



Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

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Virginia Decorative Arts Seminars

2016: The Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates Seventh Annual Virginia Decorative Arts Seminar

Held on June 10, 2016 at the JSE&A Gallery, Mt. Crawford, VA, from 9:30am to 4:00 pm

Woven in Virginia: From Bedcovers to Chair Seats. Featuring scholars and craftspeople presenting and demonstrating on all things woven.

Speakers for this seminar were:

- Jeffrey S. Evans
- Clyde Jenkins: Basketmaking
- Sandra Parks: Storytelling
- Kathleen Staples
- Scott Suter
- Laurie Duxbury: Weaving



Program Agenda

9:25 AM	Greetings / Introductions
9:30 AM	Scott Suter: Baskets
10:15 AM	~~~ BREAK ~~~
10:30 AM	Clyde Jenkins: Basketmaking
11:15 AM	~~~ BREAK ~~~
11:30 AM	Jeff S. Evans: Woven Chair Seats
12:15 PM	~~~ LUNCH ~~~
1:15 PM	Sandra Parks: Storyteller
2:00 PM	~~~ BREAK ~~~
2:15 PM	Kathy Staples: Weaving
3:00 PM	~~~ BREAK ~~~
3:15 PM	Laurie Duxbury: Weaving Demonstration
4:00 PM	Closing Comments / Questions / End of Program



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Speaker Bios

Laurie Duxbury

Laurie Duxbury weaves in her studio in northern Albemarle County. Fascinated by colors and their interaction, she blends multi-hued yarns at her loom to create clothing and home accessories. She first became interested in weaving and textile production when, as a child, she visited historic sites in her native Virginia. As she learned the craft of weaving, her interest evolved into a passion for expressing her own creativity through the combination of colorful threads and traditional patterns. Though she works in traditional techniques her pieces reflect the elegance of contemporary design. Laurie has studied in Sweden and throughout the United States. In addition to weaving for shows and commissions, she teaches workshops and offers one-on-one instruction.

Jeffrey S. Evans

President of Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates, Inc. (2009 to present) and former president of Green Valley Auctions, Inc. (1979-2008)

Jeff Evans is a respected expert and collector of early American glass and Shenandoah Valley decorative arts who has lectured and written extensively within the fields. He has acted as appraiser and consultant for multiple institutions and museums including the Corning Museum of Glass and MESDA and has served as guest curator on several museum exhibits. In November 2004 Jeff had the unique privilege of selling the now famous Johannes Spitler decorated hanging cupboard at public auction. An extraordinary example of Shenandoah Valley of Virginia folk art, the piece achieved \$962,500, still the world record auction price for a piece of American folk art painted furniture.

Museum exhibits for which Jeff has served as guest curator include a collaboration with Dr. Scott Suter on Rockingham County, Virginia folk pottery (2004; HRHS), a display of 18th to 20th century Shenandoah Valley vernacular chairs that was the culmination of thirty years of personal research (2010; Museum of the Shenandoah Valley/MSV) and a partnership with wife Beverley on Shenandoah Valley counterpanes and white work textiles (2012; Virginia Quilt Museum/VGM). The related catalogues that Jeff authored (Valley chairs, textiles) and co-wrote (folk pottery) include analytic essays and are considered authoritative references on the respective subjects. For Jeff's most recent multi-year research project (2010-2014) he teamed with Kurt C. Russ to document Shenandoah Valley punched tin pie/food safes; their findings culminated in an MSV exhibition that opened on May 11, 2014 and runs through March 29, 2015. A fully-illustrated, comprehensive companion publication is currently in the works and will be released later this year.

Clyde Jenkins

Surrounded as a child by traditional craftspeople working in his community, a father and uncle who could repair chair seats and make baskets, Clyde Jenkins' interests came to him at a young age in Page County, Virginia. Though his young adulthood took him on a route toward architectural restoration and historic preservation, the knowledge of basket and chair making stayed with him. Jenkins' work is based in labor intensive techniques used in the Shenandoah Valley for centuries. Working from the tree to the finished product, Jenkins has come to understand the art of finding the perfect tree, which may result in approaching the material differently each time. His work is published in the Renwick Gallery's *A Measure of the Earth: the Cole-Ware Collection of American Baskets* and included in the collection of the Renwick Gallery. He has worked with Colonial Williamsburg, the National Folklife Festival, the Virginia Folklife Program, an array of local and national galleries, and regularly teaches at the Big Meadows Lodge on Skyline Drive in the Shenandoah National Park.



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He is proud to have his baskets owned by a variety of people from his local neighbors to First Lady Michelle Obama and her daughters. Current projects also include restoration of historic buildings at the Luray Valley Museum at Luray Caverns. Photograph "Courtesy Virginia Folklife Program".

Sandra Parks

Sandy Parks fell in love with this area when she came to JMU in 1979, and never returned to Northern Virginia. As a freshman in college she heard Appalachian storytelling for the first time, has been fascinated with the world of story and storytelling ever since. As the librarian at Skyline Middle School in Harrisonburg, she shares many stories with her students, but also has performed at other schools, colleges, and festivals such as the Red Wing Roots Festival in Mt. Solon, VA, and the Appalachian String Band Music Festival in Clifftop, WV. Sandy specializes in Jack Tales, trickster tales and Appalachian stories, but also tells personal narratives and stories from other cultures. Sandy is also a gifted photographer who is known for chronicling the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley.

Kathleen Staples

Kathleen Staples, an independent scholar, specializes in the social and cultural history of Britain and the Americas as expressed through textiles and related craft. She has written, lectured, and curated exhibitions on topics such as weaving and needlework in pre-contact Peru and colonial Spain, embroidery in Stuart England, clothing traditions of enslaved women in colonial South Carolina, and the cultural functions of girlhood samplers and embroidery in Britain and America. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts* and *The Magazine Antiques*. She co-authored, with Madelyn Shaw, *Clothing through American History: The British Colonial Era*. Her latest publication (2015) is *Georgia's Girlhood Embroideries: "Crowned with Glory and Immortality."*

Scott Suter

Scott Hamilton Suter, Associate Professor of English & American Studies at Bridgewater College, and chair of the English Department, received his Ph.D. in American Civilization from The George Washington University in 1994. He also holds an M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and B.A. in English from James Madison University. His graduate work at GWU focused on American folklife and Material Culture Studies.

In 1996, Dr. Suter was selected as a Senior Fulbright Scholar and taught American Studies and American Literature at Prešov University in the Slovak Republic. He has also been an Adjunct Assistant Professor in both the English and Anthropology departments at James Madison University. In addition to teaching, Dr. Suter was curator of the Shenandoah Valley Folk Art & Heritage Center, and has served as a consultant to museums including the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the Blue Ridge Institute, as well as to the Virginia Commission for the Arts. In 1999, the University Press of Mississippi published his *Shenandoah Valley Folklife*, an introduction to the traditions of the region. In addition to his work on material folk culture he has published articles and lectured on other topics ranging from cottage style gas stations to the significance of amateur baseball leagues, to the work of David Lynch. His book-length study of the life and work of the nineteenth-century Shenandoah Valley folk potter Emanuel Suter is under contract with the University of Tennessee Press.