

# Jeffrey Cooper

*Art furnishings for artful living*

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## **Art Furnishings for Artful Living Newsletter**

**Some dated to remember, and a giraffe chair**

**April 2015**

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**Dear Friend,**

I have been in the News!

The caskets I made for the African Burial Ground and I were featured in a front page article in the Portsmouth Herald and Fosters Daily Democrat. To see the article [\[click here\]](#), and the online version includes a video of me being interviewed with thoughts about the project.

AFRICAN BURYING GROUND



Master furniture maker Jeffrey Cooper talks about the coffins he has built that will hold the remains of the Africans disinterred at the African Burying Ground in Portsmouth and will be placed back in the ground during the ceremony in May. He speaks of the detail and sensitivity that went into the building of the caskets. PHOTO BY DEB CRAM, SEACOASTONLINE

# A proper burial

## Portsmouth woodworker crafts caskets for Africans' remains

Deborah McDermott | [dmcdermott@seacoastonline.com](mailto:dmcdermott@seacoastonline.com)

*Editor's note: This is one in a series of stories that will appear in the Portsmouth Herald and Seacoast Sunday in the next six weeks, leading up to the May 23 dedication of the African Burying Ground Memorial Park on Chestnut Street in Portsmouth.*

**M**aster woodworker Jeffrey Cooper has been given a most meaningful task by Portsmouth's African Burying Ground Committee.

In his shop on McDonough Street, he has been creating the nine plain

pine caskets that will soon carry the remains of 13 Africans who once walked the streets of the city and who will be interred with great dignity and respect at the African Burying Ground Memorial

### Online only

To see a photo gallery and video of master woodworker Jeffrey Cooper's work to create caskets for the Portsmouth African Burying Ground, see [Seacoastonline.com](http://Seacoastonline.com).

SEE BURIAL, A13

After the remains are placed in the caskets, they will be at the New Hope Church in Portsmouth for an all night vigil May 22, placed in the crypt the morning of May 23, view-able that day and the cover will go on the crypt that evening. This will be a memorable event and I hope many of you in driving distance will come. Portsmouth is unique in having put this part of our history on view, whereas for so many years it was hidden.

Here are other some dates to keep in mind where I'll be showing:

- May 3, a Sunday afternoon noon to 5 PM, Sculptors on Review at the RJ Findlay Building, 30 Temple Street in Nashua. A collection of invited artists for a nice little show.
- June 5 is the NH Furniture Masters opening reception for our show at the Thorne Sagendorf Gallery on the campus of UNH - Keene. The show is up for the whole months of June and July.
- At the Furniture Masters Gallery show Schools of Thought series will features furniture artists who studied at UNH. The show opens June 9 and the reception is June 26, 5 to 7 PM. The gallery is at 49 South Main St in Concord, at the Concord Chamber of Commerce.
- I'll be showing again in Living with Craft at the League of NH Craftsmen Fair, Sunapee State Park in Newbury, NH, August 1 to 8
- I will be at Castle in the Clouds August 18
- The Furniture Masters gala event will again be at the Sheraton Harborside in Portsmouth, October 4. This year we will be bringing back the annual auction with a new format, to be held during the dinner which was so popular last year.

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### **A pair of Giraffe animal chairs**

You have seen the horse animal chairs, and the bear. Now I am making a pair of giraffes, a giraffe lamp and some tables to go with them. These are the items I plan to show at some of the events listed above. Here are some work in progress photos.





Happy Spring.  
I hope to see you at one of the shows.

**Best  
Jeffrey**

### **Quick Links...**

To visit my website [\[click here\]](#)

To see past newsletters with more work in progress photos [\[click here\]](#)

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### **Contact Information**

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