

# Jeffrey Cooper

*Art furnishings for artful living*

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## Art Furnishings for Artful Living Newsletter

### Two giraffes and the African Burial Ground

June 2015

Dear Friend,

This has been a very busy month. I have worked on a giraffe lamp, a giraffe animal chair, and we finally dedicated the African Burial Ground. I have photos to show you about all this, but first **I want to remind you of the Furniture Masters show which is at the Thorne Sagendorf Gallery on the campus of Keene State College in Keene, NH, now through July 23, with the reception this coming Friday at 5:30, June 5.** If you are in driving distance of Keene, it is a very nice show and I encourage you to stop by to see it. I have a set of horse chair, giraffe chair, a table to make the set, and the giraffe lamp I am showing in this newsletter.

### African Burial Ground

May 23 was the date of the re internment of the remains. Ceremonies began with an all night vigil at New Hope Baptist Church. In the morning the caskets were loaded onto a horse drawn carriage, carried by pall bearers from the carriage to the crypt, carefully placed in the crypt where they were on view all day long, and the lid was placed on the crypt that evening. Here are some photos of the caskets at each of those steps along the way.





People asked me if I was proud of my part, having made the caskets, but actually I felt more proud of my town for choosing to do this. Here is a link to an article in the Richmond Times about it. [\[click here\]](#)

### **Giraffe Lamp**

I thought you'd be interested how I add color to my carvings, when I do so. Here are a couple photos. First I finish carving the section to be colored one particular color, dye it but allowing the dye to splash a bit extra, seal it to prevent the next color from being absorbed, and carve away the area to be the next color. Here are some before and after photos.



### **Giraffe chair**

I also thought you'd be interested in how I make the pleasing shapes on the animal carvings. When they are almost done I lay out the curves over the entire piece and then carve away on either side of the lines. After that I will use a cabinet scraper to smooth all the surfaces.



These lines will disappear in that process, but where they were will control where the shadows will lie when the piece is completed. Here are four photos of the shadow lines.

**Here are some more dates to keep in mind:**

Friday June 26 at the Furniture Masters Gallery and Art Walk Concord  
**Living with Craft, League Craft Fair, Sunapee State Park August 2 to 10**

**August 16 at Castle in the Clouds, Moultonborough, NH**

**October 4 at the Sheraton Harborside, Portsmouth** is the Furniture Masters Gala with a live auction back this year.

Speaking of which, we have a **new format for the auction**. It will take place during the dinner at the October 4 Gala, and to be in it a piece will need a pre bid. If you see anything of mine that you would like, you can place a starting bid on it at any time, and see how the auction goes.

**Next newsletter** I will tell you about a rather complicated piece I am just starting on. It is a combination of show storage, bench and chest of drawers for an entry way of a third floor walk up.

**I hope to see you at one of the events I have mentioned.**

**Best  
Jeffrey**

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