

The Canadian Gourder



December 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year!

I must tell you how much I enjoy reading our Newsletters, to see all the wonderful work being done by gourders across the country. Thank you for sending in your photos to Sharron so she can share your amazing gourds with everyone. We may not have the numbers as our neighbours to the south, but we certainly have the skills!

What is new with the Canadian Gourd Society? I have received requests from people wanting to learn more about gourding, and looking for someone to get together within their area. How I wish I could refer each and every one to a gourder or gourd patch close by. Unfortunately, we have not reached that size - yet, but we will keep trying.

As you have noticed, we have been slow getting our website up and going. This year our website will reflect what is happening across our great country. Please send information about upcoming classes or gatherings with plenty of time to post notices on our website so we can advertise for you. If you have your own site, let us know so we post that information too. Anywhere two or more gourders are getting together to gourd, we want to know to be able to share what is happening and help you where possible.

It is a New Year, and I am sure you are ready for some new leadership too. Who wants to be the next President of CGS? Treasurer? Website Manager? You know you want a new challenge! Don't be shy. Send me an email with your interest to get involved.

If you are planning to be in Arizona in February, or at the Wuertz Gourd Festival, please let me know so we can meet. Wandering around a farm with literally hundreds of thousands of gourds has to be a highlight of my year, especially as I usually meet Canadians wandering there too!

As always, happy gourding in this fine new year with unlimited possibilities.

Barbara



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest members: Joanne Sutherland lives in Bethany, Len De Graf and Steven Schrade come from Whitby, Lois Shaw lives in Duoro-Dummer township, and Michael Graham hails from Peterborough.

We are always looking for creative ways to maintain and increase the membership and welcome any ideas that would involve the entire CGS membership. *If you have any ideas for a project/challenge for the society members, please email your thoughts and ideas to sharron.anstey19@gmail.com.*

Membership fees are due again in January. The CGS fee is still \$25.00 and can be paid by cheque or e-cash. If you are a member of Kawartha Gourders, the fee is \$50.00 (\$25 goes to the CGS and \$25 to Kawartha Gourders). If you are a new member and have paid your fees in the last 3 months, just ignore this notice.

WEBSITE.....

We are in the process of hiring a new Webmaster to keep the *Canadian Gourd Society Website* up-to-date. With any luck, the site will be up and running by the Spring newsletter. Thank you everyone for your patience.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....

There have been a few firsts since the last newsletter.

Congratulations to Julie-Anne Wallewin for a successful showing of her exquisite work at the Calgary Art Market in November. *"This was a really big sale with over 200 artisan booths. Biggest show I have been to and got lots of positive feedback and exposure. People are amazed what can be done with a gourd. Some didn't even know they were gourds or what a gourd is. Met lots of really nice people, even some with roots where I live."* JAW



Congratulations to Julia Hayes for participating in the Uxbridge Arts & Crafts show this past summer. This was her first big solo show and sale and she did remarkably well, selling many of her creations.

Diana King, visiting from Florida helps Julia with her Santas.



Kudos to Lorraine Hodges who sent pictures of a thunder drum she made for a fundraiser in Lima de Abajo, Mexico which is at least an hour North of Porta Vallarta. Lorraine says: *"My husband Murray Sandulac and I having been spending winters in Mexico for the last ten years. During that time, we have fallen in love with not only the beauty of the country but even more so with the beauty of the people. We*



recognized the needs of the local schools. Each year we load as much as we have room for into our motorhome and head south. However, it is much easier to purchase school supplies locally as it puts money into the area and leaves more room for gourds!!! The horse head thunder drum was created with a fundraiser in mind. This gourd will be auctioned off at a dance to be held at the RV park on December 9th with all proceeds going to the school for tables and chairs for the students. I am a passionate gourd Artist and my husband

and I reside in Kelowna, BC." gourdsbylorraine.com



Thank you, Lorraine for sharing this.

WORKSHOPS (COMPLETED)

ORNAMENT WRAPPING



BUTTERFLY RIM

Inspired by the Rattan Rap in "Gourds and Fiber" by Ginger Summit and Jim Widess, Barbara taught the butterfly rim workshop. Using reed, rattan cane and sea grass the participants made a unique rim on a gourd.



Barbara Bellchambers



MULTIMEDIA

This workshop used a wide variety of materials and techniques. Creative fun was had by everyone.



Chris Brandon



Barbara Bellchambers

WOOL FELTED GOURDS

Monika Schaefer, a potter and fibre artist, taught wool felting on a hard-shelled gourd. Using a wide variety of materials and techniques, an amazing 'coat' of wet felt applied to the gourd created a totally new look. The design could then be enhanced by adding bits and bobs.



CHECK OUT THE TUTORIAL ON THE PAGE 8.

PATCH REPORTS

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

Announcement:

The Kawartha Gourders' Guild will be moving in February and opening March 1st at Peterborough Square in downtown Peterborough. The new location will be shared by the Peterborough Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild and the Kawartha Woodturners' Guild. The overwhelming positive to this move will be the elevator – *No more stairs* to climb while loaded down with supplies.

The Kawartha Gourders have had a busy time since the last newsletter. You may remember that Barbara set the "River Challenge" which would be judged by a "People's Choice" vote at the November ARTISANity show and sale. Although she mentioned she may not enter as she set the challenge, she did enter, *and fair and square*, she won.

The River Challenge Results

The executive of the Artisans Centre Peterborough challenged their members to produce a piece of work that portrayed a river. People who attended ARTISANity were given the chance to vote for the piece that best portrayed the river to them. 18 items were entered using fibre art, gourd art, pottery, woodturning, and our independent stuffed animal maker. The winner was Barbara Bellchambers' gourd with a pyrography and painted river scene. Second place was a pottery bowl with turtles made by Carolyn Cisco and third place was a lidded gourd with dyed waterlilies and filigree carving made by Anne Carling.



In the summer, Barbara, Anne and Chris led a children's mask-making workshop and a steam-punk workshop for the John Howard Society.



Every year the Kawartha Gourders, in conjunction with other ACP guilds, make enough Christmas ornaments to decorate a tree, which is then auctioned off as a fundraiser for the 5 Counties Children's Services. Here is this year's creation....



Chris, along with many others, worked tirelessly on a variety of ornaments to hang on the tree. Chris' specialty were her cute little animals.



The Kawartha Gourders had a terrific time at their Christmas Party. The morning started with a gourd project – create a *steampunk* ornament. What fun to fasten all kinds of weird and wonderful things to a gourd! Some of the finished products were very creative.



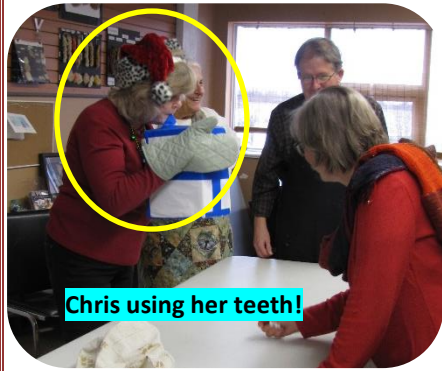
Steam Punk

As usual, Barbara had her Christmas crackers with the little plastic horns and we all tooted our way through

several carols. She also wrapped up her boxes, gave out the oven mitts and Santa hat and set us to work shaking dice and opening. Anything goes in this game, as you can see from the photos. Of course, there was plenty of food – healthy, yummy, sweet and gooey, to be enjoyed by all.



Christmas Carol Tooting



Chris using her teeth!



Steve being out-diced by the women!

Lots of Fun!

MUSKOKA GOURDERS

Judy Simmons and Sue Robertson entered their gourds in the Bracebridge Fall Fair. Decorated Gourds was a new category and both won ribbons for their entries. Way to go Judy and Sue!!! Judy and Sharron also demonstrated gourd carving and pyrography at the fair. A lot of people stopped to watch and ask questions. Many had no idea what a hard-shelled gourd was!

Fall ARTISAnity Show

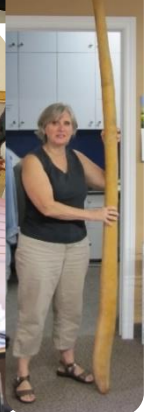


These beautiful paintings were done by our new member, Lois Shaw



ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!!!!

Zany Gourders!



TUTORIAL

WOOL FELTED GOURD

Original Workshop Taught by Monika Schaefer

Materials:

Clean Gourd	Plastic Table Cloth
Large, old Towel	Bubble Wrap (small Bubbles)
Sheer Curtain Fabric	Ivory Soap/ Eco-friendly Liquid Soap
Wool (variety of colours)	Felting Needle
Silk Thread (any colour)	Scissors



- 1) Choose a clean gourd. It should be a size that you can make a felt piece that will cover it.
- 2) Cover a table with plastic to protect it, if necessary.
- 3) Lay a large, old towel on top of the plastic.
- 4) Put a layer of small bubble wrap on top of the towel.
- 5) Using a bar of wet *ivory* soap or a few drops of eco-friendly liquid soap in water, rub the surface of the bubble wrap and work it into a smooth, foamy soapy layer.
- 6) Select two or three colours of roving (fibres/strands of wool). Colours can go on the top and bottom or in splotches but **MUST** overlap each other.
- 7) Lay a thin layer of your base colour roving fibres on the soapy bubble wrap. Be sure to lay them all in one direction.
- 8) Continue laying roving in opposite directions on each subsequent layer. If you want, use a variety of colours. *Be sure to alternate the direction of the roving fibres on each layer and overlap different colours.* Continue layering until you have a thick cloud (four to six layers or more if your layers are thin).
- 9) On the last layer, add a few silk threads for highlights.
- 10) Place a layer of sheer fabric (*like curtain sheers*) over the entire layered cloud of roving.
- 11) Spray/sprinkle this with water and rub with soap and your hands to meld the fibres. **RUB & RUB & RUB!**
- 12) Carefully remove the layer of sheer fabric (Try not to disturb the wool roving underneath).
- 13) Gently flip the felted fibres over so the silk thread is on the bottom of the felt.
- 14) Roll the gourd over the felt, wrapping it around the gourd. If needed, trim the felt at the bottom to have less bulk.
- 15) Rub the entire gourd with hands and soap. Pay attention to the overlap areas and rub them well. You can use the bubble wrap over the felt to rub as well. If any of the seams are not melded, use a felting needle to pull them together.
- 16) Let dry.



Thanks to Anne Carling for her spectacular memory and writing down all of these steps!!!!

MEMBER GALLERY



Lorraine Hodges



Anne Carling



Julia Hayes



Barbara Bellchambers



Barb Powell



Julia Hayes



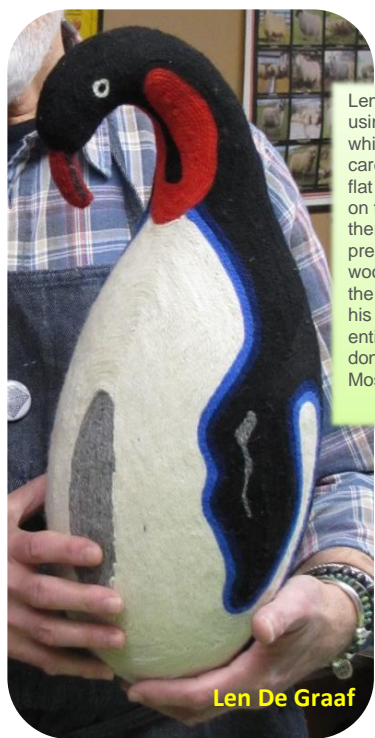
Janet Bisset



Chris Brandon



Chris Brandon



Len De Graaf

Len created "Bert" using beeswax, which was carefully laid in flat strips/bands on the gourd. He then neatly and precisely pressed wool fibres into the wax to create his design. The entire gourd is done in this way. Most impressive!!



Lorraine Hodges

"The snake gourd is an amazing rain stick. I cut it in a ripple wave where the purple and green meet, cleaned it out, rolled up chicken wire and inserted it, added raw rice and beans and voila! A wonderful sounding rain stick." L.H.



Ed & Darienne McAuley



Barb Powell



Barb Powell



Lorraine Hodges



Barbara Bellchambers



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Lorraine Hodges



Nativity Scene

Barbara Bellchambers

"Orbit" has interesting curves and cutouts. The border has been ground and sanded to a soft smooth finish. The pyrographed maple leaves have fallen where they may. The base is also a gourd piece dyed black." JAW



Lois Shaw



Barbara Bellchambers



Lorraine Hodges



Barbara Bellchambers



Julie-Anne Wallewin

Warty gourd ornament
dyed with alcohol ink!



Ed McAuley

"This was an experiment weaving on gourd bases (left over from thunder gourds). The bases are not flat, which makes them lean. Next time I'll even it out by extra weaving on the low side. I think Barbara called that hills and valleys." BP



Barb Powell



Barb Powell

"I was asked to make a special thunder drum for the retiring President of the Canadian Women's Institute. I chose a large gourd and painted it with the W.I. logo on one side, a painting of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead on another side. There was also a portrait of Adelaide herself. I painted all of the provincial and territorial flowers around the bottom of the gourd." M.G



Mary Gladwin



Lorraine Hodges



Chris Brandon



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to all the CGS Members who read it. The creativity and quality of the gourd art is both inspiring and beautiful to look at. Happy Gourding everyone and keep the pictures and stories coming!!!!

Sharron Anstey

May 2019 bring health and well-being to all!

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