



# WASHINGTON CONSERVATION GUILD NEWSLETTER

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## From the Desk of the President

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Greetings Members,

I hope everyone has had a great summer. The members of the board took a break from their summer vacations and festivities to plan a great lineup of meetings for the fall and winter season. We will be kicking the season off in October at a new venue – The George Washington University. We owe a big thank you to member Mary Coughlin and The George Washington University Museum Studies Graduate Program. We will begin the season with topics near and far. The October meeting will catch us up on the aftermath of the DC earthquake with a look at prominent architectural monuments in Washington, DC. November has us traveling to Baltimore where we will enjoy the hospitality of The Walters and learn about conservation training in Iraq.

Members will notice a few changes during the coming year. The Guild is making organizational changes to better serve the membership and the public. We have moved to streamline our efforts by creating new chairs. The new chairs, Communication and Outreach, will be better able to coordinate the activities of the Guild's active and longstanding communication and outreach outlets. The creation of the positions is an exciting change because they herald the Guild's continued evolution in response to the needs of both our members and the public. We are exploring additional ways to update and improve the way the Guild interacts with both of these groups. These include an ongoing effort to migrate our website to a platform that will allow for easier and more expedient updates. Additionally, we are exploring the potential of

transforming the newsletter into a more responsive blog format. We are even evaluating the design of our monthly meeting announcements to better invigorate members so our meetings become a calendar commitment. If you have opinions on how we can improve the Guild to better serve you, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other member of the board with your ideas!

On behalf of the Guild's leadership and personally from me, we hope to see you at the meetings this season. I would ask for your help in making our meetings more dynamic; if you are at a meeting and don't see a colleague whose company you enjoy, please reach out to them and make a date with them for the next meeting. The power of the Guild is in its membership, and we, as leaders, want to make sure that we are moving in the direction that benefits you as a conservation professional in the greater Washington, DC, metropolitan region.

Warm Regards,

L. H. (Hugh) Shockey Jr, MS, AIC-PA  
President  
Washington Conservation Guild

## WCG on Facebook

WCG members are invited to join our Facebook group! Please join for updates on meetings, information, and announcements regarding WCG.



### Do you have photographs for the WCG archives?

The WCG archives, held in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, does not have many photographs, so we are appealing to members to provide photographs of people and events from all periods of WCG's history. The archives can accept color and black-and-white prints or digital images. Every photo must have a caption, and ideally every person in the photo will be identified. If you have photographs to submit, please send an email (not the photos!) to: [wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org](mailto:wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org).

# WILLISTON FUND AWARD WINNERS

Our first meeting of the season was dedicated to the Williston Awards. This meeting provided a chance for local interns to meet and for old friends to reconnect. The Sidney Williston Fund provides five interns/fellows each year with membership in the Washington Conservation Guild. Membership includes free entry at eight meetings, a quarterly newsletter, and reduced registration on all WCG-sponsored workshops and conferences. This past year WCG organized tours at different conservation labs and happy hour events for the benefit of our intern/fellow/student members.

This year, due to the generosity of several sponsors, we were able to present three additional awards. Congratulations to the following interns and fellows:

Blair Bailey  
Leah Bright  
Marianne De Bovis  
Greta Glaser  
Gaby Irving  
Jose Lazarte  
Elizabeth Le Duc  
Carrie McNeal

## TIME TO RENEW!

The new season has now started, so please become a member of the Washington Conservation Guild or renew if you haven't already. WCG membership benefits include monthly receptions and meetings (October through May), a quarterly newsletter, a membership directory, website and email announcements of local activities and job openings, intern/fellow activities, volunteer opportunities, free admission to special lectures, and reduced registration on WCG-sponsored workshops and events. Only current members can vote at the annual business meeting in May.

# Upcoming WCG Meetings 2012/2013

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Monthly meetings for the 2012/2013 season begin in October 2012 and run through May 2013. The meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month. Most meetings begin at 5 p.m. with a reception, followed by the guest speaker's presentation. Please check individual meeting announcements for exact times and locations.

## **Thursday, November 1, 2012**

Speaker: Terry Weisser, Director of Conservation and Technical Research at the Walters Art Museum

Location: Walters Art Museum

## **Thursday, December 6, 2012**

Speaker: Greg Mokrzycki, FBI Document Examiner

Location: The National Trust for Historic Preservation (not confirmed)

## **Thursday, January 10, 2013**

3-Ring Circus (three concurrent sessions, topics to be announced)

Location: The Ripley Center (not confirmed)

## **Thursday, February 7, 2013**

Speaker: TBD, Conservation Care Network

Location: TBD

## **Thursday, March 7, 2013**

Speaker: TBD

Location: Women in Military Service for America Memorial (not confirmed)

## **Thursday, April 4, 2013**

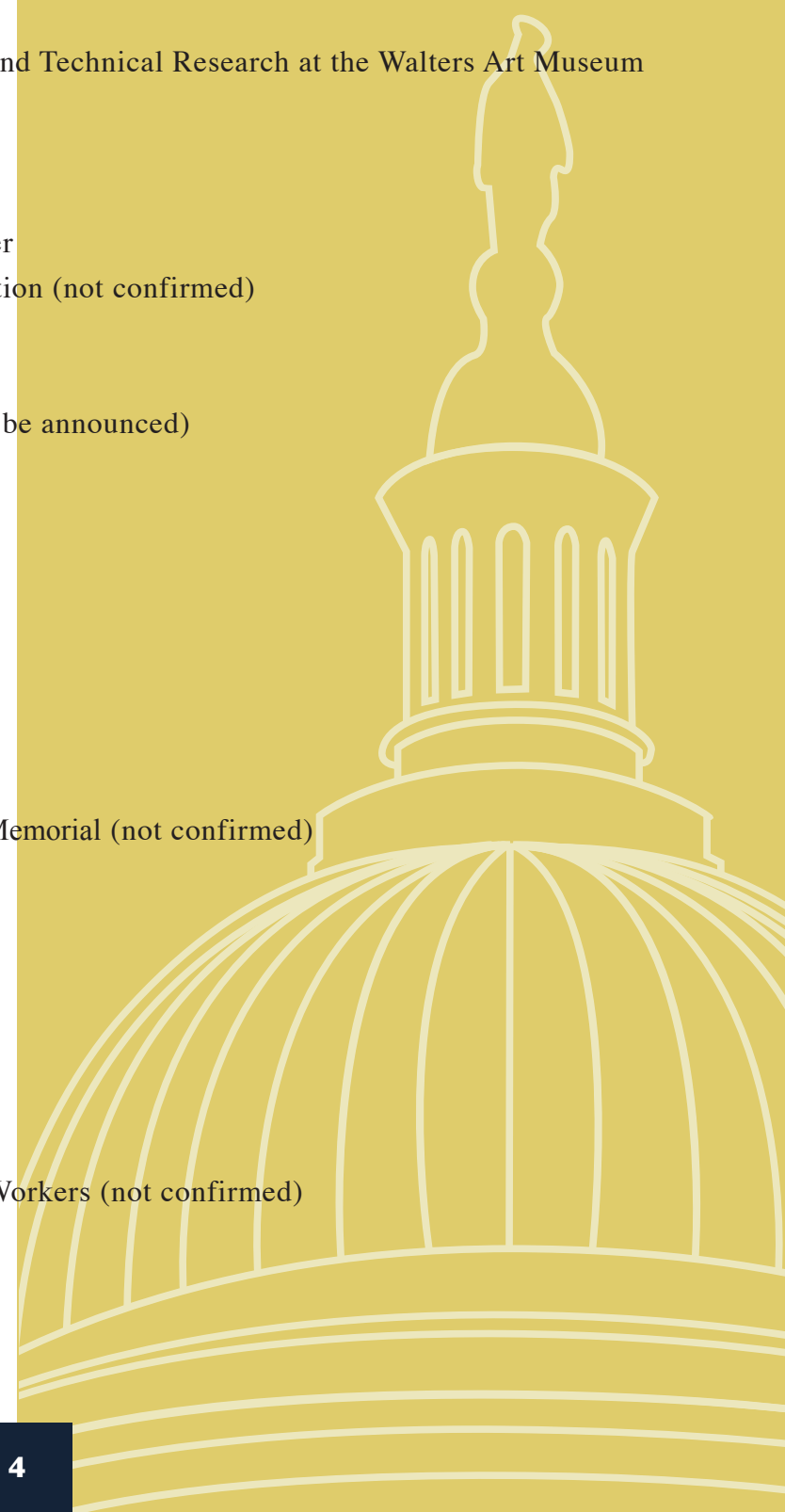
Intern Talks

Location: Folger Shakespeare Library

## **Thursday, May 2, 2013**

Membership Meeting and Raffle

Location: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (not confirmed)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS ANNOUNCES THE 2012 TOP 10 ENDANGERED ARTIFACTS IN VIRGINIA**

**Over 120,000 Votes Cast by the Public**

**Richmond, VA** – The Virginia Association of Museums ([vamuseums.org](http://vamuseums.org)) announced the honorees of *2012 Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts*, a program designed to create awareness of the importance of preserving artifacts in the care of museums, libraries and archives throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and District of Columbia.

### **2012 Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts Honorees:**

Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society  
(Charlottesville/Central Virginia)

*"Turn the Rascals Out!" Campaign Rally Sign; c. 1870s-1880s*

Alleghany Historical Society  
(Covington/Shenandoah Valley)

*"Merry Widow," Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Locomotive 701; c. 1911*

Fairfield Foundation  
(Gloucester/Hampton Roads)

*Ware Neck Store Sales Receipts; c. 1870s-1930s*

Historic Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park  
(Tazewell/Heart of Appalachia)

*Horse-Drawn Rock Wagon; c. 1880-1910*

Jean Outland Chrysler Library at the Chrysler Museum of Art  
(Norfolk/Hampton Roads)

*Moses Myers Family Bible; c. 1798*

Library of Virginia  
(Richmond/Central Virginia)

*Act for Establishing Religious Freedom (Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom); c. 1786*

The Mariners' Museum  
(Newport News/Hampton Roads)

*Second National Confederate Naval Flag of the CSS Alabama; c. 1860s*

Portsmouth Community Library & Black History Museum  
(Portsmouth/Hampton Roads)  
*Ledger from African-American Lodge, Love and Charity; c. 1870-1880*

Salem Museum  
(Salem/Shenandoah Valley)  
*Records of African-American Midwife Georgianna Saunders; c. 1916-1940*

Virginia Museum of Transportation  
(Roanoke/Shenandoah Valley)  
*"The Lake Pearl," Southern Railway Pullman Sleeper Car; c. 1923*

### **People's Choice Awards**

Alleghany Historical Society  
(Covington/Shenandoah Valley)  
*"Merry Widow," Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Locomotive 701; c. 1911*

Wilton House Museum  
(Richmond/Central Virginia)  
*Waistcoat of Lieutenant Governor Alexander Spotswood; c. 18th century*

Response to the competition was overwhelming, with over 120,000 public votes cast for 21 diverse nominees that showcase Virginia's unique history, heritage and culture. While voting was a factor in the final decision, the list of final "Top 10" honorees was selected by an independent review panel of collections and conservation experts. The "People's Choice Award" reflects the two nominations that garnered the most significant number of public votes.

Slated as an annual competition, *Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts* project creates increased awareness and support for maintaining our nation's artifacts, especially as funding for preservation continues to decrease. Nationwide, the need for conservation and care of items in the collective trust is at an all-time high. A report titled *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections* revealed that our nation's artifacts, documents and digital materials are not only essential to America's cultural health, but are also imperiled and in need of swift protective action.

"We are so happy that the public once again got fully behind this important project and turned out the vote," said Margo Carlock, executive director of the Virginia Association of Museums. "Last year's Top 10 project brought not only much-needed awareness to the needs and costs of conservation, but translated into very real support in the form of donations and grants that were utilized by collecting institutions to care for their honored items."

"This program has already been a vehicle for change for many of the collecting institutions that have participated," explains project manager Christina E. Newton. "For example, the Virginia Museum of Transportation,

after receiving a People's Choice Award in 2011, won a \$10,000 grant allowing them to restore their 'Norfolk & Western SD45 Diesel Locomotive #1776.' And due to press attention during this second year, the Salem Museum has already been able to record oral histories from no fewer than seven individuals who were delivered by the midwife Georgianna Saunders, whose records were nominated. Capturing these stories for posterity and preserving the artifacts that help tell those stories is simply invaluable."

### **About the Program**

Read more about the designated artifacts for 2012 and prior years and view photographs of all nominations at [www.vatop10artifacts.org](http://www.vatop10artifacts.org). See a video overview of Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts at: <http://youtu.be/bGEfZqojZa8>

*Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts* is a project of the Virginia Association of Museums and is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.

For more information, visit [www.vamuseums.org](http://www.vamuseums.org) or call 804-358-3173.

## **NEH GRANTS FOR PRESERVING COLLECTIONS IN SUSTAINABLE WAYS**

Guidelines have been posted for the National Endowment for the Humanities' Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grants. U.S. nonprofit museums, libraries, archives, and educational institutions can apply for grants to plan and implement preservation strategies that pragmatically balance effectiveness, cost, and environmental impact. Projects should be designed to be as cost effective, energy efficient, and environmentally sensitive as possible, and they should aim to mitigate the greatest risks to collections rather than to meet prescriptive targets. More information is here:

### **Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections, Division of Preservation and Access**

**Receipt Deadline: December 4, 2012** for *Projects Beginning October 2013*

#### **Brief Summary**

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (SCHC) helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting preventive conservation measures that mitigate deterioration and prolong the useful life of collections.

Libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country are responsible for collections of books and manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings and moving images, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, art, and historical objects that facilitate research, strengthen teaching, and provide opportunities for life-long learning in the humanities. To preserve and ensure continued access to such collections, institutions must implement preventive conservation measures, which encompass managing relative humidity, temperature, light, and pollutants in collection spaces; providing protective storage enclosures and systems for collections; and safeguarding collections from theft and from natural and man-made disasters.

As museums, libraries, archives, and other collecting institutions strive to be effective stewards of humanities collections, they must find ways to implement preventive conservation measures that are scientifically sound and sustainable. This program therefore helps cultural repositories plan and implement preservation strategies that pragmatically balance effectiveness, cost, and environmental impact. Projects should be designed to be as cost effective, energy efficient, and environmentally sensitive as possible, and they should aim to mitigate the greatest risks to collections rather than to meet prescriptive targets.

### **Program Statistics**

In the first three competitions the Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections received an average of 103 applications per year. The program made an average of 18 awards per year, for a funding ratio of 17 percent.

The number of applications to an NEH grant program can vary widely year to year, as can the funding ratio. Information about the average number of applications and awards in recent competitions is meant only to provide historical context for the current competition. Information on the number of applications and awards in individual competitions is available from [preservation@neh.gov](mailto:preservation@neh.gov).

### **Questions?**

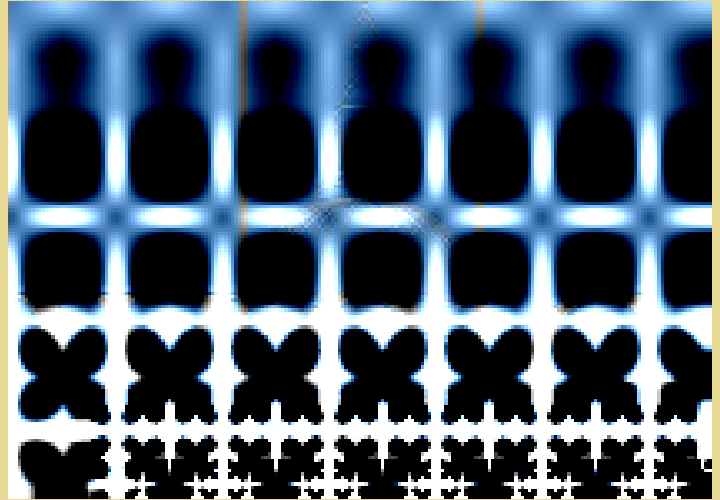
Contact the staff of NEH's Division of Preservation and Access at [preservation@neh.gov](mailto:preservation@neh.gov) and 202-606-8570. Hearing-impaired applicants can contact NEH via TDD at 1-866-372-2930.



# MEMBERSHIP

WCG dues are \$30 per year, \$20 for students and interns, payable to the Washington Conservation Guild or WCG.

The membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. Membership forms can be requested by mail from the Membership Secretary at PO Box 23364, Washington, DC 20026 or can be filled out and submitted on our website. Changes of address or telephone numbers, corrections to the directory, and dues payments should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address listed above or to: [wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org](mailto:wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org)



The membership schedule is as follows:

- April: Membership renewal notice mailed
- July 1: Beginning of membership year
- September 15: Deadline for membership renewals

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# WCG Board of Directors

2012/2013

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Recording Secretary	Anne Kingery-Schwartz
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Website Guru	Erin Blake
Logistics	Jordan Berson, Anne Marigza

# Newsletter Submissions

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WCG Newsletter is published quarterly (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer). Items for inclusion in the WCG Newsletter should be directed to:

Annie Wilker  
National Archives  
700 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20408  
Room B-1  
Tel: 202-420-9730  
Email: WCGnewsletter@gmail.com

Email submissions are preferred. Please note that articles should be sent at least two weeks before publication. The editor reserves the right to edit copy to fit available space.

Next issue: Winter 2012

Deadline for submissions: November 15, 2012