



THE WASHINGTON CONSERVATION GUILD NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk of the President

Greetings from Charlottesville!

While I have moved to take a job as the first conservator at the University of Virginia Library, I am delighted to say that I will still be participating in the Washington conservation community by serving as President of the Guild. You'll see me at all of the meetings and many of our outreach events and I am looking forward to my first year on the job!

We will begin our year by welcoming the new interns to the Washington area, with a tour of the conservation labs at the National Museum of American History and a reception at which we present the Williston awards for 2009/10. Hopefully you will get a chance to meet the interns over the course of their time in Washington, either at a monthly meeting or on one of the lab tours organized by Kristin deGhetaldi our intern coordinator.

October will be a busy month for the membership with opportunities aside from the usual monthly meeting. Our October meeting will not be on a Thursday, but rather on Monday, October 5th, in order to take advantage of the availability of Scott Rosenfeld of SAAM and Steve Weintraub of Art Preservation Services who will be giving a lecture on trends and options in lighting equipment. The lecture will be at the Reynolds Center at the American Art and National Portrait Gallery, a fantastic venue.

On Saturday, October 10th, the Guild will once again participate in the National Building Museum's annual Festival of the Building Arts. The event is a full day of hands on demonstrations and activities related to the construction trades, with the Guild representing the preservation perspective. Look inside the newsletter for further details from Howard Wellman our booth coordinator, and please consider volunteering!

The Guild's annual Angels Day will fall on Saturday November 7th this year. We will be going to the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives which serves as the official archives for the DC Public Schools. We will help with re-housing documents, paintings and trophies among other things. Lisa Young and Patti Favero will be coordinating the event so please follow up with them for more information.

In addition to your attendance at meetings and perhaps participation in an outreach event, we are also asking our members to participate in an online survey, later in September. The Guild is hoping to sponsor a workshop in the next year with seed money from the Kendra Lovette fund. After much discussion, the board came up with a list of potential topics, but in order to determine the best option, we need to hear from you. Please do participate!

And as you all know by now, the Conservation OnLine website hosted by Stanford was shut down this summer after 22 years of serving the conservation community. I did receive a call from Maria Grandinette that morning alerting me to the bad news as it affected the WCG website, so I had a few more hours than most to feel stunned by the news. The WCG is extremely grateful to Stanford for hosting the Guild website over the years and we are especially grateful to Walter Henry for his dedication to CoOL and his patience in helping us maintain the Guild website.

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At the summer board meeting we discussed the possibility of moving the Guild website to an independent hosting service but decided that we wanted to migrate with the rest of CoOL and see how things work out. I hope the transition period had not been too frustrating but we are back online so be sure to check in on a regular basis for updates on upcoming meetings and other events. I look forward to seeing you!

Eliza Gilligan
WCG President



WCG summer board meeting attendees: (front row, left to right): Catherine Dewey, Erin Blake, Eliza Gilligan, Amber Kerr-Allison, Claire Peachey. (back row, standing, left to right): Morgan Zinsmeister, Hugh Shockey, Jayne Girod Holt, Patricia Favero, Lisa Young, Connie Stromberg, Nancy Purinton, Sunae Parker Evans, Anne Kingery

Upcoming WCG Meetings 2009/2010

Monthly meetings for the 2009/2010 season will begin in October 2009 and run through May 2010. 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.

October 5

Speaker TBA. Held at the Smithsonian American Art and National Portrait Gallery (Metro stop: red line, Gallery Place). Note: This meeting is on a Monday.

November 5

Speaker and venue TBA.

December 3

Holiday Party and Tips Session. Held at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC (Metro stop: red line, Dupont Circle).

January 7

Three-Ring Circus, TBA.

February 4

Venue and speaker TBA.

March 4

Intern talks. Venue TBA.

April 1

Venue and speaker TBA.

May 6

Annual Business Meeting. Held at Hillwood Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Ave., NW, Washington, DC (Metro stop: red line, Van Ness/UDC).



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. Please send an email (not the photos!) to wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org if you have photographs to submit.

Changes at UT, Austin

Dramatic changes are underway at the Kilgarlin Center for the Preservation of the Cultural Record, which is the library / archives preservation and conservation training program at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Information. I requested information from the school with hope that an update, if not a full press release, would be issued. The school did not respond in time for the printing of the WCG newsletter and the following narrative is based on emails from school staff posted on the Kilgarlin Center Facebook page.

In February of this year, Dean Andrew Dillon announced to the Kilgarlin Center's student listserv that the administration would not accept an incoming class of conservation students for the fall of 2009 although students in the preservation administration track would continue to be admitted. The Dean announced the loss of grant support from the National Endowment for the Humanities which, since 1991, provided significant support for the program including the salaries of the two conservation instructors. NEH had notified the School of Information in January 2008 that the current grant would not be renewed when it expired in August of 2010. The loss of NEH support, combined with the Kilgarlin Center's pending move to the new school facility, and a planning grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, would provide the program with an opportunity for extensive review, and the need for focused participation from the conservation faculty was cited as the chief reason for suspending admissions for 2009-2010. A subsequent headline in the Daily Texan (April 27, 2009) read "School of Information halts library, archival program" <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/news-briefly-school-of-information-halts-library-archival-program-1.1646479>

The Mellon funded program review took place in May and June of 2009. The resulting report, envisioning a progressive future for the Kilgarlin Center, was submitted to the school dean in July and carried forward to UT Executive Vice President Provost Steven W. Leslie later that month. The Provost declined to provide interim funding to support the Kilgarlin Center's two conservation instructors who had previously been supported by NEH funding. Alumni and cultural heritage organizations wrote letters and sent checks in support of the Kilgarlin Center throughout August, hoping to sway the Provost to reconsider.

On August 27, 2009 news quickly spread that Ellen Cunningham-Kruppa, Director of the Kilgarlin Center, had been notified that her contract with the School of Information would not be renewed for the fall semester. One of the reasons later cited by Associate Dean of the School of Information, Mary Lynn Rice-Lively, was that the recent physical move of the school and Kilgarlin Center to a new, shared, facility created administrative redundancies, including Cunningham-Kruppa's role as PI of the NEH grant through August 2010.

The School of Information has stated on many occasions that they are committed to the future of a lab-based conservation curriculum and to the current second and third year students of the Kilgarlin Center. The school's new facility at 1616 Guadalupe includes new state-of-the-art book and paper conservation training labs with observation windows designed to allow fellow school students, faculty, and visitors to witness how conservation and preservation activities are integrated into the full life-cycle of information. These recent changes in the administration and funding profile of the Kilgarlin Center leave the conservation community stunned and awaiting further news. Unfortunately, this investment in the facilities of the Kilgarlin Center has coincided with tremendous cuts in the university budget.

Eliza Gilligan
WCG President

2009 WCG Angels Project:
Charles Sumner School
Museum and Archives in
Washington, DC
Call for Volunteers

Saturday, November 7th- 10:00 am to
4:00 pm

The Washington Conservation Guild will host its annual Angels Project at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives in Washington DC on Saturday, November 7th. The project will focus on the re-housing and stabilization of approximately 125 framed documents, portraits and other vertical collections. The Director of the Collections, Kimberly Springle, is very excited to have our help. With the closure of several large DC public schools, the collections are growing and expanding daily and they are running out of storage room. The vertical collections are currently a priority as they are stored in less than ideal locations throughout the collections area and are in need of rehousing in order to stabilize them for storage and to allow accessibility to the collections so they can be used by researchers and the public.

WCG is looking for volunteers to help with this project – due to space constraints we are only able to bring 10 volunteers. This does not include the 2 supervisory volunteers we also need to help with the project. If your area of specialty is paintings, framed artwork or other vertical collections, please let us know if you are available to help supervise the volunteers during this project. If you would like to volunteer to help for the day, please forward your name and contact information to the WCG Angels Coordinator.

Please let us know if you have further questions about the project. Volunteers should be able to work from 10-4pm at the site- all supplies and lunch will be provided by the host institution.

Contact Lisa Young, WCG Angels Coordinator
conserveit@earthlink.net
703-328-1170 cell phone

WCG
Outreach Booth

The WCG Booth is now being coordinated by Howard Wellman, the proprietor of Wellman Conservation, specializing in archaeological and historic objects, cemeteries and monuments. He is a past treasurer of WCG. He has taken over the WCG booth to help emphasize the importance of public education about our profession

This year, the WCG Booth will be making its annual appearances at the National Building Museum October 10, the appraiser's fair at St Clement's Island Museum (St. Mary's County, MD) in January, and a similar event in Frederick, MD (date TBA). We're happy to hear about other opportunities to spread the word about the WCG and the conservation profession.

The NBM event on October 10 will need eight or more volunteers to staff the booth through the day, guiding "conservation treatments" with children (repairing pots and making light meters), and talking to the public. Please contact Howard Wellman, the new booth coordinator at the phone or email below. Volunteers get free meals, plus a t-shirt!

Howard Wellman
WCG Booth Coordinator
410-474-1226
wellmanconservation@comcast.net

Intern Events

Dear WCG Fellows, Interns, and Volunteers,

Welcome to DC.....Home of Obama, Ben's Chili Bowl, and FANTASTIC conservation folk! My name is Kristin deGhetaldi (Painting Conservation Fellow at the NGA) and I will be acting as the WCG Intern/Fellow Coordinator. We will be kicking off the year with our monthly WCG meeting on September 10th at the National Museum of American History in honor of YOU! I hope those that have not had the opportunity to meet conservators from the DC/VA/MD area plan to attend this great event. The NMAH staff will be hosting a tour of the conservation labs, which will be followed by an informal reception and award ceremony. The Sidney Williston Fund allows WCG to provide five interns/fellows with a one-year membership that includes free entry at eight meetings, a quarterly newsletter, and reduced registration on all WCG sponsored workshops and conferences.

Be sure not to miss out on our monthly intern/fellow events. This past year WCG organized tours at five different conservation labs, held three happy hours, and hosted one summer cook-out for the benefit of our intern/fellow/student members. If you would like to be on the WCG Intern/Fellow email list please notify me at k-deghetaldi@nga.gov so you can receive monthly updates on various events throughout the year.

Hope to see you all at meetings and happy hours!

Kristin deGhetaldi
Andrew W. Mellon Painting Conservation Fellow
National Gallery of Art
Washington, DC

Attention:

WCG no longer sends meeting announcements by postal mail. Please make sure you have included an email address with your membership renewal so you can be sure to receive all the announcements and updates from the Guild.

If you would like to change your e-mail status please contact Membership Secretary Joanne Klaar Walker at wcg@washington-conservationguild.org.

People

Joanna Dunn and her husband Wes Dunn welcomed a daughter Zella Lee Dunn on September 6th.

Joyce Hill Stoner has been named Edward R. and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor in Material Culture at the University of Delaware College of Arts and Sciences effective September 1, 2009.

Mary Coughlin is now Assistant Professor and Administrator of the Distance Education Program in the Museum Studies Department at the George Washington University.

Mary Coughlin and her husband welcomed their baby girl, Evelyn Booth, on September 1, 2009.

Dawn Rogala has just completed the second of two post-graduate fellowships at the Smithsonian Institution, studying ground layer materials in Abstract Expressionist paintings (results of her research were presented at the AIC meeting in Los Angeles in May). This September, Dawn will travel weekly to begin her Ph.D. studies in the Preservation Studies Doctoral Program at the University of Delaware. Dawn's proposed dissertation topic is the materials and techniques of Abstract Expressionist painter Hans Hofmann.

Nora Lockshin is happy to report that the Smithsonian Center for Archives Conservation has moved in to their new lab in downtown DC, in the heart of Smithsonian Archives (SIA)! The official opening for the SI community will be in early October during American Archives Month, and open house tour dates for our external colleagues will be announced thereafter. SIA is also pleased to welcome Beth Antoine of the Kilgarlin Center, University of Texas at Austin ('09), who has begun her year-long Fellowship, pursuing research on letter-press copying books, iron gall ink deterioration, paper splitting, and digital imaging. During this year she will be looking especially at the outgoing correspondence of Spencer Fullerton Baird (2nd Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution), which is found in 80 letter-press copying books, in an advanced stage of iron-gall ink deterioration.

Julia Brennan spent the summer in Amelia, Italy, working on a Masters with ARCA, The Association for Research into Crimes Against Art. She completed 300 class hours in courses from criminology, transnational crime, illicit trade, looting, repatriation, provenance and due diligence, investigations, security, national ownership laws, and international treaties. It was a fascinating and intense program. ARCA is an interdisciplinary research group on contemporary issues in art crime. This international non-profit organization studies issues in art crime and cultural property protection, runs educational programs, and consults on art protection and recovery issues brought to them by police, governments, museums, places of worship, and other public institutions. For more information go to www.artcrime.info

Call for Papers

The 11th ICOM-CC WOAM (Wet Organic Archaeological Materials) working group conference in Greenville, North Carolina, May 24 – May 28, 2010

The conference deals with all subjects concerning wet organic archaeological materials. During WOAM 2007 in Amsterdam we agreed to concentrate on the following main topics:

- In-situ preservation and reburial
- Degradation and conservation of leather and other organic materials
- Conservation of very large timbers
- Impregnation agents and drying methods
- Post conservation care, including problems of wood re-treatment – practicalities, ethics & risks
- Sulphur/iron acid formation in organic materials
- Analytical techniques for organic materials
- Reports on ongoing conservation projects

As in the 2007 conference, a distinction will be made between reviewed and non-reviewed papers thus; there will be different deadlines for submission:

Reviewed papers for WOAM

Participants who want to have their papers reviewed (a requirement for some scientists) will need to send in an abstract first; a scientific committee will review this. The abstract should not exceed 800 words. After acceptance, the authors are required to submit a paper that will be reviewed and sent back to the authors with comments. Finally, the authors are required to send in their revised papers. These papers will be published in a separate "reviewed" section in the conference proceedings.

Deadline for abstracts of reviewed papers: September 1, 2009

Deadline for submission of reviewed papers: January 1, 2010

Please indicate at the top: WOAM Review

Non-reviewed papers and poster presentations

Other participants that want to give a presentation or present a poster are also requested to submit an abstract. If accepted, they will need to submit their paper 2 weeks before the conference starts. This will be published in the conference proceedings. If no copy is received before the conference starts, the paper will not be published in the conference proceedings.

Deadline for abstracts of non-reviewed papers/ posters: November 1, 2009

Deadline for submissions of non reviewed papers/ posters: May 15, 2010

Please indicate at the top: WOAM Non-review and Paper or Poster

Send your abstract to the WOAM co-ordinator:
Kristiane Straetkvern (Kristiane.straetkvern@natmus.dk)

Upcoming Deadlines

The following deadlines are listed in order in relation to the current date. For more details about the individual grant or scholarship funding organizations, please consult their websites. This list is intended only as a reminder and is not a complete list of available grants, scholarships or events. If you know of an upcoming deadline for grants, papers or other events that should be added to this list, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

Bank of America/IMLS American Heritage Preservation Program

Two new grants have emerged as part of the "Connecting to Collections" initiative at the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences. These grants are for "cooperative projects to implement recommendations of the Heritage Health Index." For more information, go to the Heritage Preservation website. Deadline is October 16.

The Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees 2007 Preservation Awards

Nomination forms may be found at www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net under "What's New." Complete nominations must be postmarked by Dec. 15, 2006. Questions? Contact Scott D. Whipple at 410.514.7635 or swhipple@mdp.state.md.us.

FAIC George Stout Grant

The George Stout Memorial Fund may be used for two purposes. The first is to defray costs of invited George Stout lecturers. The second is to defray in part expenses (up to \$1000) of students who are members of AIC to attend professional meetings. Important! The deadline for receipt of student applications has been moved to December 15 for 2007 and 2008.

Call for Nominations: AIC 2007 Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections

This award recognizes archives, museums and libraries that have demonstrated exemplary and sustained commitment to caring for their collections. Nominations must be postmarked by December 15, 2006 and should be sent to Ruth Seyler; 202-452-9545; rseylar@aic-faic.org.

AIC Annual Meeting Early Bird Registration Rates

Rates for the AIC Annual Meeting registration goes up after December 31.

Grants for Conservation-related Projects

Conservation Project Support

For conservation and research. For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website. Deadline October 1.

Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grants

For conservation related projects. For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website. Deadline October 15.

Conservation Assessment Program

For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website. Deadline December 1.

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

Includes a conservation component. For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website. Deadline December 15.

Deadlines for Papers and Posters

AIC Poster Session 2010

For the 2009 annual meeting in Los Angeles, May 19-22. The conference theme is "Conservation 2.0: New Directions" but other topics are welcome. For more info, go to the AIC website or email aicposter@gmail.com. Deadline is October 15.

Meetings

AIC 2010 Annual Meeting Registration

Special "Preview Rate" valid until December 15.

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 1st through June 30th. Membership forms can be requested by mail from the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 23364, Washington D.C. 20026 or can be filled out and submitted on our web site. 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

The membership schedule is as follows:

- April: membership renewal notice mailed
- July 1: beginning of membership year
- September 15: Deadline for membership renewals*
- September 30: Publication of membership directory

*Members who join after September 15 will not be included in the membership directory, but in an addendum to be mailed out in December.

Disclaimer: The Washington Conservation Guild (WCG) does not recommend particular individuals, businesses, products, services or conservation treatments. WCG's Newsletter and Web site are simply vehicles for presenting information from various sources. The publication of such information in either medium should not be construed as an endorsement of it by WCG. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of WCG, its Board of Directors or membership.

How to reach WCG

Web site: www.washingtonconservationguild.org
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News from the Editor

WCG Newsletter is printed quarterly (September, December, March, June). Items for inclusion in the WCG Newsletter should be directed to:

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Takoma Park, MD 20912
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E-mail: girodj@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. Special thanks to proofreaders Brett Holt and Claire Peachey.

Next issue: December 2009
Deadline for submissions: November 15, 2009

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