

Virginia

Conservation Association

January 2019 Vol. 28 Issue 3



The Virginia Conservation Association 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 issue and developments in the field.



Open House!

The November 14th open house at the Mariners' Museum and Park was a great event! See the meeting summary for more images of the evening and the new conservation space.

Letter From the President



Kate Ridgway, VCA President

I hope everyone is having an amazing holiday season! I'm not sure how others feel, but I am not a fan of social media. It makes me tired just to think of it. Due to a new format for the website at my work, I now have to help write a blog. (You should check it out at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/spotlight-on-dhr-collections/> ! Is what our PR person would want me to say right now.) As much as I feel like social media is taking over the world, it is a great tool for conservators and other museum professionals to teach the public about what we do, highlight projects, and just get the word out there in general.

I don't Tweet, I barely check my Facebook page, I'm not sure how Instagram or SnapChat work. I see this as an opportunity to let a younger generation teach me for once! I have so much knowledge to give them, but sometimes I forget that teaching and learning go in both directions. It also helps them with their confidence when it comes to their work in the profession and they can practice their writing skills. This is really a win-win situation.

We at DHR have a new conservator, Chelsea Blake, who is working here as a part of a National Maritime Heritage Grant from the National Park Service. Part of the requirements of this grant is outreach. She has all of these ideas for outreach that include Instagram and other social media outlets. So I guess this year, I will be diving into the deep end with that sort of activity and learning a lot. And working on my patience when it comes to this kind of outreach.

Happy New Year!

January Meeting: Tenacity Thursday, January 24th at 5:30 PM



Image Courtesy of Jamestown Settlement

Our next meeting will take place towards the end of January at Jamestown Settlement and will focus on their new exhibition 'Tenacity: Women in Jamestown and early Virginia'. 'Tenacity' explores little-known, captivating personal stories of real women in Jamestown and the early Virginia colony and their tenacious spirit and impact on a fledgling society.

Along with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's collection of 17th-century objects, the special exhibition features more than 60 artifacts on loan from 22 international and national institutions, including the Victoria & Albert Museum, Museum of London, Master and Fellows of Magdalene College Cambridge, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, National Archives, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

This VCA program offers the opportunity to view the exhibition and will feature presentations from curators and conservators who were involved in bringing it to fruition.

Further information will soon be emailed out to the membership.

Website Workshop

When: Saturday, March 2
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Virginia Department
of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Ave
Richmond, VA 23221

The VCA will be presenting a workshop for members interested in learning the ins and outs of website management. Presenter Dave Huckabay will be sharing his experience with attendees about what makes a good website, options for website management, and what to do when things aren't working quite right. A flyer containing further information is available at the end of the newsletter, before the membership application. This workshop is free of charge.

Helping Hands Outreach

When: February 2019

Where: Virginia Department
of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Ave
Richmond, VA 23221

The first Helping Hands event is scheduled for February 2019. The event aims to rehouse a large volume of archives held by Petersburg Preservation Group. On site training will be provided so that VCA members of all backgrounds can participate. The event will be held at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on a Saturday. Firm details will be sent in an email in the coming weeks.



Pre-program Internship at the National Museum of African Art

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art is the only facility in the United States dedicated exclusively to the exhibition and preservation of Africa's traditional and contemporary arts. With generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the NMAfA is offering a paid pre-program internship for individuals preparing to apply to a graduate-level training program in art conservation. As part of an initiative to promote diversity in the field and conservation training, the program will offer the opportunity to gain broad experience in multiple specialties, which may include objects, textiles, paper or paintings.

Term(s): The 6-month, 40 hours/week internship will commence in Fall 2019

Stipend: \$600/week stipend plus additional funds to help defray the cost of travel to Washington DC.

Deadline: March 15, 2019

Contact Information: Dana Moffett,
moffettd@si.edu

For more information on the program and how to apply, visit the website below:

<https://www.smithsonianofi.com/blog/2018/12/07/pre-program-internship-in-conservation-at-the-smithsonians-national-museum-of-african-art-2/>

VCA Student Scholarship



The Virginia Conservation Association will offer two annual scholarships of \$250 each to be used towards costs associated with furthering education in the field. Use of funds may include conference or class fees or another related use as approved by the Board.

Applicants must be VCA Student Members to apply. Applications will be accepted throughout the year and will be approved or declined by the VCA Board.

Successful applicants will be notified within one week of the Board meeting and presented a check within the following 30 days. As a condition of the award, recipients will be required to summarize their experience as an article for an issue of the VCA newsletter.

Applicants are welcome to apply again for consideration in the next year.

See pg. 8 for application information.

2019 Virginia Museum Advocacy Day

When: *February 7, 2019*

Where: Virginia State Capitol
1000 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219
United States

Join the Virginia Association of Museums to visit legislators at the General Assembly, get training in museum advocacy, and celebrate with an evening reception. Advocacy is an important exercise for all of us, to make sure that legislators understand how important museums are to their communities, and to education in the Commonwealth. Whether this is your first Advocacy Day, or you are an expert, please plan to join us!

Registration is open until 2/1/2019 at 12:00 AM

Full schedule:

11:00 AM Meet at State Capitol to be recognized in the House and Senate chambers

12:00 PM Join us for lunch and training in advocacy basics at the Library of Virginia

2:00 PM Visits to legislators

5:00 PM Legislative reception at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture to honor the winners of the Top 10 Endangered Artifacts

For further information and a link to register visit the website below:
<https://www.vamuseums.org/events/2019-virginia-museum-advocacy-day>

November 14, 2018
The Mariners' Museum and Park
Conservation Department Open House

The November meeting was an informal affair, allowing members to catch up with each other and meet new members. We started with a lovely Indian spread (Great idea Tom!) and then the proposed changes to the bylaws were approved by the membership. Afterwards we divided into groups to tour the lab spaces.



Hannah Fleming, Material Cultural Specialist, demonstrates the potential of photogrammetry.

Laurie King, Assistant Archaeological Conservator, shows off the USS Monitor gun turret in its 90,000 gallon desalination tank.



Molly McGath, Analytical Chemist, has been testing manganese nodules to better understand their composition prior to exhibition with a model of research vessel Prospector, used for deep sea mining operations.

This medical chest is a new acquisition and arrived with most of its contents. Paige Schmidt, Assistant Objects Conservator, talks about chemical safety in collections and how the Museum handles unusual objects.



The paper lab is coming together! Assistant Paper Conservator Emilie Duncan discusses this fun paper boat she's preparing for an upcoming toy exhibit.

Student Scholarship (from page 4)

Suggestions for applications:
Applications should include a brief, one-page explanation of their proposed use of funds including information on the program, conference, class etc. Applicants should also explain their interest in conservation and how the VCA scholarship will benefit him or her in pursuing a career in conservation or a directly related field. Expenditures are welcomed but not necessary.

Applications can be mailed to the VCA, P.O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221 or e-mailed directly to the current Education Committee Chairs.

2018-2019 VCA Board Members

This year, the VCA has many returning as well as new board members. Below are their names, positions, and emails if ever they need to be reached. Thank you again to the board for your service!

Kate Ridgway	President	katyridgway@gmail.com
Kate McEnroe	Vice President	katelmmcenroe@gmail.com
Deborah Pellman	Secretary	mpellmann@mindspring.com
Christi Barranger	Treasurer	gab1118@aol.com
Terri Blanchette	Education Co-Chair	Tsbhistory@gmail.com
Bob Self	Education Co-Chair	vabobcat@aol.com
Suzanne Collins	Membership Co-Chair	marion7@me.com
Paige Schmidt	Membership Co-Chair	paigelschmidt1@gmail.com
Casey Mallinckrodt	Outreach	casey.mallinckrodt@vmfa.museum
Maeve Bristow	Programs Co-Chair	maevebristow@gmail.com
Lesley Haines	Programs Co-Chair	lchaines86@gmail.com
Allison Kelley	Publications	allison.kelley22@gmail.com
Lorraine Brevig	Web Management	hisstah@aol.com
Jane Hohensee	Refreshments Co-Chair	hohenj@cox.net
Tom Snyder	Refreshments Co-Chair	thomassnyder2@cox.net



Thinking About Having Your Own Website or Blog – BUT –

Confused by all the Web “Mumbo Jumbo”?

**Join VCA Members for a FREE half-day workshop
get straight answers to these questions -- and MORE!**

- 1. Do I really need a website?*
- 2. What is the difference between a website and a blog?*
- 3. What “parts” does a solid website require?*
- 4. FAQ about hosting, domains, and content management systems
(e.g., Wordpress, Squarespace, etc.)*
- 5. How hard is it to do?*
- 6. Should I do it myself?*
- 7. What are the costs if I do it myself or if someone does it for me?*
- 8. What if my website breaks?*

Saturday, March 2, 2019 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Presenter: Dave Huckabay of West End Web Work

More than 20-years of expertise designing and supporting websites and blogs

At: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Ave, Richmond, VA 23221

Join us and ensure your website/blog project is a SUCCESS!!

RSVP to: Terri Blanchette - tsbhistory@gmail.com

The Virginia Conservation Association
Membership Application & Dues Payment

*Required

*Date: _____, 20_____

* _____ New * _____ Renewing

*(Name as you would like for it to appear in the Directory-Please indicate if you do **not** want to be included in the Directory)*

*First _____ *Last _____

*Address: _____ *City _____

*State _____ *ZIP _____ *Telephone: (_____) _____

*Email: _____ Title: _____

Organization(s): _____ Website: _____

I Identify As:

_____ Administrator	_____ Conservator	_____ Librarian
_____ Appraiser	_____ Conservation Technician	_____ Post Graduate-Intern/Fellow
_____ Collector	_____ Curator	_____ Supporter
_____ Collection Mgr./Registrar	_____ Framer/Preparator	_____ Student
_____ Other (Specify) _____		

Areas of Conservation Expertise:

_____ Objects	_____ Furniture	_____ Paintings
_____ Ethnographic Objects	_____ Frames/Gilded Objects	_____ Painted Surfaces
_____ Archaeological Objects	_____ Textiles	_____ Conservation Science
_____ Architecture	_____ Books and Paper	_____ Preventive Conservation
_____ Sculpture	_____ Photographic Materials	_____ Accept Private Contracts
_____ Other (Specify) _____		

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

Are you willing to serve as a Mentor? _____ Would you like to have a Mentor? _____

Are you interested in serving on the VCA board in the future? (see website for details) _____

Practicing Conservator/Consultant Conservators Only:

Would you like your contact information included in our website's 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 check made payable to VCA for \$30 (Regular) or \$15 (Student: Enclose a copy of a valid student ID) to the address below. To join online, visit www.virginiaconservationassociation.org/wp/.

Application and dues payment must be received by **October 15th** to ensure inclusion in the VCA Directory.

The Virginia Conservation Association
P. O. Box 7023
Richmond, Virginia 23221