

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Merry Christmas!

Yes, it is early to be saying that, but you must understand that I am in the middle of doing three Christmas shows, so that is where my mind is. No matter that when I look out the window and see the lovely bronze of our oak tree, and there are still golden leaves on the sugar maple. Of course, the oak leaves will stay until next spring, giving us our own oak music when the wind blows.

We have some amazing gourd artists in the Canadian Gourd Society. Sharron is working hard to collect photos; it is so wonderful to see what everyone is doing. Make sure you let Sharron know if you have events planned, classes, shows, so she can share the good news for you.



Front View

One of our members has suggested that a Canadian Gourd Society member should buy Northern Dipper, to keep gourds and supplies available in Canada. What a great idea! Do we have anyone out there looking for a business? Go for it! And no, it does not fall under the job description of CGS President! Maybe the next President, anyone eager to take over?

This past weekend while in Paris, Ontario, I met a number of people who are either doing some gourds on their own, or want to gourd. Oh it would be so nice to have a patch to refer them to! A man from the Hamilton area may come up to Peterborough for some classes. Please let me know if you gourd on your own or with others, and if you are willing to help a new gourder along. There are many potential gourders out there, we just need to find them (or they find us), and do what we can to support them.

Merry Christmas Wishes to my fellow gourders,

Smiles,

Barbara



Side View

The thunder drum above was donated by Barbara to the Canadian Canoe Museum's Gala last month.

Barbara is certainly the Society's expert on Thunder Drums.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GREAT NEWS!!!!!!!

By early December the [Canadian Gourd Society Web Site](http://www.canadiangourdsociety.org) should be up and running again. You may have noticed that nothing has been added to it over the past several months. Well – no more! Janet Bisset has volunteered to learn all about being a web master and is going to maintain the site.



*Way to go Janet and Thanks.*

## MEMBERSHIP DUES.....

Membership dues for the CGS are due in January at the beginning of each calendar year. 2017 dues can be paid by cheque, credit card or PayPal by logging into the website ([www.canadiangourdsociety.org](http://www.canadiangourdsociety.org)). The yearly cost is still \$25. Patti Blackburn has agreed to stay on as the Treasurer/Membership person.

*Thanks Patti!*

Let's try to encourage our friends to get into 'gourding' and join the CGS and get some more 'Patches' started across the country.

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# PATCH REPORT

## KAWARTHA GOURDERS

Since the last newsletter, there has been a lot happening with the Kawartha Gourders. The Gourd Gathering, as mentioned above, was instructional and fun (not to mention 'filling'). Although it was open to all CGS members, only KG members attended. Hopefully 2017 will bring a few other members out.

The first Monday of each month is the official KG meeting day and usually a good number of gourders attend. On other Mondays at the ACP, numbers vary but there is always someone to help with a project, give feedback, demonstrate how to use materials and everyone enjoys the day.

The group worked to make Christmas Ornaments for the Five Counties Children's Centre; Janet taught a workshop on 'tight-fitting lids'; Sharron did a short presentation on various products she uses in her art and on the gourds; 6 members displayed and sold some of their work at the Artisanity Show. Many volunteers made the show a success.

All in all, the last three months have seen several of our newer members turn out some wonderful work and there has been a great show of enthusiasm for new ideas and creative endeavours.

# GOURD GATHERING

The Gourd Gathering was held in August at the Artisans' Centre in Peterborough. Although there was not a large number of attendees, the gourders that did attend had a great 3 days of learning new techniques, *eating*, carving, *eating*, burning, *eating*, laughing and then more *eating*. Many thanks to Janet who did a fantastic job at organizing meals and snacks, Julia who arranged to have Karen Hundt-Brown come and teach again, Barbara & Karen who did the teaching, Anne who advertised to members and the public, and all the people who attended, brought work to display and contributed by their presence.



Besides advanced carving and tooled leather-like burning, Karen's workshop on a unique way of stenciling with alcohol ink was a huge success and allowed us all to play before we tackled the more difficult pine needle rim to finish off the stencilled gourd.



Barbara introduced new and old members to beginner's gourding, pyrography and her specialty...*thunder drums*. As always, thunder drums are a big hit and several drums have been completed by different members in the past two months.



The display of so many beautifully finished gourds was a big hit and had a few members of the public coming in to look. It is definitely inspiring to see the wide variety of creativity in the work of others. There were musical instruments, pots, vases, dolls, flowers, birds and so much more.





## MEMBER COMMENTS

The fall is an exciting time of year for craft persons and artists wanting to sell some of their work. Christmas craft shows are abundant. Special thanks go to Julia Hayes who donated the ornaments below to help raise funds for the Artisans' Centre.



**AWESOME JOB, JULIA!!!!**

Dale Adamson made these delightful characters for a Home Show in Lindsay. So *cute!!!*



Tea Lights



Even though Halloween is over, these ornaments that Julie-Anne Wallewein of Saskatchewan made are wonderful and certainly deserve a space in the ornamental section.

Julie-Anne says: "I am sending you a picture of what I do with ornamental gourds for a fall display. I draw faces on them and line them up for others to see when they come by. I do two every day and this year I had lots of gourds so my lineup is quite long. It is all fun and the kids like looking at them at Halloween."



## TUTORIAL

### Instructions for Working Tagua Nuts



from Lee Valley website [www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)

Called tagua or corozo, these nuts are the seed of the ivory palm found in South America. For many decades, tagua has been used as a substitute for elephant ivory. The largest user has been the button industry, but other specialized uses have included:— dice — thimbles and needle cases — jewellery — drawer pulls — small decorative turnings.

In Japan, tagua is often used for "netsuke", the small, detailed carvings frequently used like toggles on robe ties. Since it carves readily but is very durable, tagua has been used for miniature sculpture, cameos and small pieces of scrimshaw.

All tagua nuts have an interior void. Usually, this void is the same approximate shape as the nut exterior. With this as a guide, you can gauge where you will encounter it when turning or how you should approach slicing it.

#### Working Tagua

Tagua is hard but quite consistent. It can be worked with detail carving tools, graver's tools or flex-shaft tools, as well as files, rasps, drills, etc.

**Caution: Avoid overheating tagua when sawing it or working it with power tools. It will scorch. Since it is primarily composed of a form of sugar (non-toxic, by the way), it will discolor with heat.**

Tagua can be softened by soaking in water. It will soften without cracking if the brown husk has been sanded or otherwise scarified. To further stabilize the nut before soaking, fill the cotyledon hole with melted wax or epoxy. Tagua readily takes dyes. Almost any color can be achieved using regular water-based aniline dyes. For deeper penetration, soak the tagua in the dye and dry slowly to prevent distortion.

For scrimshaw, polish the area to be engraved, apply a resist such as varnish or a paste wax, engrave the desired pattern, apply India ink with a sliver of wood (a drop of detergent improves penetration), let dry, remove the resist and buff.

For turning, you can grip the nut in several ways. It can be glued to a backing on a face plate. After the turning is partially completed, the completed portion can be gripped in a chuck.

**Caution:** If you intend to cut tagua on your bandsaw, it is necessary to securely glue it to a good-sized piece of wood first. It is preferable to glue the nut between two scrap boards so that the slices are not free to fly about after cutting. Hollowing the board with a gouge will create a pocket for the nut. Glue the nut in the pocket and repeat with the second board. The trapped nut can now be sliced.

*Note from editor: I have seen Tagua Nuts used as decorative pieces on a gourd. Might be fun to try!!!!!!*



## MEMBER GALLERY

### Featured Artist:

Lorraine Hodges is our featured artist for this issue of the CGS Newsletter. She was an enthusiastic student in Barbara's Art Waves Okanagan class in the spring, 2016.

Lorraine is a watercolour artist who paints with local, like-minded artists in Kelowna, BC, and recently returned from a Gourding Workshop in Ellensburg, WA where she joined a local gourd patch. She is a member of the Washington Gourd Society as well as the Canadian Gourd Society.



"Nature's Aura"

and preparation of the gourds and had some of the tools used in Gourding on display. All were amazed at the different finishes that one can do on a gourd from painting, staining, dyeing, stippling, weaving, wood burning, carving, basketry and more.

The participants loved handling the gourd art. They asked many great questions and all showed interest in learning more about the steps to create this vibrant art. It was encouraging to see the appreciation of the many different gourds that were on display."

I will continue to work and play in the world of gourds and am excited to have been chosen to teach at Art Waves Okanagan 2017 in Penticton. I can be contacted through my website at [www.artbylorraine.ca](http://www.artbylorraine.ca).



This is what she has to say about herself...

"Gourding has become my passion! Gallery 97, a locally owned, amazing and quaint art gallery located just south of Peachland, BC, Canada on Hwy 97 invited me to do a presentation and demo with my gourd art in August, 2016. The gallery represents only local artists and is becoming well known in this, its second year of operation. I was so pleased with the turnout as well as the interest shown in the gourds. I explained the harvesting, cleaning



Gourds by Lorraine



## Gourd Creations:



Lorraine Hodges



Gourd Puzzle



Cher Toais  
DIPPER



Yvonne Michalski



Cher Taol



Janet Bisset



Janet Bisset



Julia Hayes



Barb Powell





Julie-Anne Wallewein

Julie-Anne says "I am attaching pictures of a gourd project I finished this summer. The first one is how it started and the second one is it completed. It is called 'Holly and Ribbon II'. The holly leaves are ground and sanded until silky smooth and the intertwining ribbon is pyrographed. Many hours are spent getting the leaves just right. I made it as a wedding gift for my niece, Holly and her husband, Tom."



Anna Petek's Gourd Lamp



Lorraine Hodges



Lorraine Hodges



Janet Bisset's  
Gourd Purse



Anne Carling





Janet Bisset



Barb  
Powell



Janet Bisset



Julia Hayes



Yvonne Michalski



Julia Hayes



Sharron Anstey



Janet Bisset





Anne Carling



Barb Powell



Anna Petek



Cher Toal



Barb Powell



Julia Hayes



Barb Powell



Sharron Anstey







Barb Powell



Karen Hundt-Brown



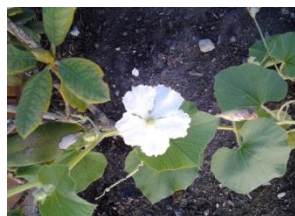
Barb Powell



Julia Hayes



Julia Hayes



E-Mail received from Barb Powell:

Late in August I saw a bloom in my garden from a discarded seed. He now is about an inch long! Poor little guy doesn't stand a chance to survive, but it's been fun to watch it grow.

Sharron, sadly I have to report that my mini green gourd is turning brown. I feel there is no hope for it, but it was fun watching it try to grow up!

Maybe I'll give it a real try next year. Barb P.

*So sorry he didn't make it Barb.*



**Many Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to all of 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**

#### President

Barbara Bellchambers  
 4 Victoria Ave., Box #1062  
 Lakefield, ON K0L 2H0  
 705-652-5115  
[bellcham@nexicom.net](mailto:bellcham@nexicom.net)

#### Treasurer/ Membership

Patti Blackburn  
 RR#1,  
 Baltimore, ON K0K 1C0  
 905-342-3456  
[pat\\_blackburn@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_blackburn@hotmail.com)

#### Public Relations

Anne Carling  
[jacarling@hotmail.com](mailto:jacarling@hotmail.com)

#### Fundraising

Elizabeth Gordon  
[llisapi\\_kuatan@hotmail.com](mailto:llisapi_kuatan@hotmail.com)

#### Show Secretary

Mary Gladwin  
[Mgladwin@rogers.com](mailto:Mgladwin@rogers.com)

#### Classes

Julia Hayes  
[Joules123@msn.com](mailto:Joules123@msn.com)

#### Newsletter

Sharron Anstey  
[sashadow@sympatico.ca](mailto:sashadow@sympatico.ca)

#### Website

Janet Bisset  
[janetbissetstudio@gmail.com](mailto:janetbissetstudio@gmail.com)