

Local woman's interest in history leads to homemade soap, broom business

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What started as an internship has now become a part-time small business for a local woman.

Shannon Bardole, of Ames, first found her interest in homemade soap and broom making when she worked at Living History Farms in Urbandale, but she has since started selling both products under the name Little White Lye Soap and Franklin Broom Works.

"Most people who work there don't really continue on with the sort of work like I did," Bardole said. "But I love my historic crafts."

Bardole first began making soap in 2006, but the broom making side of the business only started roughly a year ago. The trick to starting the broom business, Bardole said, was finding old machinery parts to make an in-home shop for herself.



Shannon Bardole's business, Little White Lye Soap and Franklin Broom Works, began after Bardole found an interest in historic crafting during her time working at Living History Farms in Urbandale. Bardole now sells her products at several Ames stores. PHOTO BY JULIE FERRELL/AMES TRIBUNE

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