

## President's Letter

**Catherine Coueignoux**

Hello WAAC!

The weather has turned lovely and we are all looking forward to summer. How lucky we are that this year, we can stretch it just that bit further with a little beach getaway at the end of September—the perfect antidote to the back-to-school blues, the thoughts of impending fall, and dark evenings...

Yes! It's the 2015 WAAC Annual Meeting! September 29 - October 2

Before tantalizing you with details of this upcoming conference, let's take a look at the other WAAC-y activities of this year. In February, WAAC sponsored a fully-booked Modular Cleaning Program (MCP) workshop led by the inimitable Chris Stravroudis. Our very own Donna Williams generously offered her Los Angeles studio space for the workshop.

Our next major event is the annual election, during which a new Vice President and two Members-at-Large will be elected. Each term lasts for two years, the VP's second year served as President. The perks of belonging to the WAAC board are many, including spending time with a fabulous group of people while serving the profession, and indulging at the seriously decadent mid-year board meeting, organized by Susi Friend. If you are interested in running, or simply want to learn more about what is involved, email our Vice President, Teresa Moreno, at [vp@waac-us.org](mailto:vp@waac-us.org). The elections will be held this summer, in time for the new board members to plan attendance at the annual meeting.

You should have seen the Call for Papers and Meeting Information sent out in March. (If you haven't, have a look on our website at [cool.conservation-us.org/waac/meeting/](http://cool.conservation-us.org/waac/meeting/)) I've already received a number of paper submissions that are sure to get your mental juices flowing, but I'd love to see more. Please send me your ideas at [president@waac-us.org](mailto:president@waac-us.org), and remember that WAAC is the perfect forum for discussing things that went wrong during a problem-solving process, for taking us through the challenges that might be glossed over in other arenas, for getting into the nitty-gritty of what makes our job such fun, and such a never-ending learning process. It's good to be reminded of what drew us to this profession—the need to combine sleuthing skills with critical thinking to find—when it all goes well—that perfect balance between theoretically ideal and realistically practical solutions to the problem at hand. Fancy hand skills are always a treat to see as well.

I'm so excited about this conference, which will be a blend of thinking hard and kicking back. Have a look at the week's layout:

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	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Morning	Angel's Project: Carmel Mission Basilica Museum with pre-project tour	Breakfast Conference program commences	Breakfast Conference program	Breakfast Conference program
Afternoon	Dinner	Lunch Conference Program	Lunch Conference Program	Boxed lunch Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Monterey Museum of Art
Evening	Bonfire with s'mores and hot cocoa	Pre-dinner cocktails Dinner	Dinner Movie Night with popcorn	Music on the Social Hall Deck

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## President's letter, continued

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You'll notice that the conference ends on Friday. This is no accident—Asilomar and all of Monterey is such a wonderful place that you'll want to stay the weekend, bring your friends or family, and make a holiday of the whole thing. But before we get to the weekend, there's a lot of other fun to be had—and all for no extra charge.

Tuesday, September 29: Our Angel's Project will be at the Carmel Mission Basilica Museum. A small group of conservators will spend some quality time doing thorough construction/condition reports for a carefully-selected group of small figures. These wood and wax figures with various decorative surfaces and textiles, are truly multimedia. Extra interest is added by the fact that Father Junipero Serra, who founded the mission, is being canonized this week by the Pope! Whether or not Christianity, or religion in general, is your thing, this is a chance to be witness to a bit of history.

After this day of Angel's work—or travel for those arriving that day—we will toast ourselves at a bonfire with s'mores and hot cocoa, within sight, smell, and sound of the sea. (Taste and touch will be devoted to the ooey-goopy s'mores.)

Wednesday, September 30: First we have a day of scintillating presentations, then a round (or two) of pre-dinner drinks will be served in a room with a panoramic view of the ocean—and a balcony from which to enjoy the last warm rays of the sun while catching up with old friends.

Thursday, October 1: Following another stimulating day, we'll have dinner in the Asilomar dining hall, as usual, but with a little bit of wine thrown in for good measure. There is no banquet this year, as we'll be spending all of our time together anyway, but an extra-festive mood never hurt anyone.

Afterward, everyone will be raring to...get into their pjs and watch a movie! To take advantage of the retreat-like nature of Asilomar, we will be screening a movie and serving popcorn for those who aren't quite ready to end the day.

Friday, October 2: The meeting ends with a half-day of presentations. Then a small number of us will go to Monterey and get a behind-the-scenes tour of the Monterey Museum of Art. The Museum has two buildings—La Mirada, originally an adobe house, and an old mortuary (!) on Pacific Street. The changes to both buildings over time have presented the collections in each location with very different, and very interesting, challenges. Registrar John Rexine will lead us through, and show us some lovely art in the process.

For those of you who are staying on to enjoy the weekend, free music is offered Friday evening on the Social Hall deck, right next to the café/bar. And be sure and check the website and pages 4 and 5 for ideas for things to do in the area.

Now that you're salivating at the prospect of attending (and possibly presenting!), go to the WAAC website and send in your registration. If you forgot to renew, this is the moment! I look forward to seeing all of you at Asilomar.

Cat

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### \* The 2015 Membership Form is now online at the WAAC website \*

Click the Renew / Join button. You can fill out your membership form online, and then either print the form and mail it with your check, or pay with Visa or MasterCard from our secure online merchant service, USAePay.

An email will be sent and paper forms will be posted to members who indicated their preferred conventional mail for renewals.

Please note that credit card payments will henceforth only be payable online. For security reasons we will no longer accept credit card information submitted by mail or fax.

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### Thank you to our guest text editor

Our skillful and diligent text editor of over 15 years, Wendy Partridge, was not able to work on this issue, so long-time member Tom Turner, who has years of editing experience, has stepped in to help. A sincere thank you to Tom.

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### Internet

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### Deadline

Contributions for the September Newsletter should be received by the Editor before **August 15, 2015**.