

# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

## July 1, 2023

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

*Blacksmith* – In the Blacksmith Shop this week, Mark is nearing completion of his lock, needing only to make the keeper and the doorknob shank. Ken finished up a handrail. Alex and Broadus have hammered out a mess of chisels, socketed framing chisels for Alex and paring chisels for Broadus. Josh carries on with gridirons, now preparing to assemble his third, halfway through the six that he needs. As always, all's well that falls well at the base of the anvil!





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

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

**Cabinetmaker** – The Cabinetmakers are moving toward the finish line on two current projects. John is neatly stretching and tacking the black leather show cloth onto the slip seats for his chairs. Once that's done, only a couple of coats of wax stand between his chairs and completion. Bill, after bending some oak for the quadrant drawer of his writing table, is ready to dovetail the curved piece to the rest of the drawer structure. In the photo, you can see the drawer parts that will ultimately fit into the small rectangular cutout in the larger drawer side beneath them. Bill and John have also been guiding Volunteers Chris and Sarah through the process of cutting mortise and tenon joints.



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



**Carpenter** – 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, Tuesday (9:00-2:00), and Thursday through Saturday.

**Engraver** – The Engraver is open Tuesday through Saturday.

**Farmer** – The Farmer will be at Ewing Field Tuesday 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 12:45 pm starting at the Capitol and marching to the Palace, and Saturday at 1:15 pm on the Play House Stage.

**Founder** – The Foundry is open Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday.

**Gardener** – This week saw the first substantive rain in some time. For most plants, the rain was a welcome relief from the dry conditions. But for some of the Garden residents, the sheer volume of water knocked them over and necessitated the use of ropes and stakes to right them. Corn (*Zea mays*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*), and carrots (*Daucus carota*) all required support to keep the plants off the ground and out of the pathways.



Carrots in bloom knocked down by an inch (!) of rain and laying amongst the Welsh onions (*Allium fistulosum*) (left). Carrots held up by ropes and stakes (right).

With the rain, weeds sprouted quickly, and most of the Gardeners' time this week (outside of interpretation) was spent pulling wayward vegetation. A few other tasks were completed, however. Interns Andrew and Will improved upon the hoop trellises for tuberose (*Agave amica*) based off illustrations from Thomas Hill's The Gardeners' Labyrinth. The very popular flowering Canterbury bells (*Campanula medium*) finally reached the end of their season and were replaced by potted chili peppers (*Capsicum*). Finally, the first cucumbers of the season were sent to the Historic Cooks.

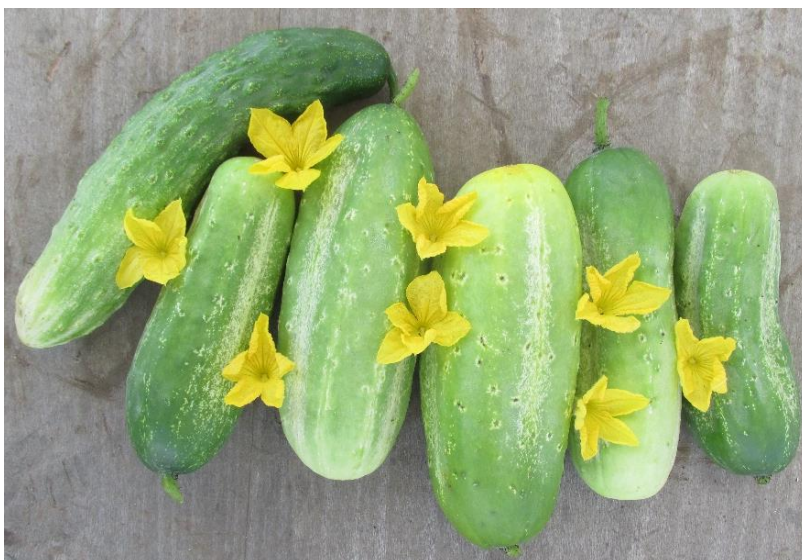




Andrew and Will discuss the art of flower trellising.



A row of potted chilis greet Guests to the Garden.



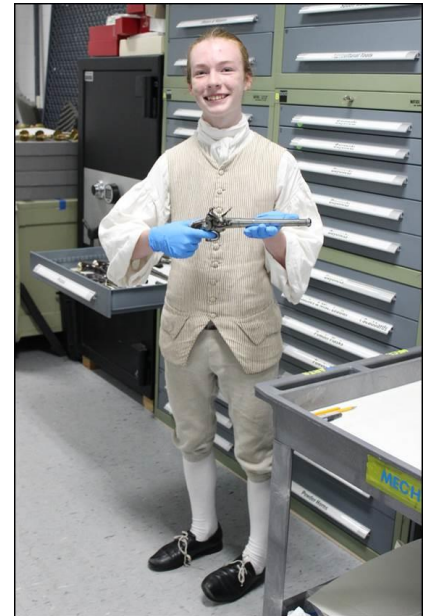
Two varieties of *Cucumis sativus* along with their blossoms before heading off to the Palace Kitchen

The Historic Garden is open Daily, weather permitting.

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

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

*Joiner* – Hello from the Joiner Shop! Last week was action packed at the Joiner. Last Friday, Laura, Brian, and our Junior Interpreter, Will Kester, went over to Bruton Heights tool storage where Erik Goldstein showed us around. We were looking at small toolboxes as prototypes for one Laura is making for William from the Engraver. Erik took the time to show Will Kester some unique items in the Collection such as a pistol owned by Lord Dunmore, Williamsburg's last Royal Governor.



On Monday, we hosted a group of NIAHD students (National Institute of American History and Democracy) from William and Mary's Pre-College Program. We took them through cutting a Mortise and Tenon joint. That afternoon, we went over to Packet's Court to look at some of the artifacts pulled from the Bray School. As part of the Joiner Shop's contribution to the restoration, we'll manufacture some doors as well as chair rail moulding.







The “Dutch Master’s” examining an interior door from the Bray School (left). Painting by Jan De Bray (right).  
**The Joiner is open Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday.**

*Leather Breeches Maker* – The Leather Breeches Makers got to spend a little time in Collections, thanks to Neal Hurst’s generosity with his time. We made some interesting discoveries about some of the breeches in our Collection and came away with even more questions. Information gleaned from this trip is already being incorporated into the Shop interpretation.



**The Leather Breeches Maker is open Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday.**

**Masonry** – This week, the Brickyard crew was split between the Yard and the Bray School restoration, leaving Master Josh and Journeyman Kenneth to hold vigil over the Yard. Apprentices Nick and Madeleine are learning valuable skills as they observe and work alongside the modern masons. To ensure that there are some base level skills to build upon, they constructed a few practice walls with the bricks from last year's production.

Back in the Brickyard, production has improved after the excessive rain of weeks past, which leaves us with over four thousand bricks in our drying shed.



**The Brickyard is open Daily, weather permitting.**

**Military Programs** – Military Programs is gearing up for the July 4th weekend. We will be looking forward to creating new Guest experiences through our drill programs at 12:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday, as well as July 4th programming we are participating in, to include “The Salute to the States”, the reading of the Declaration of Independence, and the evening festivities just prior to fireworks. Hope to see you there!



Also, earlier this week, the official announcement of our new Supervisor was posted. Dr. Terence Christian is joining us from Miami, bringing with him a rich background in Military History and Conflict Archaeology. His academic background includes a Bachelor's Degree from Vanderbilt University, a Master's and Doctorate from University of Glasgow, as well as a position as a post-Doctoral Fellow at Temple University. His background has led him to international places, exploring both military history and archaeology, as well as helping bring about adventures for guests of Silversea Cruises. He has occupied such rolls as researcher, historian-in-residence, lead investigator, lecturer, and consultant. Dr. Christian is moving to our neck of the woods in the coming weeks with his family and will be starting with Military Programs on July 10th. We look forward to an exciting future with him at the helm of the Military Programs!

**Military Interpretation at the Guardhouse is open Sunday (9am-12pm and 2-5pm), Monday (9am-5pm), Tuesday (11am-5pm) and Wednesday through Saturday.**

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

**Musket Range** – The Musket Range has been sold out most of June. Large numbers of shooters equal needed gun repair. Luckily for us, Andy just returned from the Western Kentucky University/National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association Gunsmithing Seminar. Andy was sharing some of his newfound knowledge with Alex. Alex is working on his first ramrod. Andy also showed Alex a fix for the fowler. Alex has also recently received his first 5-star Google review.



**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 through Thursday.**

**Shoemaker – The Shoemaker is open Sunday through Thursday.**

**Silversmith – The Silversmith is open Sunday through Friday.**

**Tailor – The Tailor is open Tuesday through Saturday.**



*Tin Plate Worker* – The Tin Plate Worker is open Tuesday through Saturday.

*Weaver, Spinner, and Dyer* – As of right now (Thursday afternoon), everything is set for our first summer Dye Day! As long as the weather holds, we are looking forward to a successful Dye Day. This month, we will be dyeing with fustic (yellow), logwood (purple), cochineal (red), and the ever-faithful indigo. With this range of colors, we will be able to get all manner of green, orange, and black, in addition to the base colors of each dye. A dyer's skill is in mastering the chemistry behind each dye, mordant, and fiber. And while we strive for mastery, we enjoy experimenting!

**The Weaver is open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. It will be open on Monday for two Workshops ONLY.**

*Wheelwright* – This week, we have finished the repair of the cart for the staff of the Market House. Intern Ralph and Junior Interpreter Liam pose with the result of their labor.



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

**Wigmaker** – Hello from the Wigmakers! With Edith away for the last week, Debbie and Benton have concentrated on maintenance items. Intern Stella has made great progress on Robert W.'s wig, having woven several wefts and attaching them in the order Edith had laid out for her. Junior Interpreter Alexa continues to work on her hairpiece and is getting the hang of interpreting to an ever-changing rotation of Guests each day. Debbie has finished her silk netting for future use and has only to decide whose head it will end up on. Benton has been progressing nicely on the linen netting he's been working on, as well. As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any hair-related needs or questions.



Stella working on Robert's wig

**The Wig Shop will be open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.**

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

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