

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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2021 Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference Goes Virtual Jan. 14-17

“Back to Work: Functional Furniture for Home and Shop,” offers interactive talks and demonstrations, plus exclusive looks at furniture and places rarely explored by the public



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Dec. 8, 2020) – Colonial Williamsburg’s annual Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference convenes virtually Jan. 14-17, 2021, offering participants on-demand and interactive livestreamed lectures and demonstrations, plus exclusive looks at furniture and places rarely explored by the public – all from the comfort of home, or the shop.

“Back to Work: Functional Furniture for Home and Shop” guest-presenter highlights include:

- Renowned woodworker, author, and Lost Art Press founder **Christopher Schwarz**, exploring period techniques for work holding and building the staked seating furniture

- Woodworker, teacher, and Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking founder **Bob Van Dyke** guiding attendees through the construction and decoration of a Federal-era needlecraft work table; joined by upholster **Mike Mascelli** to explore techniques used to make the upholstered storage bags that traditionally hang from these tables.
- Keynote speaker **Jeffrey Klee**, vice president and senior director of architecture at Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, exploring the 18th century through the design, use, and evolution of buildings in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area and beyond

Presentations by members of Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Trades and other experts include:

- A panel discussion on black tradespeople – often omitted from the historical record – led by Journeyman Carpenter **Ayinde Martin**, Apprentice Carpenter **Harold Caldwell** and Journeyman Coach Driver **Adam Canaday**
- Master Cabinetmaker **Bill Pavlak** demonstrating a mahogany writing table with a ratcheting top and a drawer that includes its own ratcheting writing surface
- The Peyton Randolph House Kitchen Addition from the perspective of enslaved carpenters and laborers with Site Supervisor **Janice Canaday** and Master Carpenter **Garland Wood**
- Journeyman Supervisor Joiner **Brian Weldy** demonstrating reproduction of William Walters' traversing mandrel lathe
- Apprentice cabinetmakers **John Peeler** and **Jeremy Tritchler** examining an intricate mahogany apothecary's chest from the London shop of Philip Bell.
- Apprentice joiners **Amanda Doggett**, **Scott Krogh**, and **Peter Hudson** explore a handful of shop-made woodworking tools and fixtures.

The 2021 Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference, “Back to Work: Functional Furniture for Home and Shop,” is possible thanks to the generosity of lead sponsors the Society of American Period Furniture Makers and the Early American Industries Association.

Registration is open through Jan. 1 and is \$175. Participants may also purchase a \$22 voucher redeemable through Dec. 31, 2021 for a Colonial Williamsburg multiday pass, more than half off the current price of \$45.99.

Additional information and registration is available at colonialwilliamsburg.org by visiting the “Learn” section and clicking “Conferences,” and by calling 1-800-603-0948 toll-free or via email at educationalconferences@cwf.org.

Information is also available by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/colonialwilliamsburg) and [@colonialwmsburg](https://twitter.com/colonialwmsburg) on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/colonialwmsburg) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/colonialwilliamsburg).

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The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia's 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization; philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and operations sustain its educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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