A Voice for Historic Places Since 1889

Preservation Virginia works as a respected resource, experienced advocate and creative catalyst to advance solutions that keep the heart and soul in Virginia’s communities.

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In our demanding economy, you have a say. Your investment:
• Builds an effective public policy program that protects and promotes Virginia’s historic places.
• Serves more than 291,000 people per year through educational programming at our 6 historic sites.
• Brings more people together to save more places that make a difference.
You make this work possible. Thank you!
To give or renew your support, contact Amy Garmon at 804.648.1889, ext. 305, or donate securely online at www.bit.ly/preserveva

Lighting the Way: Cape Henry’s 225th Anniversary

On October 1, 1792, Cape Henry Lighthouse’s fish oil lantern shone for the very first time. 225 years later, we are commemorating the anniversary of the first Federal Public Works project completed by the fledgling United States government. Events are ongoing throughout the year, and please save the weekend of August 4–7 for National Lighthouse Day. Look for an announcement about an October anniversary party. You’re invited!

Education in action: students from the University of Virginia attended the annual Legislative Reception to learn more about public policy and the benefits of historic preservation in Virginia.
Spring is the season of new beginnings. Often new beginnings characterize our work in historic preservation. An abandoned building is adapted for new uses. A historic event or place is examined in a new way. A beloved colleague opens the door to the next chapter of his life.

At Preservation Virginia, we have embraced new beginnings and change as a part of our DNA. Some may view that as a contradiction with the term “preservation.” However, we see it as the opportunity to connect in new ways, to gain new perspectives and to be a part of the continuum that connects the past to the present and beyond to the future.

In this issue of Historic Ventures, you will read about new research at Historic Jamestowne and a new exhibit at Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown. You’ll enjoy a preview of plans for this year’s Virginia Preservation Conference in Petersburg. You will see how finding, surveying and interpreting Virginia’s Rosenwald schools brings new perspectives about our collective history and connections to one another. And as we congratulate Louis Malon on his retirement, you’ll learn how we are ensuring that his multiple responsibilities will be met in the future.

This Ventures introduces your new president, Patricia Loughridge, who succeeds Anne Geddy Cross. Patti is a museum professional and a long-time preservationist who has lived in Lexington, Hanover and now resides in Richmond. She is passionate about preservation and especially the synergy between historic preservation and community revitalization.

Spring forward with Preservation Virginia!

“Preservation from Where I Stand”

Elizabeth S. Kostelny
Chief Executive Officer

Patti Loughridge
President

Find, Survey, Interpret: Saving Virginia’s Rosenwald Schools

During a time of racial segregation and understanding of African-American schools, Rosenwald schools provided educational opportunity to African-American children throughout the South. Between 1917 and 1932, 367 Rosenwald schools were built in rural areas across Virginia. Julius Rosenwald, eventual owner of the Sears-Roebuck Company, created a fund which acted as seed money for the construction of the schools. As a result, African-American communities raised millions of dollars to match Rosenwald’s contributions and help fund school construction. Many of these schools operated through the 1960s. Today, Rosenwald schools represent a critical yet untold chapter in the history of Civil Rights in America.

The 2013 Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places list included Rosenwald Schools. Since that listing, we’ve worked with local communities and organizations across Virginia to identify, preserve and find new uses for these structures.

Through a grant from the National Park Service and Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), the Saving Virginia’s Rosenwald Schools project is underway. Through a comprehensive and systematic new process, we are working to answer questions like, “How many schools still stand?” and, “How do we organize to save them?” Starting with counties within the Piedmont region and with local community support, we will locate as many of these schools as possible and determine the condition of the buildings. Volunteers on the ground will help locate the schools and conduct surveys following the guidelines of DHR’s database system.

Preservation Virginia and Virginia Foundation for the Humanities staff meet with alumni from The Julius Rosenwald High School in Northumberland County, Virginia. This school opened in 1917 as Northumberland County Training School.

Knowing what’s out there is essential before continuing to the next phase—finding adaptive uses for these buildings and interpreting them appropriately. Let’s locate, survey and interpret them together. If you’d like to help out, contact Justin Sarafin at jsarafin@preservationvirginia.org

“Historic Ventures introduces your new president, Patricia Loughridge, who succeeds Anne Geddy Cross.”

Anne Geddy Cross, Elizabeth S. Kostelny and Patricia Loughridge after a special tour of the White House in November 2016.

Support replacement at Bacon’s Castle began in early March 2017. Peter Post, renowned restoration specialist, spent the winter trimming and shaping each shingle by hand at his workshop. Now the shingles are protecting the oldest brick dwelling in North America. Your support made this possible.

Cover: The roof replacement at Bacon’s Castle began in early March 2017. Peter Post, renowned restoration specialist, spent the winter trimming and shaping each shingle by hand at his workshop. Now the shingles are protecting the oldest brick dwelling in North America. Your support made this possible.

Elizabeth S. Kostelny, Patricia Loughridge and the Honorable Angela Navarro, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, at Preservation Virginia’s annual Legislative Reception on January 26, 2017.

Highlighting the Benefits of Historic Preservation

During this year’s General Assembly Session, we continued to highlight the benefits of historic preservation in Virginia. At our annual Legislative Reception, we organized our network of local preservation organizations, developers and supporters of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit and shared the message with our guests. We presented a strong case about the economic benefits of the credit to the sub-committee reviewing the proposed bill, who kept the credits intact.

This reception was made possible by the generous support of our sponsors: Commonwealth Advisors, Daniel & Company, Inc., Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Piedmont Environmental Council, Williams Mullen, Rehab Development & Rehab Builders, Mr. Trip Pollard, Mrs. Genevieve P. Keller, Walter Parks Architects and Mr. Harry J. Warthen, Ill.
What happens when a longtime employee announces he will retire? While some might panic, we decided on a more deliberate process. Any company or organization is only as good as the people who staff it. Success results from employees with passion, drive, knowledge and expertise. Equally important to hiring great staff is continuing that work when they reach a well-deserved retirement.

Early last year, Louis Malon made known his plan to retire in June 2017. He joined Preservation Virginia’s team in 1982, and is a critical part of what we do. As director of preservation services, he accumulated a vast knowledge of our properties’ preservation maintenance history. He developed relationships with people and communities all across the Commonwealth, and created a reputation for helping those in need. “I’ve been involved for a quarter of the entire history of this 128 year-old organization,” Louis said, “and that’s a bit daunting if you think about it!”

Having this ample, advanced notice, we mapped a thoughtful strategy that would ease this transition of leadership and help us chart the future. We turned to the Jessie Ball duPont Fund for help. With a generous grant, we undertook a comprehensive review of not only functions of the Preservation Services department, but of each department in the entire organization. The work was approached in three phases: cataloguing Louis’s work, performing an organization assessment and finding a permanent hire.

First, a temporary preservation services assistant captured as much of Louis’s institutional knowledge as possible and organized his files to enhance the archives. Using a digital scanner, over 200,000 items were scanned and catalogued, including reports, research documents, architectural drawings, photos and slides. The scanned copies are now an all-in-one resource for staff and researchers.

Next, a consulting firm, Warren Whitney, interviewed and developed an evaluation tool to analyze how staff allocated time across mission-related projects and activities. The consultants asked the questions, “Are we structured in a way that best fulfills our mission?” and “What will we do when there are other staff departures?” Their findings resulted in a more effective management structure, as well as recommendations to guide how all of Louis’s responsibilities would be met after his retirement.

The last step was to find Louis’s successors. As part of the reorganization, an architectural conservator and preservation programs manager were hired. The conservator will focus on the bricks and mortar work that fell under the director of preservation services’s purview and the programs manager will absorb the advocacy and community resource work. Both positions are working alongside Louis to help ease this transition.

This thoughtful and thorough approach helped us evaluate succession leadership as a whole within the organization. By proactively preparing for the inevitable, Preservation Virginia is better positioned to have seamless transitions. The most surprising thing? As the baby boomer generation ages, this process is serving as a model for colleague institutions that also anticipate leadership changes in the coming years.

Through the generous support of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, we’re on sound footing as Louis Malon retires this summer. But the work’s not done. “We’ve grown an amazing amount over the last 35 years,” Louis said, “but there’s so much more we can and will do. And that’s exciting.”
Spirit of the Laws are the first in an on-going effort to grow and share Henry’s library collection. Montesquieu’s political treatise, Spirit of the Laws, was one of the most heavily cited works during the Constitutional Conventions. Its influence is seen in the separation of powers doctrine and our system of checks and balances. Patrick Henry noted that as a young man, he would read Spirit of the Laws for one-half hour, and then have new ideas to meditate on for the rest of the day.

When you visit Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown for a tour, you have the opportunity to discuss the influence of the Enlightenment on our government and the dilemmas facing the framers of the Constitution as they pondered democracy and a new republic. You might even take a page from Henry and prepare for the discussion by reading your own copy of Spirit of the Laws!

Thank you to the Lela Marshall Hine Trust for their generous gifts to conserve Spirit of the Laws.

With the return of our recently conserved Spirit of the Laws by Montesquieu, general tours at Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown explore the ways in which Henry and other framers of the Constitution looked to Enlightenment philosophies to shape the new country.