



NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4314, Richmond, VA 23220

August 2013 ~ Volume 23, No. 1

From the President

Welcome to the 2013 – 2014 VCA Program Season. I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer. As your new president, I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to serve you as well as help to further the purposes of the VCA. We also have some new officers and committee chairs this year who are committed to bringing you all some interesting programs and events. Please check the current roster of the VCA Board Officers and Committee Chairs in the newsletter.

Our first Member's Meeting is scheduled for September 19th and will begin as it did last year at Virginia House. We are honored to have Lisa Isbell as our guest lecturer. Following an impressive career and education as a paper conservator, Lisa is the Senior Conservator at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland.

Her talk will focus on the treatment of records salvaged from a World War II shipwreck, the *USS Peary*, which was sunk in a Japanese air attack. After salvaging the ship and declassification of the ship's records some 65 years later, the conservation of these papers began at the Conservation Lab at the National Archives. Lisa's presentation - "UP FROM THE DEEP: Treating Records Salvaged from a World War II Shipwreck," will highlight the treatment

VCA Members' Meeting
Thursday, September 19th
5:30 p.m.



Photo credit: Lisa Hall Isbell

THE VIRGINIA HOUSE
4301 Sulgrave Road, Richmond



***“Up from the Deep:
Treating Records Salvaged
from a World War II Shipwreck”***

***Lisa Hall Isbell, Senior Paper Conservator
National Archives & Records Administration***

See Information on Page 3

Carpooling is encouraged

REFRESHMENTS NEEDED

Please volunteer to bring a dish

Contact Marla Curtis

mncurtis@verizon.net

and the decision-making process involved as well as some of the discoveries made during the conservation process.

The amount of practical knowledge, professionalism, skill and scholarly wisdom latent within our association is truly impressive. I can attest to this as I was one of those fortunate to have attended the Modular Cleaning Program Workshop offered over the summer. The detail of organization, planning, co-ordination and collaboration by so many was a testament to the dedication and talent of our membership. I'd like to offer a special thank you from all of us to Carol Givens who spearheaded the project, as well as Sheila Payaqui and Kathy Gillis of the VMFA who worked tirelessly to provide a program of the highest integrity.

As the new VCA season begins, I'd like to encourage you to offer your comments and ideas on making the VCA as interesting, relevant, and rewarding as it can be. Looking forward to seeing you at the September meeting!

Best regards,
Rick Vogt

Visit us online at

www.virginiaconservationassociation.org



Or on Facebook:
[Virginia-Conservation-Association](https://www.facebook.com/Virginia-Conservation-Association)

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for the VAM annual meeting in Alexandria Hilton Mark Center in March 15-18, 2014. The theme this year is "Opening Doors."

VCA Members are encouraged to present papers and participate.



2013-2014 VCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President: Rick Vogt
Vice President: Marla Curtis
Secretary: Beth Fulton
Treasurer: Nancy Beck

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bylaws: Mark Lewis
Disaster Response: Kathy Garrett-Cox
Education: Carol Givens
Membership: Thomas Snyder
Outreach: Will Hoffman
Programs: Karri Richardson
Co-chair, Mary Scott Andrews
Publications: Patricia Selinger
Web Management: Valinda Carroll



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO
PLAN THE HOLIDAY PARTY**

AIC Emergency Committee Seeks New Members

Term of service for Associates, Professional Associates, or Fellows is 3 years.

Term of service for students (1-2 positions) is 2 years, with the possibility to renew for an additional year.

Monthly meetings online are required.

Send a statement describing your interest along with your resume to claire.e.walker@gmail.com.

VCA Members' Meeting Thursday, September 19, 2013

“Up from the Deep: Treating Records Salvaged from a World War II Shipwreck”

by Lisa Hall Isbell

Senior Conservator

National Archives & Records Administration

Virginia House

Richmond, Virginia

In February 1942, the *USS Peary* was sunk in a Japanese air attack. After seventeen years, the ship was salvaged and the contents of its publications safe were placed in storage. After another forty-eight years, these records were delivered by National Declassification Center staff to the Conservation Lab at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for treatment.

As received into the lab, most of the records were blocked and encased in dried mud. The archivists requested that the records be treated to the point that they could arrange and describe them. Over months, the conservation treatment revealed that the publications safe was filled with British, Dutch and American intelligence materials – nautical charts and documentation of Japanese ship movements – but mainly code books.

This presentation will highlight the treatment and the decision-making process involved as well as some of the discoveries made.

NARA's nationally recognized preservation experts respond to requests for assistance from all federal agencies and institutions. The American Institute for Conservation honored the National Archives in 2004 with the Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections, noting their work with advanced technologies as well as outreach efforts.

Lisa Isbell has been a paper conservator at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, since 2004. She previously was a conservator with the Conservation Unit at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and worked in private practice. She has been a VCA member for many years.

Lisa received her M.A. in Art Conservation from Buffalo State College, with training from both the

Cooperstown and Buffalo programs. She served her internship at the Fogg in the Harvard University Art Museums, with additional study under Christa Gaehde in Arlington, Massachusetts.

Prior to entering the field of conservation, Lisa taught art history at Florida State University, where she also curated the Visual Resources Collection. She earned an M.A. in Art History from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and an A.B. in Studio Art from Sweet Briar College in Virginia.



Directions and Parking:

Traveling I-64 /I-95:

- Exit I-64 at I-195 South toward Powhite Parkway
- Exit I-195 South at VA-147/Cary St/Grove
- Turn right onto Cary Street
- Turn left onto Canterbury Road at traffic light (Malvern Ave on the right) Follow signs, keeping right around to Sulgrave Road
- Free parking is on the street. Do not block any access points and follow signage.

From Chippenham Parkway:

- Exit Chippenham Parkway at VA-76 North/Powhite Pkwy toll road
- Exit Douglasdale Road/McCloy Street ; keep right to turn right onto Douglasdale
- Then turn at first right onto Portland Place; second left onto Dover Road
- Left on Canterbury which follows to the right to become Sulgrave

Virginia House is an English manor house that was dismantled and rebuilt in the Windsor Farms neighborhood, Richmond, Virginia, in 1925. The Virginia Historical Society now owns and operates Virginia House.

VCA BOARD

Meeting Minutes
August 28th, 2013
James City County Library

ATTENDEES:

RICK VOGT
MARLA CURTIS
NANCY BECK
VALINDA CARROLL
KATHY GARRET-COX
KARRI RICHARDSON
PATRICIA SELINGER
TOM SNYDER
CAROL GIVENS
WILL HOFFMAN

Announcements:

Rick welcomed Board Members to the new fiscal year.

Beth Fulton was unable to attend; Patricia took minutes.

Kathy asked for speakers who will talk about their experience with disasters to the local MEST group.

Christina Newton was recently appointed assistant director at VAM. She has a strong interest in statewide disaster planning which may present more opportunities for VCA.

Next Board Meeting is set for Monday, October 21, 6pm.

Refreshments

Refreshments for the upcoming meeting need to be resolved. No one could be persuaded to serve on the Refreshments Committee and no member has stepped up to volunteer. However, refreshments are still desired so discussion centered on who would take on the responsibility for the September meeting. Catering is too expensive, though it may be considered for special meetings/events. Carol and Rick agreed to plan and pick up take out trays and others would contribute a dish. Will agreed to draft a message to members. Marla, Valinda, Will, and Tom will coordinate for the November meeting.

Report of the Treasurer: Nancy provided a report detailing the 2012-2013 year and another for August 2013. VCA ended the year with a balance of \$12,275.89. As of August 28, VCA has a balance of \$12,315.89. VCA earned a profit of \$2224.76 on the MCP workshop. The Board voted to split a \$1000 donation between FAIC and the FAIC George Stout Fund. Nancy will look in to money market accounts and other investment tools for a portion of the money.

Nancy obtained Sales Tax Exempt status for VCA. Anyone purchasing anything, including food, for VCA does not have to pay sales tax. Nancy can provide the form or tell you if it's on file where you will do business.

Publications Committee: Official deadlines for the newsletters this year are August 22, October 31, December 26, February 20, & April 17 for publication one month prior to member meetings.

Programs Committee: In September, Lisa Hall Isbell will speak on salvaging records from shipwrecks. The Board approved money to pay for her mileage and other expenses

while she is in Richmond. Karri will coordinate visits to VMFA and other conservation labs if Lisa desires. The November program will feature two projects: Pam Young on the conservation of a watercolor print and John Watson on conservation of musical instruments. Location is not yet firmly decided; there is tentative approval for having it at the DeWitt Wallace Gallery.

People are working connections for a Holiday Party venue and it will be decided at the next meeting. Volunteers are needed.

Karri received zero response to her email on presenting unusual treatments but she is sure 4-5 people are out there willing to talk for 10 minutes about a frustrating or unusual project. She hopes to have that program ready for January and have it in Richmond. Mary Andrews and Sandy Jensen putting together a program at Gari Melcher's Museum in Fredericksburg.

Karri and Mary welcome all leads and ideas.

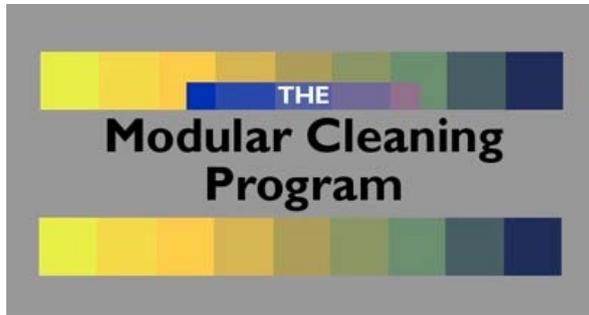
Education Committee: The Modular Cleaning Program was an incredible experience for everyone. Carol will show slides during the social portion of the September meeting and will talk about it briefly at the members meeting.

Ideas for a program next year are gathering momentum. Program ideas seem geared toward smaller, focused groups interested in framing, gilding, boxes, but nothing that would appeal to a large group. The timing in the summer worked well. The idea of having education workshops at the VAM meeting was discussed.

Membership Committee: Dues are due! The form is included in this newsletter. Last year's membership finished at 83. Approximately 30-40 former members are still practicing in the city but do not renew membership. Outreach efforts were discussed and all agreed to invite former members to the Holiday Party. Rick is interested in data about our membership such as where they live, type of work, etc.

Web Management: Valinda renewed the domain name. The web host, Acorn Host, will be renewed in September. She asked for pictures from events and content for the website and Facebook page.

Outreach Committee: Rick hopes to attract college students to the conservation field with panel presentations by conservators who will talk about their work and how to enter the field. Since conservation work out of the mainstream curriculum, students may be unaware of the field. He would like to use VCU as a pilot. UR, UVA, CNU are other possibilities. Promoting members for university lecture series is another way to communicate with students; the Architectural Symposium at VCU could be explored. An Angel Project might bring additional interest. Coordinating such a project in connection with the VAM annual meeting in Alexandria in March will be explored.



Instructor Chris Stavroudis

July 15-19, 2013

Many Thanks to These Partners:

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA)

Virginia Conservation Association (VCA)

and

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation
(FAIC) Development Grant



Chris Stavroudis is a conservator in private practice in West Hollywood, California. He designed the MCP with Richard Wolbers, professor of Art Conservation at the Winterthur/University of Delaware Graduate Program in Art Conservation, which codifies the science of aqueous cleaning and solvent theories into computerized protocols, now making it possible to create customized cleaning solutions for works of art.

The class was set- up into two parts: A fast moving, detail oriented lecture session explaining the chemistry behind the theories of cleaning with Emulsions, Solvent Gels, Aqueous Solutions (buffered & unbuffered), and new finds like Premulin- a new Polymeric Stabilized Emulsion.



Lab sessions involved making simple and complex stock solutions that were tested on various objects. The testing parameters were entered to the MCP Computer Database, which guides the conservator in creating more optimized cleaning solutions, for more precise treatments.



21 conservators worked hard during the 5-day workshop



Special thanks to Sheila Payaqui & Carol Givens for coordinating the workshop!



Photo by Patricia Selinger

VCA Members' Meeting

May 16, 2013

Andrew Baxter

**“EXTREME CONSERVATION:
My Seventeen-Year Journey with Elder
Anderson Johnson’s Faith Mission”**

Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center
Newport News, Virginia

Anderson Johnson was just eight years old when he had a vision of angels calling him to follow the Lord while working in a cornfield. He was baptized by Bishop C.M. “Sweet Daddy” Grace at age twelve and then began his traveling ministry on the gospel circuit. While spreading God’s word he taught himself to play the piano, guitar and draw. Then, in 1954 Anderson believed God instructed him to settle in Newport News, Virginia. He dedicated his home as a faith mission chapel. To attract people into his ministry, Anderson played blues guitar and painted nearly every inch of the house with painted images. He became an internationally recognized outsider artist. When

Johnson’s home was scheduled to be demolished to make way for urban renewal in 1987, the City Council allocated money to save his visual art.

Andrew Baxter, renowned monument and metals conservator, presented a compelling program describing his work in removing Elder Johnson’s art from his home and preparing it for storage. “It’s not really what I do,” he said initially and resisted getting involved. He had never done anything remotely like this project. However, Johnson’s angels must have been watching because somehow Andrew was persuaded to take on the job. Baxter’s crew removed the murals painted directly on the walls, ingeniously coaxing the crumbling sheetrock walls off the studs without damaging the art. Some paintings were attached to plywood with construction adhesive and small stainless steel screws. The delaminated wallpaper needed careful analysis and Baxter determined that it could be reattached to wallboard with Rhoplex™ acrylic emulsion. He also used cellulose patching compound and in-painted with acrylic mediums and dry pigments to fill losses.

Elder Johnson assisted on site in the storage warehouse with large areas of in-painting. Baxter challenged him when he wanted to add flowers and other elements but Johnson insisted “I always wanted a fence here...” The restored and remounted murals miraculously survived 17 years of non-climate controlled storage, a testament to the excellent conservation plan proposed by Steve Ray, a conservator with Colonial Williamsburg who sadly passed away before he could see the finished installation. Mary Kayaselcuk provided tireless and dedicated stewardship of the murals before, during, and after installation at the Arts Center.

“Working in the Spirit: The Visionary Art & Life of Elder Anderson Johnson” is the crowning jewel of The Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center. Johnson’s work has been faithfully recreated in a 2,500 square foot exhibition space.



Photo by Stephen Salpukas

~ Suzanne Collins, Programs

**Business Portion of May 16, 2013
Members' Meeting ~ Downing-Gross
Cultural Arts Center, Newport News, Virginia**



Fred Wallace (VCA President) thanked Heather Logue-Emerson, Valinda Carroll, Kathy Garrett-Cox, and Suzanne Collins for providing refreshments for the meeting. Fred also welcomed new attendees to the meeting.

Fred presented the treasurers report on behalf to Nancy Beck (VCA Treasurer) who was not able to attend the meeting. Fred reported a current VCA balance of \$20,923.33 but informed the membership that most of this money represents income from the recent fieldtrip and the upcoming modular cleaning workshop that has yet to be paid out. Fred introduced the new budget proposal for the upcoming year. Differences from last year include a decrease in refreshments and an increase in programs and outreach to provide money for honorariums and travel expenses. The VCA has also started a new reciprocal membership with Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) where they provide the VCA with one VAM membership and the VCA provides five memberships to VAM. The attending members unanimously agreed to accept the proposed budget.

Karri Richardson (VCA Programs Co-Chair) reported on the survey forms presented at the last members' meeting in March. From the suggestions people gave on the form, two possible ideas were presented. Possibly in March a presentation currently entitled "What Were They Thinking" will consist of four or five people presenting five to ten minute talks on interesting conservation solutions. Another members' meeting may consist of a Colonial Williamsburg 'sampler'.

Fred presented the education chair report on behalf of Carol Givens (VCA Education Chair). The modular cleaning workshop to be presented by Chris Stavroudis this summer has reached maximum capacity with a waiting list. Carol wanted to thank all of those who helped with setup of the workshop. There will be two coffee breaks during the workshop that are open for all members of the VCA. These will be held at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on Wednesday, July 17, at 10 a.m. and at the Virginia Historical Society on Thursday, July 18, at 10 a.m.

Valinda Carroll (VCA Web Management Chair) informed the members that the online conservation

directory in effect. Those who are not listed but want to be should contact Tom Snyder (VCA Membership Chair). Fred stated that other conservation associations list their entire membership online and asked those members who are interested in this idea to contact the VCA board.

Patricia Selinger (VCA Nomination Committee Chair) presided over the election of new VCA board members. All positions were uncontested. The position of refreshments chair has been left vacant. The results are as follows: Rick Vogt - President, Marla Curtis - Vice President, Beth Fulton - Secretary, Mary Scott Andrews - Programs Co-Chair, Patricia Selinger - Publications Chair, Mark Lewis (incumbent) - Bylaws Chair, and Will Hoffman (incumbent) - Outreach Chair. A round of applause was given to both the newly elected board members and the outgoing board members.

I thank you, the membership, for allowing me to serve the VCA in the capacity of secretary for the past three years and wish you all the best of luck in the future.

~ Chris Wilkins, Secretary

Chris Wilkins returned to
Cardiff University this summer.

Best wishes, Chris!

**UPDATE
FROM THE TREASURER**

TREASURY BALANCE:
As of August 28, 2013 - \$12,315.89

**PAY ANNUAL DUES BY
NOVEMBER 15, 2013**

~ Nancy Beck, VCA Treasurer

Connecting to Collections

announces three new courses available online this fall, all free:

	Fundraising for Collections Care	September 23, 25 & October 1, 3, 7 (5 sessions)
	Caring for Audiovisual Materials	October 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 (5 sessions)
	Outreach Activities for Collections Care	November 4, 6, 12, 14 (4 sessions)

All sessions begin online at 2pm. See www.connectingtocollections.org for registration.

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

www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org



Next VCA Members' Meeting
September 19, 2013, 5:30 p.m.
Virginia House
4301 Sulgrave Road, Richmond, VA

The Virginia Conservation Association

2013-14 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: _____

Website URL: _____

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, 2013 for inclusion in the 2013-14 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 15th, 2013 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