

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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colonialwilliamsburg.org

2022 Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference Welcomes Attendees In-Person and Virtually Jan. 20-23

*“Welcome to Williamsburg!” explores city’s rich legacy of fine furniture, architectural
woodwork, and craftsmanship through interactive talks and demonstrations*



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Nov. 16, 2021) – After a year of strictly virtual gatherings, Colonial Williamsburg’s 24th Annual Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference convenes both virtually and in person Jan. 20-23, 2022. Register now at colonialwilliamsburg.org to take advantage of limited in-person space and special conference add-ons reserved for on-site attendees. Participants can attend the conference online for a reduced cost.

This year’s conference will center around the pieces, places and people connected to woodworking in 18th-century Williamsburg. Whether immigrant or native-born, Black or white,

enslaved or free, Williamsburg's craftspeople responded to ever-changing British fashions with techniques that run the gamut from idiosyncratic to conventional.

"It's one thing to learn skills and techniques from talented craftspeople doing what they love," said Colonial Williamsburg Master Carpenter Garland Wood. "But it's something else entirely to do that in the context of a living, breathing, 18th-century community. The nuance you gain from experiencing this trade in a social and political context makes this conference unlike anything else out there."

"Welcome to Williamsburg!" presentation highlights include:

- Furniture maker and artist **Aspen Golann** demonstrating the construction of a 1770s settee and exploring how antique objects can inspire contemporary designs that both celebrate and interrogate the past.
- **Tara Chicirda**, curator of furniture, introducing guests to 18th-century Williamsburg's furniture scene, its broader context, and the ever-changing nature of our understanding.
- Colonial Williamsburg cabinetmakers **John Peeler** and **Jeremy Tritchler** delving into work from the 18th-century shops established by Peter Scott and Anthony Hay.
- Master cabinetmaker **Bill Pavlak** demonstrating some of the carving found on a series of ceremonial chairs made or used in Williamsburg with an eye toward how these designs inform more common furniture forms then and now.
- Master carpenter **Garland Wood** and crew demonstrating Tidewater timber framing techniques; later, in his banquet talk, Wood will reflect on his 40 years of discovery as a Historic Trades carpenter.
- Supervising joiner **Brian Weldy** joining forces with **Amy McAuley** (preservation joiner/carpenter at Mount Vernon) for a detailed examination of circular windows.
- Colonial Williamsburg joiners **Peter Hudson** and **Scott Krogh** creating some of the moldings and trim work that adorn the city's finer homes.
- Conservator **Chris Swan** sharing lessons learned through the conservation of architectural fragments.
- Joiner **Amanda Doggett** demonstrating the manufacture of a coffin.
- Carpenter **Matt Sanbury** exploring the buying and selling of tools in 18th-century Williamsburg.
- Harpsichord-maker **Edward Wright** detailing the life of cabinetmaker-turned-soldier Edmund Dickinson who lost his life in the revolution.

Scholarships, special pre-conference programs, a woodworking showcase, tool swap, and attendee guest programs [are available](#) for in-person attendees only, as are [special room rates](#) at Colonial Williamsburg hotels for conference registrants. Spouse/Companion registration is available for specific activities and should be registered for in advance. Only registered participants may attend general session lectures, breakfasts and breaks.

In-person registration is \$395 per person and includes presentations, a welcome reception, conference reception and dinner, continental breakfasts, and coffee breaks. Virtual-only registration is \$175 per person and includes access to all general session presentations through the conference streaming platform, Q&A opportunities, and PDF booklet download. Both in-person and virtual-only registration include a 7-day ticket voucher to Colonial Williamsburg's Art Museums and Historic Area, valid for redemption through Dec. 31, 2022. Registration and payment in full are required by Jan. 1, 2022.

The 2022 Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference, “Welcome to Williamsburg!” is possible thanks to the generosity of lead sponsors the Society of American Period Furniture Makers and the Early American Industries Association with additional support provided by Lie-Nielson Toolworks Inc.

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. Follow Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and [@colonialwmsburg](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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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.