

The Canadian Gourder



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring is here at long last!! Gourds started indoors are gaining strength for planting outdoors. With the warmer weather, we can go outdoors to gourd. Life is good!



Please note that our planned gourd weekend has been changed from September in Buckhorn to Saturday August 20th - Monday the 22nd, in Peterborough. Please adjust your calendar. We will send out a 'blast' when the classes are settled. Our Class Co-ordinator, Julia Hayes, would love to hear what classes you would like to take. She hopes to have both beginner and intermediate-advanced classes offered. We will have our AGM during the weekend.

I am looking forward to meeting some of our western gourders June 1-5, when I teach at ArtWaves Okanagan in Penticton, BC. There are four gourd classes being offered, as well as an hour long gourd pin workshop. We should have plenty of time to get together out of show hours to share ideas and get to know each other better. Please share information about the show with friends and family. We never know where the next gourder will come from!



Our long-time Treasurer, Bonnie MacLeod has resigned. Over the years Bonnie has been not only our Treasurer, but has also handled the Membership role, and been our Newsletter Editor. Most recently, Bonnie has been both our treasurer and membership secretary. Until we elect a person to take over these roles at our AGM in August, Patti Blackburn has offered to handle the positions. Many thanks to Bonnie for her long service to the Canadian Gourd Society.

Smiles,

Barbara

The pictures above show different aspects of a gourd that Barbara completed using gel paint along with other techniques. Such beautiful work!

Newsletter editor's comment

PATCH REPORTS

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

The Kawartha Gourders, previously known as the Peter Patch, are growing. With our new workshop at Artisans Centre Peterborough (ACP), we open the doors from 10-4 each Monday for members to come and gourd.



Classes are being offered at least once a month for anyone to take. This month, we have Pyrography classes and a Braided Rim class being offered, with both gourders and woodturners participating. As well, classes are being offered in other skills: felting, spinning and weaving, art, woodturning, with ACP members receiving a 15% discount. On Mother's Day weekend, many Kawartha Gourders participated in ARTISANity, a show and sale of work by ACP members, with the gourders selling many, many pieces big and small. We have gained some new members through this show.

Enjoy your gourding, and thanks for being a member of this wonderful group.

Barbara



Member Articles/Comments

TIPS BY KAREN HUNDT-BROWN

- When carving always cut/carve at the highest speed your tool runs. The higher the speed the smoother the cuts. Burrs do wear out and need to be replaced. If your burr is burning the gourd you're carving; it's dull and needs to be replaced. Sand at half speed or less to avoid burning the sand paper on the gourd and for better control of how much you are sanding off at one time.
- Most gourd heads end up buying a belt sander if they don't have one already. This one tool sands the bottom of a gourd flat so it sits well, and sands the rims of bowls for weaving flat for a better appearance. Quick and easy!
- Use a compass to mark a line for weaving holes on your gourd. I set mine at a half inch open and draw a line around the rim with the point resting on the rim. The pencil draws the line as I drag the compass around. Once the line is on I pick some place in the back of the gourd to start marking the holes. I mark one spot and then use the compass to mark the rest the same half inch apart. I use a 3mm brad point drill bit in my drill press (so I can use both hands to hold the gourd) and drill out the holes for the weaving. Push the gourd up to the drill bit and through, rather than pulling the bit down into the gourd using the drill press arm. This lets me keep both hands on the gourd and I can better guide the drill bit to each hole I need in the gourd.

Karen: Thank you for these helpful tips. Look for more hints and tips in the next newsletter.

COMMENT BY SHARRON ANSTEY

The Artisanity show and sale was held again this year at the Marshlands Centre in Lakefield. Mother's Day weekend proved to be a great time to have it. The weather was warm and the turnout was great. The show was a definite success.

Although this event is part of the Peterborough Artisan's Centre and not the Canadian Gourd Society, I want to express my thanks to Barbara and Anne who encouraged me to participate last year and again this year. I have never had much confidence in the quality of my gourd work, but I encourage all gourders to take a chance and show your work whenever possible. It is a wonderful experience and certainly has boosted my confidence.



The gourders shared the space with weavers, potters and wood turners. The wonderful outcome of this show was the introduction of gourding to so many people. Many customers purchased gourd art items. There were

more sales this year than last year and a substantial amount of money was raised for Artisans Centre Peterborough. It was a team effort with many members volunteering and a fun time.

The highlight of my day occurred when Barbara told me about the lady that bought my gourd bird because it made her think of her recently deceased husband. What an honour!

Kudos goes to Barbara and Anne, who worked tirelessly for many weeks both before the show and over the weekend.



And so, beginner 'gourders' and experienced 'gourders', don't be afraid to show your work. What you may not be happy with, someone else may think is great!

MEMBER GALLERY



Cher Toal



Elizabeth Gordon



Anne Carling



Sharron Anstey

Featured Artist:

Janet Bisset is our featured artist for this issue of the CGS Newsletter. This is what she has to say about herself...



I have always lived in Buckhorn, went to high school in Lakefield and then went to George Brown College. I have always been interested in one crafty idea or another. My early years I spent watching my father make wooden stools, the legs of which he turned for himself. He oil painted on wooden plaques that he made himself. I enjoyed sitting and watching him for hours.



Barb and I took a Gourding 101 with Ed and Darienne and I think we were both hooked. Over the years I learned a wide variety of techniques that could be used on a hard shelled gourd. I loved wood burning and started carving with the hand gouges and then with the dremel. I was looking at other people's work on the internet and saw what could be done with MORE POWER...

I was amazed. I invested in a high speed engraving system that runs on compressed air. The hand piece is the size of a pen. I travelled to Utah and trained with Dr. Lew Jensen, the inventor of the hand piece. I love the detail I can get with the fine bits that are dental size. The same ones are used for carving on wood, gourd, glass, metal or egg. The intensive engraving, sand-blasting and business course, taught by founder Dr. Jensen, was inspiring. It encouraged me to go after what I want to accomplish in the personalization market. Gun stock carving with Craig Hone who is a Master Carver and Sculptor, was the second course in which I enrolled. Power carving a scene, in relief, on wood was a whole new experience. Watching the scene come to life sparked a love of relief carving that I hadn't explored before. Craig motivates everyone who takes his classes and I am grateful for the time and encouragement given to acquire the delicate precision and techniques needed to create the breath taking pieces of art. I gained a new outlook on art and how it can affect everyone around you.



My goal now is to encourage people to turn the everyday items that they already own into priceless heirlooms by personalizing them for the next generation.



TUTORIAL

Braided Rim

Barbara Bellchambers bellcham@nexicom.net
Courtesy of Bill Usher, Wood Turner, who taught me

MATERIALS:

Lace - leather, suede, or artificial lace, 3/32" or 1/8"
Leather needle
Pliers, needle nose, and optional: "split ring"
Drill and drill bits 1/16", 1/8"
Scissors
Awl
Optional - beads, feathers

Tape Measure
Math compass
Narrow tape - masking or similar
Pencil, pen, or narrow marker
X-acto knife or similar kind of knife
Glue that dries clear

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JOINING LACE:

When you run out of lace and need a new piece, do not panic. It is simple to add another piece of lace. In fact, you will add the piece at the front of the gourd, and no one will notice.

Pull the short lace **over and under** as usual, leave an inch or so of lace in front.

Put the needle on the new piece of lace, and follow the same path as the short piece of lace, only going **under, under and over**, directly under the short piece of lace. Put glue on the last 1/2" of this lace, and pull it into place under the other lace, with the end tucked in.

Loosen the short lace, and put glue under the lace for the first inch after it comes out of the hole. Pull it tight into place above the new lace.

Hold the lacing in place for a minute for the glue to dry.

Cut off the end of the short lace, pulling so you can cut just below where it went under. Hold for a minute to be sure the lace is caught. You should not see any ends of lacing! When you are finished, it should be hard to find this spot!

PREPARATION:

①



Using a compass, draw a pencil line all the way around the gourd 1/4" from the rim.

Using the compass again, mark the position for the holes 1/4" apart along the line. Rarely do the holes work out perfectly! Stop 2" from the first hole, and work out whether you need to make your next holes slightly larger or smaller to fit the space left.

Use an awl to pierce the skin of the gourd. This makes it easier to drill the holes.

②

Your final hole size will be 1/8", but start with a 1/16" drill bit. It is easier to come back and enlarge the holes later. Starting with a larger drill bit on a curved surface can be difficult.



Although I have not done this on the examples, if you paint above the holes and on the rim with the colour of the lacing, the gourd does not show through the finished braiding. It gives a nicer finished look.

③



Use a piece of tape that is long enough to reach at least 8 holes. Place tape below the holes, and print the numbers from left to

right.

Cut the lace. You need 9 times the diameter of the rim of the gourd to complete the project. For example, if your gourd measures 18" around the rim, you will need a total of 13 1/2'.

Trim the end of the lace, to fit in the 2-prong leather needle. If using suede, thin the lace in the last 1/2". Please trim away from yourself!

Braided Rim Tutorial – cont'd

- ④ Attach the needle to the end of the lace. A pair of 'split ring' pliers are great to hold the needle open. You can also use another needle! Use needle nose pliers to tighten the lace into needle and to make the prongs grab the lace.



I find that bending the needle with pliers makes it easier to slide under the stitches.

SEWING THE BRAIDED RIM:

You will always be sewing from the front to the back of the gourd, that is, the needle will enter the holes on the outside of the gourd, going through to the inside.



Starting with your needle at the front, push it through hole #4, leaving enough lace on the outside to touch near the bottom of the gourd. Put some tape over the lace on the outside of the gourd to keep it in place.

- ② Return your needle to the front of the gourd, and pass through hole #1. Make sure your lacing is flat, with no twists.

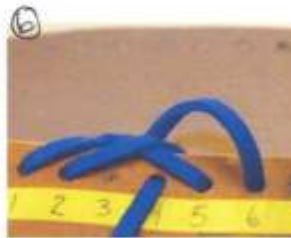


Go through hole #5, front to back.

- ④ Bring your needle to the front again to go through hole #2.



- ⑤ Now, a new step for you! Before you leave the inside of the gourd, you need to pass your needle **under** the first lace as you head diagonally to the "northwest" (\), and then **over** the next lace.



Turn your gourd around so you are looking at the front again, and go into hole #6.

- ⑦ Bring the needle to the front of the gourd, and hold it down so it goes over hole #3. Notice that you go over 2 laces on the front of the gourd.

Take your needle back, and this time go **over** and then **under** the laces as you head to hole #3.



Pass through hole #3 from front to back.



On the back, you are always going to head diagonally "northwest" (\), crossing 3 laces: going **over** the first, **under** the second, and **over** the third. This is

where the bent needle really helps, getting under that second lace.

Bring your needle forward, and go to the right into hole #7.

- ⑨ Okay, are you ready for something new? This is the last thing you need to learn until you get back to hole #1.

You are going to go **over, under, and over** the laces as you head left to hole #4. Yes, hole #4. This will be the second stitch in this hole.



Braided Rim Tutorial – cont'd

10



You may need to use the pliers now and then to help pull the needle through the holes with a stitch already in it. It can be a tight fit!

From now on, you will be going back through holes that have one stitch in them, as you head to the "southwest" (/) in the front of the gourd. Do not skip a hole!

11

To untwist the lacing, stop pulling it through the hole when approximately 5" remain inside the gourd. Pull your fingers along the lacing from the hole at the back, straightening it. Keep your fingers on the flattened lace, and pull the twisted lace through until you reach your fingers, and then pull the flattened lace through. You will be able to use this method as you continue lacing, going under other laces.



12



Now the stitches will be the same as you go around the gourd.

GO OVER, UNDER, OVER AND THROUGH THE NEXT HOLE FROM FRONT TO BACK.

As you head right to the hole, you will be going to the next empty hole.

As you head left, you will do the second stitch in the next hole with only one stitch in it.

DO NOT SKIP HOLES! Keep checking. Go through hole #1 again.

13



Heading left from hole #1, go **over, under, over**, and through the next hole on the left that has only one stitch.

14

Now, you are going to go **over, under, over, under**, to hole #2.

At the back, go **under, over, under, over** and through the next hole on the left that has only one stitch.



Go **over, under, over, over, under**, to hole #3.

15



Go **under, over, over, under, over** to the hole left of hole #1.

16

Okay, this the most rewarding row of all, as well as your last row.

Go **over, under, over, under, over, under** and **STOP** in front of hole #4. Do not go through this hole!



You are ready to add beads, and then you will be done!

CONGRATULATIONS!

President

Barbara Bellchambers
4 Victoria Ave., Box #1062
Lakefield, ON K0L 2H0
705-652-5115
bellcham@nexicom.net

Show Secretary

Mary Gladwin
Mgladwin@rogers.com

Treasurer/ Membership

Patti Blackburn
RR#1,
Baltimore, ON K0K 1C0
905-342-3456
pat_blackburn@hotmail.com

Classes

Julia Hayes
Joules123@msn.com

Public Relations

Anne Carling
jacarling@hotmail.com
Yvonne Michalski
yvoneski47@hotmail.com

Website

Lea Galcso
lg@xplornet.com

Fundraising

Elizabeth Gordon
llisapi_kuatan@hotmail.com

Newsletter

Sharron Anstey
sashadow@sympatico.ca