

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



November 2021 | Volume 31 | Issue 2

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, November 18th
6:30 pm**

**Submission Deadline for
the January Newsletter**

December 13, 2021

Letter from the President

Fall is finally here. The tension of hot summer days has broken, and I'm seeing cool weather on the foreseeable forecast at last. Maybe it is because I'm not a Virginia native, but this is truly the time of year I feel like I can slip back into my normal headspace, and appreciate the simple act of being. The upcoming months still hold much uncertainty for all of us as we continue to navigate the labyrinth that is COVID, and many of us may still be reflecting on or experiencing the sadnesses of the past year and half, but I hope we can continue to look to each other and communities such as this one to offer respite in the form of inspiration, camaraderie, and sometimes the simple pattern of something 'normal.' I, for one, was very inspired by the October member meeting (see the summary for more details!), have enjoyed the camaraderie of our board meetings and cross-association projects on the horizon, and have appreciated the tether that being an active member of the VCA has provided me to feeling a 'normal' sense of professional engagement beyond my job. A mental housekeeping, a mantra, a reminder to look up and out.

In less lofty news, I am happy to announce that the VCA and VAM received funding for our joint SHARP grant application. VAM has done all of the heavy lifting up until this point, so I am excited for the VCA to step up to the task and for the collaborative project ahead. The Board will be discussing the details of this grant further at our upcoming meeting, and we will share with membership shortly after. This is a great opportunity for the Virginia preservation and conservation professionals and supporters within our group to expand our reach and provide more resources to our colleagues across the state. So sit back, relax, and put the kettle on, because we have some great discussions to sink into this fall!

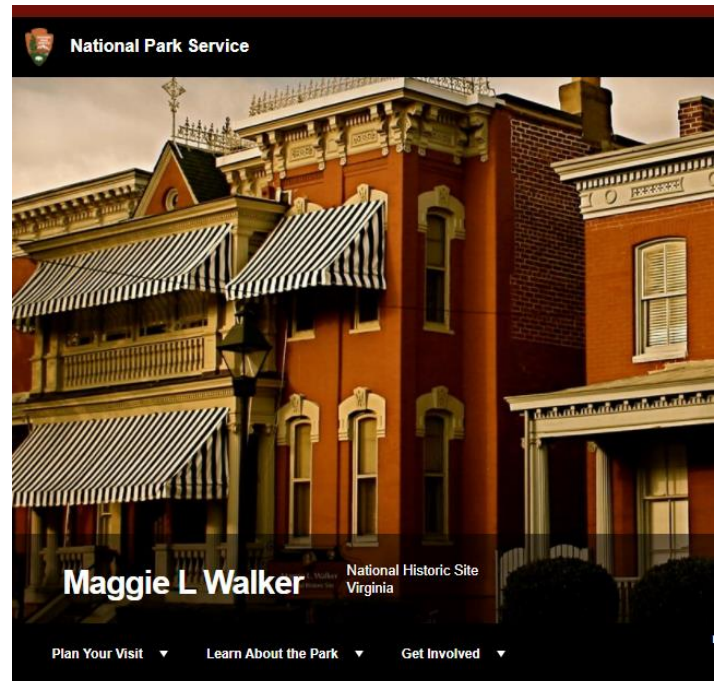
Paige



Paige Schmidt, VCA President

VCA Meeting Summary October 5, 2021

The speaker for October's meeting was Ethan Bullard, who spoke about his role as curator of the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. The site is located in downtown Richmond; the urban setting and size of the house interior posed limitations for visitors during the pandemic. This provided the opportunity for staff to adapt virtual technology and content already in place as a means of remaining relevant and present despite the site closure. Ethan discussed the great success of a partnership with the Google Cultural Institute, which uses the same technology as Google street view to create a virtual tour of the house. Previously created still images and text content were adapted and incorporated into the new version of the virtual tour, which resulted in a user-friendly, self-guided virtual version of the house tour.



Visit <https://www.nps.gov/mawa/index.htm> to learn more about this site!

The social unrest following the murder of George Floyd in the summer of 2020 sparked an interest in Maggie Walker and the era in which she lived and worked, and presented opportunities to share her legacy with the public through a variety of social media platforms. The staff found that this rise of interest resulted in several incidents of misattribution and misinformation, but the fast-paced nature of social media allowed staff to use these instances to educate the public and provide accurate information. Staff also embraced social media platforms like YouTube and Facebook live videos to quickly create timely and topical content that responded to current events.

Presently, the site has reopened for small, regulated in-person tours that are available by reservation only. Information about in-person tours and all the virtual content that Ethan described can be accessed at the National Park Service website: <https://www.nps.gov/mawa/index.htm>.

Upcoming VCA Meeting

Our next member meeting will take place via Zoom on Thursday, November 18th at 6:30pm. The Zoom link will be sent out via email in a few weeks. The meeting's guest speaker will be Howard Sutcliffe, principal conservator and director of River Region Costume and Textile Conservation, a private practice with studios in Arley, Alabama and Nashville, Tennessee. Howard has previously worked at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the American Textile History Museum, and The National Trust and National Museums Liverpool in his native UK. Sutcliffe will present about two of his recent projects. One involves the conservation of John Marshall's Supreme Court robes composed of highly-degraded silk for Preservation Virginia. The other is the treatment of a Natalia Goncherova-designed cape that belonged to Marjorie Meriwether Post for the Hillwood Museum in Washington D.C. Please join us for this exciting double-feature presentation in textile conservation!

VCA Member's Meeting

Date: **Thursday, November 18th**

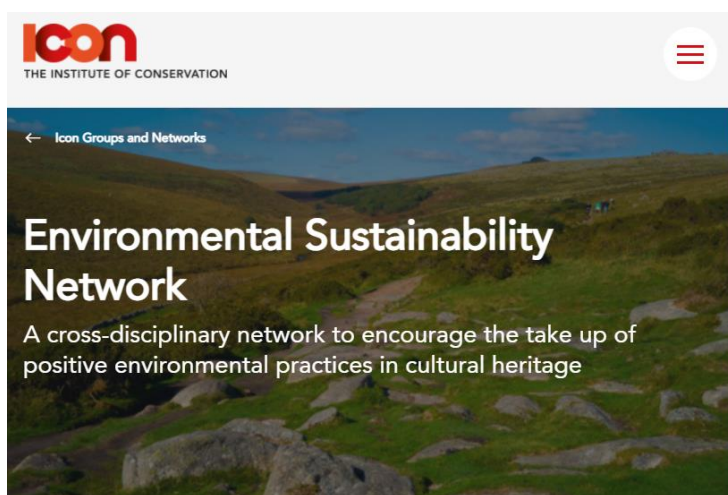
Time: **6:30 pm**

Look for an email with a Zoom link to attend!



Sutcliffe working on Kermit the Frog, Collection of Detroit Institute of Arts

Sustainability in Conservation



There are a wide range of tools and tips to help cultural heritage professionals make sustainable choices and lower the environmental impact of their work, some of which are highlighted here.

The Institute of Conservation's Environmental Sustainability Network

ICON's specialty groups include a network designed to encourage positive environmental practices in cultural heritage. Emphasis is placed on practical solutions and crowdsourcing ideas. Topics that have been covered with recorded webinars and/or detailed Q&A sections

include [sustainable museum lighting](#) and [green solvents](#).

New resources are regularly added and available regardless of ICON membership status. Visit the website to learn more! <https://www.icon.org.uk/groups-and-networks/environmental-sustainability-network.html>

Opportunities and Resources

Pre-Recorded Pest Management Webinars

Insects Limited Incorporated, an insect pheromone company that works with a wide range of industries including the cultural heritage sector, has produced a number of pre-recorded webinars that cover a wide variety of pest management-related topics. These webinars, available for free, span everything from IPM and the use of pheromones to detailed profiles about specific insects like clothes moths, weevils, and beetles.

The recorded videos can be accessed by creating a free account at [this website](#).

The Insects Limited Inc. website also provides a number of other resources, including downloadable [insect monitoring guidelines](#) and an [archive of newsletters](#).

AIC Wiki Contributions

The AIC Wiki is sponsored by the American Institute for Conservation with content created by the Specialty Groups, Networks and Committees.

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!

Ask A Conservator Day

This year's #AskAConservator day will be held on **November 4th**. This global event aims to provide a holistic view of what conservation entails, from individual conservators working in private practice to large institutional conservation departments. The hashtag #AskAConservator will be used on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram. AIC has drafted some sample posts to encourage participation. The samples and more information about the event can be found [here!](#)

The VCA Student Scholarship

The VCA offers a scholarship to our student members to assist with costs associated with furthering education in the field. Two annual scholarships of \$250 each are available to be used towards fees for classes, conferences, or other professional development opportunities. Applications are accepted throughout the year and will be evaluated by the VCA Board during the December and April meetings. Successful applicants will be notified within one week of the Board meeting, and presented with a check within the following 30 days. Recipients will be required to write a VCA newsletter article summarizing their experience. Applications must include 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.

VCA OCTOBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Board Meeting - October 27, 2021

ATTENDEES

Paige Schmidt, Tina Gessler, Keri Ragland Spangler, Elizabeth Robson, Laurie King, Jackie Peterson-Grace, Kate Ridgway

Call to Order: President Paige Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:06pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (PAIGE SCHMIDT)

The SHARP grant application submitted by the Virginia Association of Museums was awarded, and a meeting is set with VAM to discuss next steps. The board and VCA membership have been asked to help brainstorm potential topics for video content. 6-8 videos will be created on a variety of topics with VAM responsible for capturing and editing the video content. VCA members will be expected to spend no more than 8-10 hours of their time on creating these videos, which should be accompanied by a list of references and/or handouts, and a \$600 honorarium will be offered. The project will be completed by the end of November 2022. Additionally, the VCA's social media presence was discussed, with brainstorming for possible content and discussion on who should be responsible for posting. Discussions are ongoing about possible asbestos training opportunities, with additional information forthcoming.

TREASURER'S REPORT (KERI RAGLAND SPANGLER)

Keri shared the current budget, no further discussion.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (TINA GESSLER)

No updates were reported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee (Laurie King and Jennifer Myers)

The November meeting date and speaker are set, the committee will begin work on content for the next member's meeting. The board agreed that last year's holiday trivia event was a success, and another will be organized for this year. The board discussed offering a complimentary membership for meeting presenters, protocols for this process will be outlined and recorded for consistency.

Education Committee (Debbie Linn)

No updates were reported.

Membership Committee (Elizabeth Robson)

The format of the membership directory was discussed. It has been shared in a digital PDF format for the past several years, but some interest has been expressed in having access to a paper format. Elizabeth will look into this further, if there is interest from the membership in having access to a hard-copy version of the membership directory.

Publications Committee (Jackie Peterson-Grace)

No updates were reported.

Outreach Committee (Ann Cuss)

No updates were reported.

Meeting adjourned by President Paige Schmidt at 7:15pm



Virginia Conservation Association

2021 – 2022 Board Members

Paige Schmidt president.vaconservation@gmail.com	President
Tina Gessler vp.vaconservation@gmail.com	Vice President
Sutton Hastman secretary.vaconservation@gmail.com	Secretary
Keri Ragland Spangler treasurer.vaconservation@gmail.com	Treasurer
Debbie Linn education.vaconservation@gmail.com	Education Chair
Elizabeth Robson membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org	Membership Chair
Ann Cuss outreach.vaconservation@gmail.com	Outreach Chair
Laurie King programs.vaconservation@gmail.com	Programs Co-Chair
Jennifer Myers 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
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VCA Student Scholarship

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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
Richmond, VA 23221

www.virginiaconservationassociation.org
www.facebook.com/VaConservation/

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 January Newsletter is **December 13**