



**THE
MECHANICK'S
ADVISOR**

2/8/24

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Brickyard

Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday

In the past two weeks the Brickyard crew had the opportunity to visit both Christ Church and Menokin to gander at their architectural wonders. With the Carpenters for company much merriment was had, especially by Carpenter Bobby Clay as the sight of three hundred years old carpenter brought a tear to his eye. We also made sure to take Apprentice Carpenter McKinley under our wing and help him see the beauty of a barrel vault.

Otherwise, this week our drying shed acquired stairs which have been much anticipated.

- Madeleine Bolton



The attic at Christ Church



McKinley and the barrel vault

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Cabinetmaker

Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday

The cabinetmakers have been settling back into the normal workflow after hosting and participating in the 26th annual Working Wood in the 18th Century conference over the final weekend of January. Bill Pavlak and John Peeler presented on designing and building a chair that Bill modelled after a plate first published by Thomas Chippendale in 1754 - the presentation sought to answer the hypothetical question "how would the Anthony Hay Shop of 18th Century Williamsburg have interpreted Chippendale's design for the more austere local market?" Bill also teamed up with master engraver Lynn Zelesnikar to compare notes on how an engraver and woodcarver might each have interpreted a drawing by Chippendale. Tamsyn and John, along with our harpsichord making shopmates hosted a pre-conference open house at the shop before the event kicked off while Bill joined our curator of furniture in leading a series of tours at the Art Museum. The conference was a success with attendees and we're all grateful to our fellow tradespeople and colleagues from across the Foundation who contributed greatly to that success. Thank you!

- Bill Pavlak



Bill demonstrates carving a rococo cartouche under the unflinching eye of the camera and 200 attendees.

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Farming

Soil amendments continue to happen at Ewing Field. Last fall, we had six dump truck loads of compost equaling 60 cubic yards put on the field. We use modern means because of the massive volume necessary to improve the almost half-acre.

But we are always trying to find good stuff for our field. This winter we are transporting manure from various pastures to the site, the 18th century way--- with an ox cart. All while Marshall learns to drive the oxen under the expert eyes of Coach and Livestock department's Darin Durham. At least 15 years ago, a guest whose father was a farmer in the old-style way of farming told me that his motto for doing things was: *Do two things once.*

- Ed Schultz



30 cubic yards of compost via trucks.



1 cubic yard by ox cart.

Musket Range

We have been busy at the range and have set a new all-time record for attendance for January. We are also preparing for the rest of 2024 by attending new training and goal setting. We can wait for the warmer weather to come. We have also been busy fixing the muskets and fowlers so they are in tip top shape for spring.



Andy trying to stay warm!

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Shoemaker

Open Daily

Val is almost done with a pair of shoes for Eve Otmar (Gardens). He will then start resoling his own pair. Nicole is almost done with some repairs of shoes for Steve Delisle (Tin Shop). She completed the patterning of Matt Sanbury's (Carpenter's Yard) half-boots, and she has started to build them. Victoria is almost halfway through her first pair of dancing pumps.

- Valentine Povinelli



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Silversmith

Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

The silversmiths have been busy making trays as usual. Megan is nearly finished with sleeve buttons and a fish trowel and is working on the early stages of polishing her tray. Chris is chasing detail into her tray and has been working with the production team for a new Trades Tuesday video. Bobbie has been soldering tray rims and helping Megan with her work. Preston has done the final polish on Bobbie's tray, and it is on display in the main cabinet. George has been raising small vessels and chasing more tray outlines.

- Megan Cantwell



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Wheelwright

Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday

This week the Wheelwright Shop has been busy finishing a Gardner's barrow for a historic society in Delaware. Murphy has begun a Pug Mill for Masonry Trades! Stay tuned.

- Paul Zelesnikar



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Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Apothecary**
 - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
- **Blacksmith**
 - Daily
- **Carpenter**
 - Sunday through Thursday
- **Engraver**
 - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday through Saturday
- **Gardener**
 - Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday
- **Gunsmith**
 - Sunday through Thursday
- **Harpichord Maker**
 - Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday
- **Joiner**
 - Sunday through Thursday
- **Leather Beech Maker**
 - Daily
- **Military Programs**
 - Daily
- **Palace Kitchen**
 - Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday
- **Printer**
 - Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Saturday
- **Tailor**
 - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
- **Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers**
 - Sunday through Wednesday, Saturday

Editor.

Matthew Siepinski