

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



May 2021 | Volume 30 | Issue 5

The Virginia Conservation Association (VCA) 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 issues and new developments in the field.

The VCA is open to anyone with an interest in the care and preservation of art and historic artifacts.

virginiaconservationassociation.org

Next Virtual Member's Meeting

**Thursday, May 20
6:30pm**

Submission Deadline for
the September Newsletter

August 18, 2021

Letter from the President

It is hard to know what to write in my last letter as President. It was a long four years and I definitely over-extended myself. I am excited to get back to a more normal workload and to pass the reins on to someone else. I am so glad that I had such excellent



Kate Ridgway, VCA President

Board members to work with who helped make everything run more smoothly. The pandemic threw us all for a loop, but we seem to have weathered it well and made some improvements to VCA that will help our far-flung membership have more access to events.

I had hoped to reform our organization in more ways than the ones the pandemic forced upon us, but there just wasn't the opportunity once we all had to quarantine. My hope is that this reform initiative will continue once we can meet in person again. With any luck, I can work with the next President to continue to improve the VCA. I will be sending out a separate letter on that in the near future. There is a decent chance you will have read it already by the time this newsletter comes out.

It has been an honor to do my part for VCA and for conservation in Virginia. While I will no longer be on the Board, please know that I am happy to help anyone or offer advice and opinions if needed (everyone knows I am full of them). Please feel free to reach out to me if you need anything. katherine.ridgway@dhr.virginia.gov katyridgway@gmail.com.

VCA Meeting Summary April 28, 2021

The April virtual meeting featured object conservator Francis Lukezic, who gave a detailed presentation about her treatment of the cavalry helmet owned and worn by Sergeant Jacob Huyett during the war of 1812. This remarkable composite object survives with a coatee and is a prized part of the collection of the Miller House Museum in Hagerstown, Maryland.



Francis shared her detailed observations and assessment of the helmet's materials and construction. The composite nature of the object whose materials range from boiled leather to copper alloy embellishments, paper and textile on the interior, and a prominent horsehair crest, required a range of treatment approaches to meet the goals of improving the overall appearance and addressing long-term preservation concerns without concealing the features of the helmet that illustrate its use-life and two centuries of history. Francis's treatment resulted in a much-improved appearance for the helmet, which has been reinstalled in the Miller House Museum. Additional research questions remain about the helmet's materials and methods of manufacture, all of which may be explored with future research and analysis.

Upcoming VCA Meeting

Join us Thursday, May 20th at 6:30pm for our final virtual meeting of the season! This will be held again via Zoom. A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to VCA members in mid-May.

The conservation department at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will be giving an illustrated tour of the conservation studios that make up the Susan and David Goode Center for Advanced Study in Art Conservation. This is a 9,500 sq. ft. space that opened in 2010 as part of the latest expansion to the museum. The center includes three areas of specialties: Paintings Conservation, Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation, and Paper Conservation. They will be highlighting some of the Center's analytical equipment as well as recent and ongoing projects.

Many thanks to the conservation staff at the VMFA for rounding out our virtual series! We hope to see you all there!



VCA Member's Meeting

Date: **Thursday, May 20**

Time: **6:30pm**

Look for an email with a
Zoom link to attend!



VCA Craft Night!

As a special event to finish this all-virtual year for the VCA, we thought we'd host something a bit more social. VCA will be hosting a **Virtual Craft Night on Wednesday June 30, 7pm**. The craft will be a build-your-own terrarium kit, which will be delivered to your house; all you have to provide is a large glass container for the terrarium and yourself! To sign up for the craft night, please email programs.vaconservation@gmail.com expressing your interest in the craft night and your delivery/ mailing address by **May 14th**. If you miss the deadline, you can always join the Virtual Craft Night with a craft from home.



VCA Craft Night

Date: **Wednesday, June 30**

Time: **7:00pm**

Deadline to RSVP: **May 14**



Look for an email with a Zoom link to attend!



We look forward to spending some social time with you to celebrate the end of the year! See you at the next meeting!

VCA Membership Update

Thank you all for continuing to be a part of the VCA during the past year, which has been trying for all of us in so many ways. Our transition to virtual meetings was an unexpected change, but we have tried to provide a range of interesting content to make this organization worth your time. If you have any suggestions for content of future meetings, in person or online, let us know by emailing membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org.

Please keep an eye out for next season's membership renewal email in August, which may include an updated application form. Encourage any lapsed members you know to rejoin in order to share their interests, skills, and opinions on the future of the VCA! We hope to see you in person sometime next season and wish you all the best.

VCA Board of Directors Election

Our 2021 election to fill vacancies in the VCA's Board of Directors is just around the corner! Thanks to the pandemic, we have transitioned to an all-virtual ballot and vote tallying system. Given that virtual elections allow more of our membership to vote than the former 'in person' voting method, this is a welcome innovation introduced by the villain that is COVID.

VCA Election

Look for an email ballot in early May!

The ballot will be emailed to membership in early May, with results being shared at the membership meeting on May 20th and in the next newsletter. New members of the Board will assume their duties in August 2021. Many thanks to outgoing members who have served on the Board!

Upcoming Helping Hands Event

After the success of our previous Helping Hands day in September, the VCA is planning to do another cemetery cleaning event! We plan to work with HandsOn RVA and as with our event in the fall, preregistration will be required and VCA will provide lunch. We are still planning this event so keep an eye out for an email about registration!

Suggestions for future Helping Hands events? Contact our Outreach Chair at outreach.vaconservation@gmail.com!



ECPN Regional Liaison Update

The Williamsburg Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN) is planning on hosting its first in-person meeting! With nicer weather, Nhat and Caroline are currently working on a plan to host an outdoor event with plenty of space for everyone to safely attend and be able to reconnect with each other. The event will take place in late May and more information will be sent out via email.

If you would like updates and have not received any emails from Williamsburg ECPN in the past, please email williamsburg.ecpn.liaison@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

The Williamsburg ECPN liaison position for Fall 2021-Spring 2022 is currently available for applicants who are interested. Please email williamsburg.ecpn.liaison@gmail.com as soon as possible if you are interested or would like more information.

Opportunities and Resources

AIC/SPNHC Joint Virtual Annual Meeting

For the second year in a row, the annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation will be held virtually. The main programming for year's meeting, co-presented with the Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), will take place between May 10 and June 24 over Zoom. The full schedule for the meeting can be viewed online [at this link](#). Information regarding registration is also available online, with rates that range from \$205 for non-members to \$105 for students and post-graduate members.

International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation Triennial Meeting

The 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference will take place from May 17th to May 21st of this year. The meeting, originally planned to be held in Beijing, China, has been moved to a virtual format and will center on the theme "Transcending Boundaries: Integrated Approaches to Conservation". Specialty working group sessions will take place concurrently between the 17th and the 19th with additional programming and technical visits. Registration is still open and includes student rates.

The program and conference details can be found at the conference website here: <https://www.icom-cc2021.org/>.

The Memory Project at UVA

The University of Virginia has launched an initiative to promote research and public engagement to address issues of public memory, memory conflict, and memory politics. The project aims to study how memory is produced and reproduced to better understand and participate in the way history is presented in public spaces. A distinction is made between history and memory with the goal of democratizing memory to collectively choose which aspects of history should be commemorated. This important social research may have implications for the cultural heritage field as the fate of public works of art, statues, and memorials are decided around the world.

Details about the project can be found at <https://memoryproject.virginia.edu/>.

AIC Wiki Contributions

The AIC Wiki is sponsored by the American Institute for Conservation with content created by the Specialty Groups, Networks and Committees. The Wiki is an ever-expanding resource for practicing conservators and conservation scientists, with new content added regularly.

Each specialty group has its own approach for adding new material, but new content is always welcome! Content can range from creating new pages to adding bibliographic references or summarizing previously published research. Visit [this website](#) to learn more about how to contribute!

VCA APRIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Board Meeting - April 20, 2020

ATTENDEES

Kate Ridgway, Tina Gessler, Keri Ragland, Elizabeth Robson, Chelsea Blake, Laurie King, Caroline Shaver, Jackie Peterson-Grace

Call to Order: President Kate Ridgway called the meeting to order at 6:08pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (KATE RIDGWAY)

Kate discussed writing a letter to the membership about future plans to make changes to the VCA. Kate asked Board members to make their reports and verify that they each have a plan for talking to their replacements as the new Board is voted in and exiting Board members leave over the summer. Kate wrapped up the meeting by thanking all of the Board members for their hard work while she was President.

TREASURER'S REPORT (KERI RAGLAND)

Keri stated that there are significant leftover funds from the approved budget that could be reallocated, as we did not have a Christmas Party or use any of the Refreshments budget. Some of this will be put towards the VCA Craft Night. When proposing the 2021-2022 Budget, Keri will adjust the credit lines accordingly to reflect another year with below average gatherings. Chelsea asked if we could use some leftover funds for another Outreach event, as that was very successful in the fall. Keri confirmed that the current budget would stretch through July 31, per the Bylaws, and that funds could be reallocated with approval. Keri asked the Board to approve funds be pulled from an unused budget to support a second Outreach event this summer. The Board agreed unanimously.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (TINA GESSLER)

The nomination process for the upcoming election is complete, with a full slate of candidates for vacating positions except for the Refreshments Chair position. The Refreshments Chair will likely stay vacant until we start meeting in person again. As last year, voting will be virtual.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee (Laurie King and Caroline Shaver)

The committee reported on upcoming events including the rescheduled April meeting and the May meeting. A date for the craft night was discussed and selected to avoid overlapping with the AIC virtual meeting.

Education Committee (Ariel Clark, Stacey Rush)

No committee members were present to report.

Membership Committee (Elizabeth Robson)

Elizabeth plans to reach out to lapsed members at the start of next season.

Publications Committee (Jackie Peterson-Grace)

Jackie reported on the newsletter deadline and requested resources be sent to her.

Outreach Committee (Chelsea Blake)

Outreach is planning to do another Helping Hands day. Funds will be shifted from another category in order to pay for lunches. A blurb will be included in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned by President Kate Ridgway at 6:53pm

2021 – 2022 Virginia Conservation Association Proposed Budget

The forthcoming ballot for Board elections will also provide the opportunity for the membership to vote to approve next year’s budget, as proposed below.

2021-2022 Virginia Conservation Association Proposed Budget

	Credit Line	Budget	Notes
Expenses			
	Programs	\$300	
	Education	\$150	
	Christmas Party	\$0	
	Refreshments	\$150	
	Web Management	\$750	
	Outreach	\$400	
	Membership	\$40	
	Miscellaneous	\$100	
	Treasurer/Admin	\$450	
	Publications	\$0	
Total Expected Expenses		\$2340	
Income			
	Regular Membership	\$2250	Estimated at 75, does not consider the Paypal fee of \$1.17 per \$30 charge
	Student Membership	\$90	Estimated at 6
Total Expected Income		\$2340	



VCA Student Scholarship

VCA offers two annual scholarships of \$250 each to be used for furthering education in the field. Use of funds may include conference or class fees or other professional-development expenses. Applicants must be VCA student members to apply. Applications are accepted throughout the year and will be evaluated during the April and December Board meetings.

To apply, submit a one-page proposal for use of funds that specifies how the scholarship will assist in the pursuit of a career in conservation or a directly related field. To apply, email our Education Committee Co-Chairs or mail paper applications to the VCA, P.O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221

Contact Us

Virginia Conservation Association

P.O. Box 7032
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www.virginiaconservationassociation.org
www.facebook.com/VaConservation/

2020 – 2021 Board members

Kate Ridgway president.vaconservation@gmail.com	President
Tina Gessler vp.vaconservation@gmail.com	Vice President
Christy Atland secretary.vaconservation@gmail.com	Secretary
Keri Ragland Spangler treasurer.vaconservation@gmail.com	Treasurer
Stacy Rusch education.vaconservation@gmail.com	Education Co-Chair
Ariel Clark education.vaconservation@gmail.com	Education Co-Chair
Elizabeth Robson membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org	Membership Chair
Chelsea Blake outreach.vaconservation@gmail.com	Outreach Chair
Laurie King programs.vaconservation@gmail.com	Programs Co-Chair
Caroline Shaver programs.vaconservation@gmail.com	Programs Co-Chair
Jackie Peterson-Grace publications.vaconservation@gmail.com	Publications Chair
Lorraine Brevig webmanager.vaconservation@gmail.com	Web Management
Vacant	Refreshments Co-Chair
Vacant	Refreshments Co-Chair

Contribute to the Newsletter!

Are you working on an interesting or challenging treatment? Have you made exciting research discoveries, come across valuable resources, or attended an inspiring professional development event? We want to hear from you!

Our all-volunteer publishing team regularly calls for content and any VCA member is welcome to contribute. If you are interested in writing for the newsletter but would like some advice and guidance, please get in touch with our Publications Chair to discuss your ideas.

The deadline for the September Newsletter is **August 18**