

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

July 15, 2023

Apothecary – The Pasteur-Galt Shop is excited to welcome our newest Pharmacy Student Intern, Joy Morrow! Joy comes to us from Campbell University; her focus is oncology, but her interests extend to psychiatric medicine (so Sharon and Margaret are doubly excited.) In addition to compounding a variety of medicines, Joy will be conducting an original independent research project relating to 18th-century cancer treatment. Stop in and say hello - she'll be here through the end of July!

Stephanie just finished the surgery component of her Level 1 apprenticeship track. Margaret has been working on more hospital material, prepping research for a CW Innovation Studios video in advance of the anniversary. Sharon continues to cross-reference Galt-Barraud material while precepting our pharmacy program. Hoping everyone in Trades is staying cool and hydrated!



The Apothecary is open Wednesday through Friday, and Saturday (11:30-5:00).

Blacksmith – Little has changed in the Blacksmith Shop since last week. Tools for the Carpenters, kitchen utensils for Mount Vernon, and hardware for the Bray School are still underway. We had a very busy Fourth of July with over 2,800 Guests on site! We would like to thank our Carpenter colleagues for installing the gate on our site this week. We are happy to have that entrance available again for coal deliveries. Lastly, some tools and hardware were made this week for the Tinsmiths to make "Tin Kitchens" for Mount Vernon.

The Blacksmith is open Sunday through Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday.

Bookbinder – **The Bookbinder is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.**

Cabinetmaker – This past week, Bill finished some letter carving for a special project, which is not something we get to do a lot of. He's now continuing on with making the knee brackets for his writing table. John has recently visited Collections to study his next project, a Tidewater cellaret for storing your wine and liquor bottles in style. He'll be getting to work shortly with the saw and plane to rough out the needed parts.



The Cabinetmaker is open Sunday (11:30-5:00), Monday, and Thursday through Saturday.

Carpenter – In the last few weeks, we’ve completed the roof of the Farm site’s wagon shed and gotten some work done on the gates for the Farm site, too. We hope to get prepared for the siding installation.



The Carpenters are working at Ewing Field Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, weather permitting.

Cook – The Palace Kitchen is open Sunday, and Wednesday through Saturday.

Cooper – The Cooper is open Sunday, Monday, and Thursday through Saturday.

Engraver – This week, the Engravers were continuing current projects. William has been working through required repair jobs as well as drawing monograms. We worked through a review of his apprenticeship and did some planning towards his next Level. Lynn has been working on monograms, too, drawing cursive writing with Emily and introducing her to watercolor tinting the prints. Lynn has also been working on the Wheelwrights print as well as sketching some new designs. Emily and Lynn took some labels that William
Department of Historic Trades and Skills

drew over to the Wheelwright Shop and affixed them to their paint pigment containers. All in all, a steady week of getting things done.

The Engraver is open Tuesday through Saturday.

Farmer – Field work doesn't stop when it's hot. Thriving depends on water and a hat.



A jug of water keeping cool in the shade of pumpkins



A good straw hat toasted under the Virginia sun

The Farmer is at Ewing Field Wednesday through Saturday, weather permitting.

Fifes and Drums – The Fifes and Drums will be performing Wednesday through Friday at 4:40 pm in Market Square, Saturday at 12:30 pm starting at the Capitol and marching to the Palace, and Saturday at 1 pm on the Play House Stage.

Founder – After a very busy July 4th week, the Founders are glad for a quieter time to get some more work done. Leading up to the Holiday, Apprentice Drew managed to finish the pewter ear patterns for buckets we can use in the future. Apprentice Leanne has continued to work on the seals in pewter and bronze that we've mentioned before. She has also finished a preliminary FAQ sheet for the Shop for quick reference should anyone need to know Foundry basics. Upcoming research is shifting to core-making as several upcoming projects require the skill. Special thanks to Silversmiths Preston, Megan, and Jacob, as well as Engraver William for helping at the Foundry while Drew has been on vacation!

The Foundry is open Sunday, and Wednesday through Saturday.

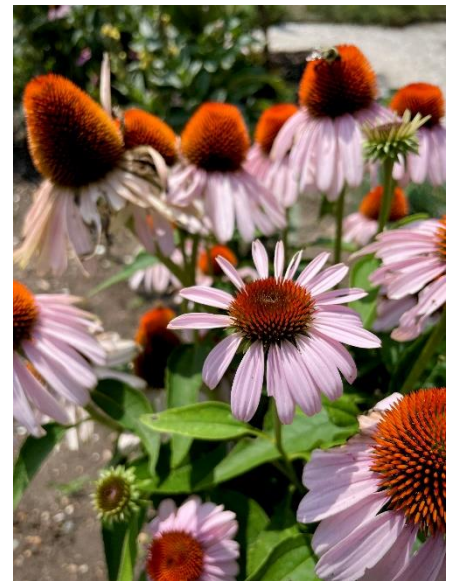
Gardener – Since the last issue of the *Adviser*, Journeyman Gardener Teal returned from a research trip to England and France to study surviving and restored 18th-century gardens. She is in the process of organizing her photographs and reflections from the trip, which she hopes to share sometime in the near future. Back on this side of the Atlantic, temperatures have climbed, and the summer plants in the Historic Garden are growing wildly. The vining plants such as cucumbers and beans have reached the tops of their trellises and are producing harvestable food. The other vines, including sweet potatoes, melons, bushel gourds, and squash, are quickly covering any available ground. In the American Indian food plot, the large leaves of the squash vine are encouraged to grow along the ground where they will prevent weed growth and help retain soil moisture. A number of flowers are currently blooming in the Garden; the most recent include purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*), cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), and chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*).



Journeyman Historic Gardener Teal admires a specimen of *Echium pininana* at the Chelsea Physic Garden in London (left). The elaborate gardens in front of the Orangerie at the Palace of Versailles (right).



Cucumbers, onions, and beans harvested at the Historic Garden



Echinacea purpurea in bloom at the Historic Garden

The Historic Garden is open Daily, weather permitting.

Gunsmith – The Gunsmith is open Sunday, Monday, Friday, and Saturday.

Harpsichordmaker – From the Harpsichord Corner, greetings. For the Harris Spinnet project, we have finished the assembly of the case walls and now focus on the internal support structure. Melanie has really moved through a large amount of the veneer decorations, inside and outside. It's going to be a very handsome casing. Once the casing is finished, we will move back to the dozens of parts and steps that will make the musical and mechanical action. That will be Part Two, but we have to finish Part One first, and well. Come see how the work is progressing.



Veneer decoration in progress



Clamps installation interior work



Front panel and bass cheek finished veneer



Interior of the Spinet



The Spinet, so far

The Harpsichordmaker is open Sunday (11:30-5:00), Monday, and Thursday through Saturday.

Department of Historic Trades and Skills

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Joiner – The Joiner is open Sunday, and Wednesday through Saturday.

Leather Breeches Maker – The Leather Breeches Maker is open Sunday, and Wednesday through Saturday.

Masonry – The Brickyard remains as busy as ever! We're working with the First Baptist Church descendant community to memorialize past members of this important congregation. Many thanks to Archaeology's Crystal Castleberry, Nation Builder James Ingram, and Coach & Livestock's Adam Canady for helping spread the word!

Apprentices Nick and Madeleine, meanwhile, got to spend another week at the Bray School, learning the various ins and outs of being part of a big CW project. Under the watchful eye of Ray Canetti, the Master Bricklayer that mentored the previous and current Masters of Colonial Williamsburg's Brickyard, Nick and Madeleine are gaining the skills to one day handle these sorts of projects on their own. Ray even gifted them each one of his notorious handmade joint rakers, useful for getting mortar out of the hard-to-reach spots in brickwork. "I've really learned a lot in the last two weeks," Nick said. "I wish I hadn't squandered so much of my youth on playing *Magic: The Gathering*."



The Brickyard is open Daily, weather permitting.

Military Programs – Military Interpretation at the Guardhouse is open Daily.

Milliner and Mantua-maker – The Milliner and Mantua-maker is open Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday.

Musket Range – The Musket Range is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday with sessions at 9:30am, 11am, 1:30pm, and 3pm.

Printer – The Printer is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Shoemaker – The Shoemakers are re-acclimating to our Shoe Shed behind the Blacksmith Shop. Our Summer Intern, Tyler, has completed his first pair of slippers and has started on a second pair. This style of slipper is made with turn shoe construction – the upper and sole are stitched together inside out and turned right side out.



Victoria has also been working on turn shoes, but before she can start her next pair, she needs to modify the last she's using to make it the right size. Adding "pins" of leather to lasts is one of the ways Shoemakers utilize scrap leather and accommodate customers with less-common foot sizes. Once the leather dries to the last, it

can be blended in with a knife and rasp to get the appropriate size without changing the heel width or toe shape.



Nicole has also been doing prep work for her next pair of shoes. One of our biggest challenges today is sourcing the leather we need. When it arrives, it's not always dressed the way we need it to be. Using a combination of fish oil and tallow, Nicole has been dressing the grain out leather to make it suitable for the channel pumps she's making for her apprenticeship. Val has completed a pair of shoes for Tim Logue and a pair for Madeleine Bolton. He's started on a pair for Ron Carnegie.

The Shoemakers got to spend some time in the Archaeology Lab on our Research Day to study original shoes. Tyler was a natural at sketching shoe fragments. Victoria was particularly interested in a child's shoe found at the Wetherburn's site. Nicole just scratched the surface in studying a rare surviving half boot in our Collection that she'll use as a basis for the pair she'll make to start the boot portion of her apprenticeship. Thank you to the Archaeologists for hosting us, and we hope to see you again soon!



The Shoemaker is open Sunday through Thursday.

Silversmith – The Silversmiths have been busy as ever working through their list of commissions and retail restocks. Intern Jacob has been hard at work learning saw piercing and ring making, while Megan is raising her cups and chasing her first silver tray.



Chris continues to work on chasing her tray, and Bobbie has cut 44 discs and 88 buttons for trade silver medallions.



Preston continues to raise his large silver bowl. George has repaired the handle to our favorite raising hammer. We'd like to thank our friends at the Blacksmith Shop for giving us a piece of hickory for the new handle.



The Silversmith is open Sunday through Friday.

Tailor – The Tailor is open Tuesday through Saturday.

Tin Plate Worker – The Tin Plate Worker is open Wednesday through Saturday.

Weaver, Spinner, and Dyer – Work continues on the tartan! We are marching along through the thirty yards of colorful wool warp. It's an easily recognizable textile and provides an excellent segue to discuss how ideas of fabric may change over time. We are looking forward to seeing all the wonderful things it will become in the capable hands of Ren Tolson.

In other news, Annie has officially finished the first of four overshot coverlets required by their apprenticeship. With the green finished, a lovely blue and yellow is now in progress. These will end up in Prentis Store for the public to purchase. It's always heartwarming to speak to Guests who have purchased our fabric in the past and still cherish it to this day.

The Weaver is open Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday. It will be open on Monday for two Workshops ONLY.

Wheelwright – The Wheelwright is open Sunday, and Tuesday through Thursday.

Wigmaker – The Wig Shop will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

The Mechanick's Adviser is a publication of the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Historic Trades & Skills.

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Contributors: Apothecary – Margaret Perry; Blacksmith – Joshua Rachita; Cabinetmaker – John Peeler; Carpenter – Matt Sanbury; Engraver - Lynn Zelesnikar; Farmer – Ed Schultz; Founder – Leanne Bellouny; Gardener – Teal Brooks; Masonry – Joshua Graml; Shoemaker – Nicole Boileau; Silversmith – Megan Cantwell; Weaver, Spinner, and Dyer – Pamela Russo