

828.586.6542



oaksgallery.net

**UPCOMING WEAVING
CLASSES TAUGHT
By SUSAN**

Adult Weaving Classes:

Great Little Looms
Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014

Rethink the Pot Holder Loom
Saturday, October 11, 2014

Tiny Amulet Bags
Saturday, October 25, 2014

Zoom Loom Weaving
Wednesday, October 8 & 15

Introduction to Inkle Loom
Starting Wednesday, Sept. 17

**Introduction to Rigid
Heddle Weaving**
Five classes meeting weekly.
Interested Attendees -
**Contact Susan for more
information**

Remember these

DILLSBORO EVENTS

**31th Christmas
Luminaires**
Friday & Saturday
Dec. 5 & 6 and 12 & 13, 2014



**Susan Leveille
Receives North Carolina Heritage Award**

Susan Morgan Leveille, a weaver and crafts advocate from Dillsboro has received the prestigious North Carolina Heritage Award and was honored in an awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 in Raleigh.

Leveille joins four other North Carolinians to receive the award including Bobby Hicks, a bluegrass fiddler (Marshall, Madison County); Sid Luck, potter (Seagrove, Moore County); Bill Myers, jazz musician (Wilson, Wilson County) and Arnold Richardson, a Haliwa-Saponi artist who has influenced the revitalization of North Carolina Indian arts (Hollister, Halifax County).

Since 1989, the North Carolina Heritage Award, a program of the North Carolina Arts Council, has honored the traditional artists of the state, deepening awareness of the stories, music, and artistry that comprise our rich and diverse cultural and folklife traditions.

"The Arts Council is proud that our agency's mission includes the documentation of cultural traditions that have been shaped and passed down over generations here in North Carolina," said Wayne Martin, Executive Director of the N.C. Arts Council. "The artists who receive this lifetime achievement award keep our citizens connected to our state's heritage and to the extraordinary arts that flourish in every community, large in small, in the state."

About Susan Morgan Leveille

Susan Morgan Leveille immersed herself in the culture of weaving from a young age. She first sat at a loom to weave at age seven, and quickly grew to be a skilled craftsperson. Her family lineage made her destined for equal skill as a teacher, scholar, and advocate of the fiber arts tradition in Western North Carolina.

Ms. Leveille's great-aunt, Lucy Morgan, founded the Penland School of Craft and devoted herself to reviving weaving traditions in North Carolina's mountains. Through association with Penland, the Mountain Heritage Center, and numerous schools and colleges, Ms. Leveille has continued to strengthen and disseminate the art of weaving. In the process, she has instructed dozens of both professional and aspiring weavers over the last four decades. Her own work has been widely displayed, and Ms. Leveille and her husband, Bob, have owned Oaks Gallery, at the Riverwood Shops in Dillsboro for many years. Ms. Leveille has devoted a lifetime to the development of the arts and crafts industry in western North Carolina.

While still a young girl, Susan took weaving classes at Penland where she learned to set up the Loom. She attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where she perfected her weaving skills, while also attending Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Ms. Leveille returned to North Carolina after graduation with her husband, Robert Leveille. Over the years they have started and operated four businesses at Riverwood Shops, opened by her parents Ralph and Ruth Morgan, and famous for its production of pewter objects.

Ms. Leveille has been a lifelong member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and has served as board president. Additionally, she has been active throughout the region as a teacher for more than 40 years at Penland School of Crafts, John C. Campbell Folk School, Western Carolina University and the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching. She was instrumental in the creation of the Dillsboro Merchants Association, the development of the Grovewood Gallery in Asheville, assisted with the planning and organizing of Handmade in America and now serves as vice-president of the Appalachian Women's Museum, Inc.



Notable Quotes

"Susan Morgan Leveille comes from a family tradition of weaving, artistic talent, community development, and craftsmanship. She has taught many how to wind a warp, warp a loom, weave a cloth with selvages you do not have to hide, draft designs, and produce handmade objects that provide pleasure, usefulness, and beauty. And, in that process, other lessons are learned.

She teaches us to draft our own life path with rich color and individual design, to measure the threads of our lives by the way honor our ancestors and those who taught us; to wind a warp that fosters the well-being of our communities; to weave with weft threads that embrace a circle of lifelong friends; and as one unwinds the finished cloth, to start planning another right away!"

—Suzanne Hill McDowell, weaver, who nominated Susan M. Leveille

"When I arrived in western North Carolina to teach at Western Carolina University... I immediately came to know of Susan's contributions to the crafts and culture of this region. The Riverwood shops were among my first contact with the traditional handicrafts of our mountains and when I took Susan's weaving class in 1983, I began to understand how much she had to offer us. I cannot image our region's culture without Susan and her family."

—Kathryn Stripling Byer, North Carolina Poet Laureate Emerita

Explore the work: [An Interview with Susan M. Leveille in Western Carolina University Hunter Library Digital Collection](#)
[Susan M. Leveille discussing the rattle \(use the enclosed links in this email\).](#)

Article Published: North Carolina Arts Council | Department of Cultural Resources | Raleigh, NC, 27699 | US