

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference 2020 Showcases Backcountry Tradecraft *“Down the Great Wagon Road: Furnishing the Southern Backcountry” convenes Jan. 16-19 at the Williamsburg Lodge*



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Oct. 1, 2019) – Colonial Williamsburg practitioners and other leaders in woodworking convene at the Williamsburg Lodge Jan. 16-19, 2020 for the 22nd annual Working Wood in the 18th Century conference, “Down the Great Wagon Road: Furnishing the Southern Backcountry.”

“Culturally diverse migrants travelled down the Great Wagon Road into Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley and then further on into the early southern backcountry, settling what would become Kentucky, Tennessee and beyond,” said **Bill Pavlak**, journeyman cabinetmaker and supervisor of Colonial Williamsburg’s Anthony Hay Cabinet Shop. “Our 22nd Working Wood in the 18th Century conference offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about the range of wood crafts they brought with them to these new settlements, shared and blended.”

Special guest presenters at the four-day event include:

- Keynote presenter **Daniel Kurt Ackermann**, curator with the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts at Old Salem Museums & Gardens in Winston Salem, North Carolina, discussing “Backcountry, not Backwards: Working Wood in the Inland South”
- Chairmaker **Elia Bizzarri** of Hillsborough, North Carolina, on “Sitting Pretty: Making a Fancy Writing-Arm Chair”
- Cabinetmaking and Wood Technology Professor **Steve Latta** of Thaddeus Stevens Technical College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who will discuss backcountry veneer and inlay work in “1800-1815: Two Contemporaneous Artisans - Distinctive Styles, Distinctive Traditions.”

Sessions with Colonial Williamsburg historic trades, conservation and collections experts include:

- **Pavlak**, Journeyman Joiner and shop Supervisor **Brian Weldy** and Apprentice Cabinetmaker **John Peeler** on “Emigrated Elegance: A Shenandoah Valley High Chest of Drawers”
- Furniture Curator **Tara Chicirda** on “A Rhode Island Cabinetmaker in Kentucky: Revelations of a Clock Re-examined”
- Master Gunsmith **Richard Sullivan** presenting on “Long Rifles on the Great Wagon Road”
- Furniture conservator **Chris Swan** on decorative painting and rush-seat weaving
- Director of Historic Trades and Skills **Ted Boscana** and Apprentice Joiners **Amanda Doggett** and **Peter Hudson** discussing post-and-rung chairs
- Apprentice Joiner **Scott Krogh** and Journeyman Tinsmith **Steve DeLisle**, to collaborate on an early Tennessee food safe with punched tin panels

Student scholarships, special pre-conference programs, a woodworking showcase, tool swap, and attendee guest programs are available, as are special room rates at Colonial Williamsburg hotels for conference registrants on reservations made by Dec. 13. Additional information and conference registration is available by visiting colonialwilliamsburg.com or by calling 800-603-0948, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Registration is \$395 per person and includes presentations, a welcome reception, conference reception and dinner, three continental breakfasts, five coffee breaks, and a Colonial Williamsburg admission ticket. Registrant guest tickets are available for opening reception (\$50), conference reception (\$65) and the Historic Area (\$20).

The 2020 Working Wood in the 18th Century conference is sponsored by the Early American Industries Association and keynote sponsor the Society of American Period Furniture Makers.

Information is also available by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/colonialwilliamsburg) and @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. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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