the 2013 election of the Board of Directors. Two additional members currently are sought to fill the Nominating Committee. Any VCA member in good standing is eligible to serve on the Committee. VCA Members interested in the Nominating Committee should send an email to the VCA website e-dress: [info@virginiaconservationassociation.org](mailto:info@virginiaconservationassociation.org), or directly make contact with one of the Board.

Positions open for the election are listed below. Incumbents who have offered to stand for re-election to a second term are listed with their respective offices. Any member desiring to join the Board is encouraged to run for office. This includes those offices for which an incumbent will be on the ballot, as contested elections are welcomed.

Current VCA Members who are interested in candidacy for a particular open position should contact the Nominating Committee Chairperson Patricia Selinger. Contact data for Patricia Selinger can be obtained from the VCA Directory or by request via the VCA website.

For a description of the Board positions, duties and responsibilities refer to Article 5 of the VCA Bylaws (included in the VCA Directory and available at the VCA website).

Note: as stated in the Bylaws (Article 5; Section D; line 3), no member shall hold more than one office at a time.

The election will be held at the 2013 May Members Meeting, on 23 May at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center in Newport News, Virginia. Election ballots will be provided in advance of the meeting. Proxy / absentee ballot voting is acceptable.

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**VCA OFFICER AND COMMITTEE  
CHAIR POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION**

**President** (Fred Wallace – outgoing, per the bylaws, after two consecutive two year terms / 4 years total)

**Vice President** (Heather Logue Emerson - outgoing, per the bylaws, after two consecutive terms / 3 yrs total)

**Secretary** (Chris Wilkins - outgoing, per the bylaws, after two consecutive terms / 3 years total)

**Co-Chair, Publications Committee** (Tracy Bernabo - outgoing, after two consecutive two year terms / 4 years total)

**Co-Chair, Programs Committee** (Suzanne Collins - outgoing after one term of 2 years)

**Chair, Refreshments Committee** - open for the start of an initial two year term

**Chair, Bylaws Committee** – Mark Lewis, incumbent Chair, will stand for re-election

**Chair, Outreach Committee** – Will Hoffman, incumbent Chair, will stand for re-election

**Co-Chairperson, Publications** - Charles Phillips, incumbent Co-Chair, will stand for re-election



## VCA Members' Meeting

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Charles Phillips, AIA, AIC-PA  
Anastylosis with Glass Fill:**

**Using Glass as both a Form Filler and Structure in  
Reassembly of Ruins**

On January 24, VCA Members gathered at Maymont for a presentation by architectural conservator, Charles Phillips regarding the possibilities of the use of glass as infill in the reconstruction of architectural ruins. His case-in-point was the conservation and preservation of the remains of Menokin, a 1769 home built near Warsaw for signer of the Declaration of Independence, Francis Lightfoot Lee. Phillips, together with architectural conservator John Lee and engineer Tim Macfarlane of GLASS Limited, London, explored ways in which the Menokin Foundation could reconstruct Menokin using the extant historic materials and structural glass infill.

In an effort to preserve the ruins, Menokin Foundation constructed a metal carport like canopy over the ruins. However, they discovered that while wind forced rain onto the ruins, the metal roof prevented the sun from completely drying the moisture, thus there was an increase in mold growth. Consequently, Menokin Foundation needed a way to enclose and protect the ruins that would also allow for environmental controls.

Phillips, Lee and Macfarlane advocated using structural glass infill as a way to preserve and, at the same time, reconstruct Menokin. Phillips pointed out that most people don't realize that glass is five to seven times stronger than wood and on the same magnitude as steel. Thus the use of glass infill to reconstruct Menokin could result in a structure as strong as the

original, while at the same time providing an array of interpretative possibilities.

Examples of modern structural glass buildings include the Apple Store on Fifth Avenue in New York City and the University of Texas Archives buildings. As applied to a historic building, structural glass infill would allow for the placement of glass in the original wall and floor locations which in turn allows for the viewer to gain a correct sense of the mass and scale of the original building. Because of the strength of glass infill, original remnants of walls, floor joists, windows, door jambs, and other interior details could be used in their original settings. On an interpretative level, glass infill would enable the viewer to see that Menokin is a ruin, but at the same time to understand what it had been when it was originally constructed. It would also allow the viewer to see how the building was constructed and explore historic construction techniques.

Phillips' first job at Menokin was the sorting of the various architectural fragments of Menokin. Most of the interior elements had been removed and stored off-site for decades, then returned to Menokin after the creation of the Menokin Foundation. After sorting through the inventory and reconstructing what they could, the team set to work on finding successful methods of attaching the glass infill to the existing ruins and remnants to make a viable structure.

Phillips and his team were able to experiment with glass infill techniques on one two-story corner area of Menokin. This area of the house still had some floors and plaster on the walls, thus it was a priority for preservation. They used Plexiglas for the wall supported by interior plywood "fins" which in turn were supported by concrete footings. Scale images of windows and stringcourses were illustrated in translucent vinyl film.

Though this experiment in glass infill was successful, Menokin ultimately chose a different course for the preservation of their site. Nevertheless, Phillips and his team continue to seek other avenues for structural glass infill. Phillips cited the future possibility of a glass infill project for the reconstruction of the La Belle, a 17<sup>th</sup> century ship commanded by Robert de la Salle that sank in Matagorda Bay. Recently excavated, the remains of the ship are destined for the Texas State History Museum. The immediate plan calls for traditional interpretation methods of the ship but glass infill was not ruled out as a future option.

~ Karri Richardson, Programs

**Business Portion of January 17<sup>th</sup> 2013  
Members' Meeting ~ Maymont**



VCA President, Fred Wallace, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Heather Logue Emerson, VCA Vice-President, for coordinating refreshments for the meeting. He also thanked Maymont for hosting the VCA January Members' meeting.

Nancy Beck, VCA Treasurer, notified the membership that the VCA had an income of \$1,185 and expenditure of \$783.94 giving the VCA a total balance of \$10,482.59.

Carol Givens, Education Committee Chair, announced that the Chris Stavroudis Modular Cleaning Program Workshop will be held July 15-19 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The workshop is limited to 14 people. The fee will be \$500 for AIC members and \$750 for non-AIC members. Carol can be contacted through email if you have any questions regarding the modular cleaning program. Fred suggested that if any member has an idea for other workshops they should also contact Carol.

Fred announced that the next VCA meeting will be March 21 at the VMFA where Kathy Gillis will be presenting the conservation of the Belter Sofa.

Valinda Carroll, VCA Web Management Chair, announced that Patricia Selinger had been suggested to take the position of one of three on the nominating committee for the next election of board members. The attending VCA membership accepted Patricia through a verbal vote as the first member of the nominating committee. Fred asked that those who know of someone they would like to nominate to the committee or to fill vacancies on the board to please let Patricia know. Patricia can be contacted through the website email.

- *Chris Wilkins, Secretary*

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## **FROM THE TREASURER**

**CURRENT TREASURY BALANCE:**  
As of February 21, 2013 - \$10,379.05

**Attention VCA Board Members:**  
Please submit your 2013/2014 Budget Projections to  
Nancy Beck, VCA Treasurer by March 28, 2013.  
[goldfingers7@gmail.com](mailto:goldfingers7@gmail.com)

~ *Nancy Beck, VCA Treasurer*

# **VCA Field Trip**

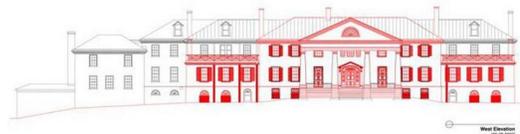
## **FRIDAY, APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**



### **JAMES MADISON'S MONTPELIER ORANGE, VA**

*The Forensics Behind  
The Architectural Restoration*

Montpelier was home to James Madison, fourth President of the United States and Father of the Constitution. It was sold to the du Pont family in 1901 undergoing extensive changes and additions. When Mrs. Marion du Pont Scott donated the house to the National Trust she requested it be restored and opened to the public as an historic shrine to James Madison.



Please join us on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> to hear Mark R. Wenger, lead architectural historian, discuss what is considered one of the most extensive architectural research and documentation projects in American history. In addition to Mark's presentation, we will be given a special tour of the house AND a tour of the Archeology lab by Montpelier's Director of Archaeology, Matthew B. Reeves, and Curator of Archaeology Collections, Kimberly Trickett.

James Madison's Montpelier is 75 miles from Richmond and 145 miles from Newport News. Cost per person will be \$10.00, with additional cost for box lunches. **A registration form and full schedule with lunch selections is forthcoming. Mark your calendars!**

## VCA Programs Questionnaire

Which of the following programs have you attended during the 2012-2013 program year?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Scott Nolley – Conservation & Curatorial Perspectives
- \_\_\_\_\_ James Janowski, PhD – Bamiyan’s Buddhas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Charles Phillips – Anastylosis and Glass Infill
- \_\_\_\_\_ Kathy Gillis – Belter Sofa at the VMFA

Do you have any general comments or feedback about the program content or themes so far this year?

Considering choice of future programs, how would you rank your interest (1-4)?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Technical aspects of conservation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Philosophy and/or interpretation of conservation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Case studies in conservation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any program and/or field trip suggestions for the 2013-2014 program year?

THANK YOU!!!

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Please bring this form with you to the next VCA meeting or mail to:  
The Virginia Conservation Association, P.O. Box 4314, Richmond, VA 23220



# The Virginia Conservation Association

## 2013 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? \_\_\_\_

**Practicing Conservators / Consultant Conservators Only:**

Would you like your contact information included in our website 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 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, 2012 for inclusion in the 2013 VCA Directory. A \$5.00 late fee may apply to applications from renewing members received after this deadline. If you require an invoice or receipt for your records, please photocopy this form before sending. Note: If you are a renewing member mailing this form after the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 deadline, please apply the \$5.00 late fee to your payment. Thank you.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to the Virginia Conservation Association to the following address:

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

## Summer 2013 Conservation Internship CHRYSLER MUSEUM OF ART

**Ten-week Internship, 40 hours/week**

To inspect, wash, and clean glass from the museum collection in preparation for its reinstallation. Will also be engaged in inspecting and re-housing works of art on paper from the museum's collection of photographs, prints and drawings. Will be assessing and making improvements to mounts, backings, or other minor deficiencies. Working under the guidance of the museum's conservator.



Must be well organized, able to work carefully, independently, and follow instructions. Preference will be given to students who have met the prerequisites and are applying to graduate training programs. Experience in conservation, art handling and picture framing preferred.

The internship provides a stipend of \$5,000. Qualified candidates should respond with a cover letter and resume no later than March 15th, 2013.

Send application to: Mark Lewis, Conservator  
Chrysler Museum of Art  
245 West Olney Road  
Norfolk, VA. 23510  
[mlewis@chrysler.org](mailto:mlewis@chrysler.org)

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

[www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org](http://www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org)



**Next VCA Members Meeting**  
**March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, 5:30 p.m.**  
**The Virginia Historical Society\***  
428 North Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220

*\*Followed by a visit to the* **VMFA**  
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS