

*Unbroken Threads*

*Preserving our Textile Heritage*

**North Carolina Preservation Consortium Annual Conference**

**McKimmon Conference and Training Center**

**North Carolina State University**

**November 7, 2016**

Throughout history, textiles have played important roles in the lives and traditions of people of all cultures. Museums, historic sites and homes, and archives of all types and sizes can have a wide range of textiles in their collections. These items have been constructed using a variety of materials and techniques – from natural fibers such as cotton, silk, flax and wool to regenerated or manufactured fibers such as rayon, nylon and polyester. Speakers will cover a variety of topics at the 2016 North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPC) annual conference addressing the care and preservation of textiles. These include the philosophy and mission of textile conservation, inherent vices such as heavy trims on fragile fabrics, man-made fabrics and dyes, environmental concerns, light damage, insect and pest damage, stains, and poor storage. Speakers will cover stabilization options such as vacuuming, dry cleaning, wet cleaning and sewing, as well as packing and handling, and when to hang, to fold, or to roll textiles. In addition, speakers will cover preparing textiles for exhibition and display, review types of materials used in mount and mannequin making, the use of padded hangers for display and storage, cutting ethafoam for small mounts, methods for mounting quilts and hats, the use of magnets, and an introduction to fosshape.

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## Keynote Speakers

**Newbold Richardson** is a textile conservator and material culture historian from Alexandria, Virginia. Her firm, *Past Crafts Textiles*, has provided conservation, collection management, exhibition and appraisal services for institutional and private clients since 1985. She specializes in outreach to small, underfunded museums. Newbie has a BS from Northwestern University, and completed course requirements for an MFA in Costume Design from The George Washington University before focusing on historic clothing and textiles. Since 2003 Ms. Richard has partnered with Ms. Colleen Callahan of *The Costume and Textile Specialists*. Ms. Richard will present an overview of the environmental requirements for textiles, basic handling, stabilizing options (vacuuming, cleaning, sewing) and storage solutions on a budget.

**Colleen Callahan** began the consulting business, *The Costume & Textile Specialists*, in 2003 after retiring from the Valentine Museum in Richmond, Virginia, as curator emerita of costume and textiles. She consults with institutions nationwide on exhibition, conservation, collection management and documentation, and reproduction clothing projects. One recent project, on which she partnered with Newbold Richardson, was the conservation and display of clothing belonging to James Monroe and his family from the James Monroe Museum in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Colleen received her BA in Theatre from Smith College and her MA in Arts Administration: Costume Studies from New York University under a joint program with the Costume Institute of Metropolitan Museum of Art. Colleen will present an overview about organizing costume/textile exhibitions, based on a handout that will be provided to attendees.

**Paige Myers** is the textile conservator at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, North Carolina. Having been a conservator for over 20 years, Ms. Myers has done contract work for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and worked with a private conservator in the Washington, D.C. area. She also completed internships at the Smithsonian Institution, American Textile History Museum, and Biltmore Estate. She has a post-graduate degree in Textile Conservation from the University of Alberta, Canada. Her area of interest is the use of new materials for mannequin/mount construction for textiles and costume. Ms. Myers will address basic mounts and supports for textiles and clothing that are easy to construct and very cost effective. She will also introduce a new method of mannequin making using a material called fosshape.

## Lightning Session Speakers

**Newbold Richard** during the afternoon session Ms. Richard will discuss her recent conservation of one of North Carolina's textile treasures – the only known American Revolutionary War framed knit Liberty Cap, which was worn by Captain Arthur Forbis. The cap is from the collection of the Greensboro Historical Museum.

**Deb Higgins** is the director of the May Museum & Park, a Civil War-era house museum located in Farmville, North Carolina. Ms. Higgins will discuss the museum's collection of over forty

quilts, conservation efforts the museum has taken to date, and the challenges faced by a small museum in storing and maintaining such a collection.

**Wanda Lassiter** has worked at the Museum of the Albemarle for ten years, and for the past six as curator of the Museum's collections. Ms. Lassiter will focus on the Museum's efforts to raise funds for the conservation of wedding dresses for their exhibit, "I Do! Weddings in the Albemarle, 1831 – 2015." A portion of the funds raised came from the North Carolina Preservation Consortium's Endangered Artifacts program.

**Lynn Lancaster Gorges** is a textile conservator and owner of *Historic Textiles Studio* located in New Bern, North Carolina. She has studied at the Smithsonian Institute, Campbell Center for Preservation, College of Textiles at North Carolina State University, and Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Her specialty is in the area of military uniforms, flags, vintage clothing, and quilts. She will discuss a recent project to conserve and stabilize a coat worn by a North Carolina native during the Civil War.