

# The Canadian Gourder



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring is finally here with heat, sunshine, and lots of rain! I have gourd plants galore thanks to Ellen at The Greenhouse by the River south of Lakefield, and have managed to give some away for others to experiment with. I hope we all have lots of gourds come the fall. If you are nearby and want a plant, please let me know ASAP so I can save you one. They are ready to plant and need to be picked up soon.

I have to believe that gourds and gourding is becoming better known in Canada. I get many requests via the Canadian Gourd Society website for information about classes, gourd growers, and gourders in the person's area. It is so great to have others reaching out for help, and I hope we are able to meet their needs. Only by having members such as you across Canada am I able to help potential gourders. Thank you all so much.

Newsflash - Brigitte Thompson is coming to Peterborough to teach one class in Pyrography, and two in Powertex. If interested, check [artisanscentre.ca](http://artisanscentre.ca) website, click on Workshops, then Gourds.

Western gourders still have time to register for Lorraine Hodges' gourd classes at ArtWaves Okanagan. Don't miss the fun of getting together with other gourders!

Yours in Gourding,

Barbara

Gourd plants waiting for a garden



Mini-gourd plant in the centre of Bruce's climbing plant trellis. Yes, he knows it is there, he planted it! Gourds are prohibited from the large clematis trellis! I am hoping to send one up a dead tree this summer, before the tree is cut down.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## MEMBERSHIP.....

Thank you to everyone who rejoined the Canadian Gourd Society. If you have friends or know anyone who would like to join, he/she may do so by logging into the website ([www.canadiangourdsociety.org](http://www.canadiangourdsociety.org)) or sending a cheque to: CGS, c/o Sharron Anstey, 1387 Prospect Lk Rd., Bracebridge, ON, P1L 1X1. The yearly cost is still \$25.

CGS currently has a membership of 26 gourders. Most live in Ontario but we are represented in the West by one Saskatchewan resident and four BCers. Lorraine will be teaching a gourd class at ArtWaves Penticton in June, so perhaps some keen new gourders will want to join.

## WEBSITE.....

The [Canadian Gourd Society Web Site](http://www.canadiangourdsociety.org) is up and working. *Thank you, Janet,* for your hard work in keeping the site viable. [www.canadiangourdsociety.org](http://www.canadiangourdsociety.org)

## THANK YOU.....

Thanks to Bonnie MacLeod who sold her gourding supplies to the Kawartha Gourders at a very reasonable price. Our thoughts are with her as she moves on to future endeavours and commitments.

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS.....

### **Gourd Basket Making**

**Monday, June 5, 2017**

**11:00 am - 3:30 pm** (4 hours with a break for lunch)

Teacher: Barbara Bellchambers

Level: Intermediate (Pre-requisite Gourd 101)

Come and learn how to weave a colourful and interesting basket rim on your gourd, adding in beads, lacing, ribbon or yarn to add design details. Please bring an opened, prepared gourd, finished inside and out, to the class.

Students are asked to bring an apron. This class will be held outside, dress for the weather.

**Remember to bring a bag lunch!**

**Kawartha Gourders Fee:** \$50 (includes material fee)

**Non-Members:** \$65 (includes material fee and prepared gourd)



## **Seated Fabric Sculpture** **with Powertex**



**June 10-11, 2017**

**Saturday and Sunday**

**10:00 am - 4:30 pm** with a break for lunch

Teacher: Brigitte Thompson (Powertex Canada, Sudbury)

Level: Novice to Intermediate

Number of students: 6-15 students

Create amazing sculpture for your home or garden in this workshop using Powertex textile hardener. New to the Canadian art scene, Powertex is an environmentally friendly liquid that hardens any natural fiber such as cotton, wool, paper, wood etc. and makes it weather resistant – even in winter. Using only a recycled cotton t-shirt, wire and aluminum foil, students will learn to build an armature, drape the fabric and dry brush the final colour to their unique creation.

Students will learn to construct a 14 – 16” seated figure using recycled cotton t-shirts and doilies. Embellishments like ribbon roses, straw hats and lace can be added and will be provided. However, if you have an old doily that has sentimental value, why not bring it along and immortalize it as a permanent part of your sculpture.

No special skills are required. Squares and rectangles of cloth are cut, dipped in Powertex textile medium then applied to the armature. Realistic movement and a dimensional look are achieved by manipulating the fabric and adding additional layers of cloth or pinching a pleat here and there. Thankfully there are no sewing skills or special talents required.

Teacher supplies: all materials for making the figure

Students supply: a base for your figure to sit on, e.g. large rock, driftwood, log. Please insure that the base (rock or driftwood) should have a spot with a vertical elevation of at least five inches.

Although aprons are provided, it is recommended that students wear old shoes and clothing to class.

**Remember to bring a bag lunch!**

**Artisans Centre Member Fee: \$150** (includes all materials except base)

**Non-Members Fee: \$170** (includes all materials except base)

**Teacher Bio:** Brigitte Thompson is the national distributor of Powertex products in Canada. She has been teaching Powertex sculpting classes for the five years and is excited to share this new and extremely versatile medium with other artists. You can learn more about Powertex by visiting her website at [www.powertex.ca](http://www.powertex.ca)

## **Pyrography**



**June 19-20, 2017**

**Monday and Tuesday**

**10:00 am - 4:30 pm** with a break for lunch

Teacher: Brigitte Thompson (Powertex Canada, Sudbury)

Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Number of students: 4-12 students

Eager to take your woodburning to a new level? Brigitte will be teaching an artistic approach to woodburning which includes detailed shading techniques to achieve a realistic portrait style image. In this class, you will be working on a piece of Baltic birch. You will be able to use the skills you learn to working on gourds or turned wooden pieces. Please note that the illustration shows the piece you will be learning partially finished

Teacher supplies: Baltic birch, pattern. Brigitte will be bringing a number of Razertip wood burners for sale, as well as an extensive supply of pens for the Razertip burner.

Students supply: Adjustable heat wood burner. There will be Razertip wood burners available for you to borrow in class. Please indicate on your registration form if you will need to borrow a burner.

**Remember to bring a bag lunch!**

**Artisans Centre Member Fee: \$150** (includes materials)

**Non-Members Fee: \$170** (includes materials)



# PATCH REPORT

## KAWARTHA GOURDERS

The Kawartha Gourders continue to meet at the Artisans Centre Peterborough on Mondays. After a healthy (questionable for sure!) two flight climb, a few deep breaths and greeting everyone, we get to work. Many Mondays we have the option of a special project or working on our own creations. Gourd-laced rims, Asian Inspired gourds, and little chickens are but a few of the many things that have been demonstrated/taught since the last newsletter.

Julia returned from Florida with the many projects she worked on – pyro fish, a bird scratched into the gourd surface, ocean drums, funky birds, - and in true Julia style, the list goes on. She also brought a gourd tea pot which she purchased. Although she did not provide the name of the artist, it is such beautiful work that a picture must be shown.



Dorothy came back from Florida with her ocean drum, it's rolling waves making us all wish for warm, southern weather instead of the unpredictable spring rain of Ontario.



Our special visitor for two weeks was Diana, who now resides permanently in Florida. How great to have her smiling, cheerful enthusiasm back with us.



## MUSKOKA GOURDERS

The Muskoka Gourders finally connected and found a time suitable to all three members. It is always a fun(ny) day when we meet at Sharron's house as she tries to show the 'newby gourders' what to do. *Someone should come up with tutorials specifically geared to left-handers!!!* That being said, Sue completed her native doll and both Judy and Sue began bowls and prepared to rim them with coiling.



We are trying to find a few more members and plan to set a specific day to meet in the coming months. If anyone knows someone in the Muskoka area who is interested in gourding just have them e-mail me at [sashadow@sympatico.ca](mailto:sashadow@sympatico.ca).

Sharron





# MEMBERS HAVING FUN



Anne, Diana & Julia  
"looking over all the  
creative work"



Diana King



Sue Robertson



"Anne at Artisanity"



Anne



Pat Kelly "finding  
just the right gourd"



Judy Simmons



Pat Kelly "has found  
a good one"



Julia & Anne  
"making chickens"



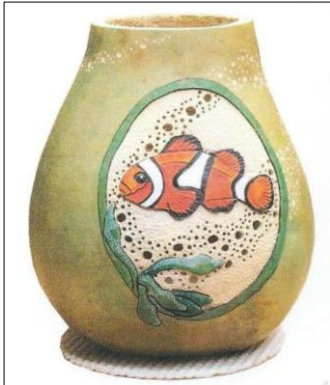
Diana "making  
chickens a la king"

# TUTORIAL

## CLOWN FISH TUTORIAL RELIEF

*Carving, Filigree carving, Painting, and Pyrography*

By REGGIE EAKIN



**Advanced Tutorial:** Relief carving, filigree carving, pyrography, and painting.

The student trace the design, carve the outline, remove the gourd shell, stipple the surface, add depth with pyrography tipped pens, and cut a filigree pattern in the prepared surface to simulate air bubbles. The Clown Fish design, frame, gourd will be painted with acrylics and stained with water based inks.

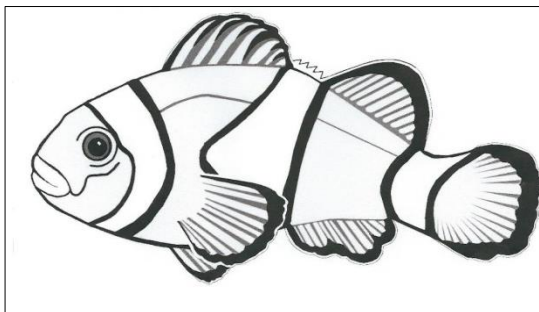
**Tools:** Adjustable woodburner with spade tip and round tip, Foredom, Optima, Dremel or similar tools w/flexible extension, 1/8 and 3/32 collets or adjustable chuck.

### Tutorial Steps

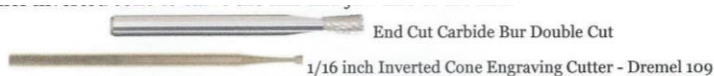
1. Clean a 6 to 7 inch diameter and 6 to 8 inch tall, pear-shaped or round gourd; cut a small opening (3-4 inch) at the top; and clean the gourd interior. Remove all of the white membrane. (You can paint the inside if the gourd is thicker than  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Otherwise I suggest that it not be painted in order to see if you are carving too deep).
2. Trace the clown fish design on the surface of the gourd using the red pen. You will be removing some of the gourd shell. Draw an "X" to indicate which part of the outline will be removed.
3. Using a pyrography pen skew tip to burn the major lines in the fish drawing.



Any flat pointed tip will work.



4. Using the inverted cone carve the inside of the frame and outside of the Clown Fish and Sea Anemone. Use the smaller inverted cone to carve the fins and jaw line of the fish.



5. Remove the gourd shell within the area that was outlined with the inverted cone.



6. Use a 1/8 ball bur to stipple the background surrounding the fish.





# CLOWN FISH TUTORIAL RELIEF

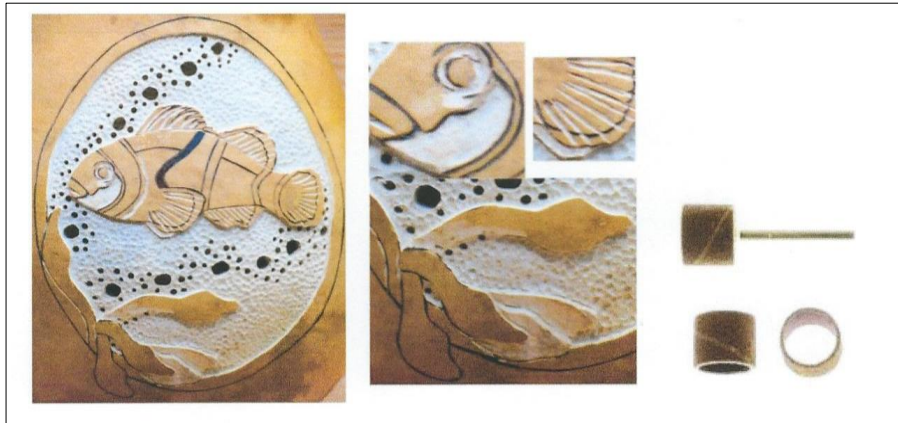
*Carving, Filigree carving, Painting, and Pyrography*

7. Using the filigree bur simulate the air bubble rising from the reef.

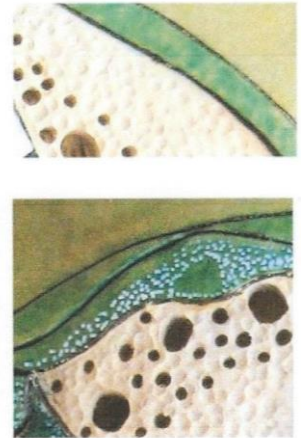
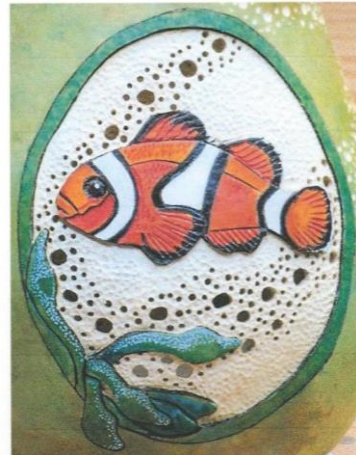


Use for simple Filigree cutting

2.5mm Carbide Cutters, 1/8 inch shank. Double Cut with a drill point end (for smaller holes use a 1.5mm cutter -



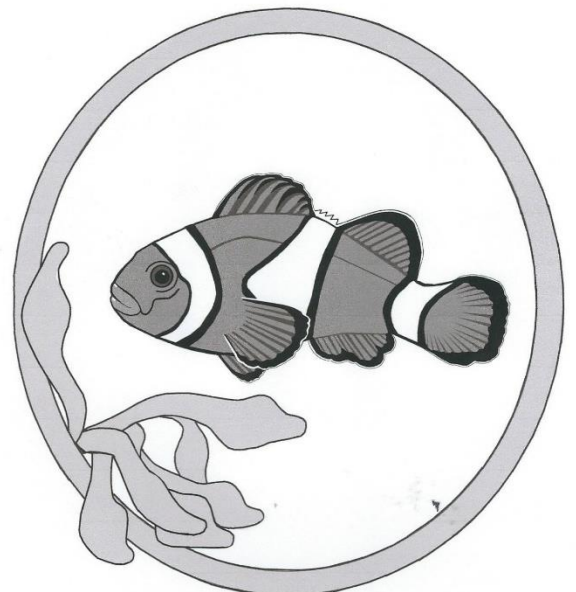
8. Lightly remove the surface of the lower jaw, gills, and eye of the Clown Fish using a ball bur. Using a drum remove the shell at an angle from the lower Sea Anemone and lower fin.
9. Using the Burning pen point outline the inside and outside of the frame as well as the Clown fish and Anemone.
10. Paint the clown fish with Memory Inks – Burnt Orange and Orange. Paint the black scales with black acrylic paint. The black can also be burned with a round pyrography tip.
11. Color the gourd frame with memory ink and highlight the Anemone with white paint.
12. Stain the remainder of the gourd with Memory ink.
13. Continue the air bubbles outside of the frame using the 1/8 inch round bur.
14. Seal the gourd using clear matte spray or sanding sealer.



***Sincere thanks to Reggie Eakin for giving his permission to use his tutorial.***

***It has been reformatted to fit this newsletter.  
The original can be found on his website:***

***[www.georgiagourdguy.com](http://www.georgiagourdguy.com)***



# MEMBER GALLERY

## Featured Artist:

**Julie-Anne Wallewein** is a gourd artist from Estevan, Saskatchewan. Beginning with a seed packet and ending with a finished piece takes time and patience, but comes with a sense of pride and accomplishment to have completed the whole cycle. Even though she can't grow all the gourds she works on, there is a place in her heart for each one. She has worked with gourds for a number of years, and her passion keeps blossoming into the pieces produced today. Her artistry of gourdng has been self-taught through trial and error and with an attitude of, "Let's try this." Nature, in particular leaves, are a major influence in her work.



Home-grown



After Cleaning



Ornament

Julie-Anne grew up on a farm in the Frobisher, Saskatchewan, district. In her years at home, her mom always had a project on the go. Dad, being the true farmer that he is, has the imagination to create and fix just about anything. She feels truly blessed for the talents she received from both parents. She is a stay at home mom, who is married to Ken, and they have two sons, Riley and Reagan.

Julie-Anne is a member of the Canadian Gourd Society and a juried member of the Saskatchewan Craft Council.

**Contact information for Julie-Anne can be found at [www.burntleafgourds.wordpress.com](http://www.burntleafgourds.wordpress.com) or burnt leaf gourds on Facebook.**



*The warts on Outcrop are all natural. I used various green and brown alcohol ink for colour with a few touches of gold to give it some sparkle. An air plant finishes it.*



*Jade Vase. Dyed with alcohol ink and rim coiled with pine needles. Some beads finish it. This vase is the top from another gourd project.*



*Ruby Vase. It stands about 6" tall. Dyed with alcohol ink rimmed with pine needle coiling. A couple of little maple leaf gourd cutouts are the finishing touch.*



*"Midnight Tsunami"*



# Gourd Creations:



Anne Carling "Screen Bugs"



Barbara Bellchambers



Julia Hayes "Penguin"



Lorraine Hodges



Janet Bisset



Dorothy Hawkins "Reclaimed Birdhouse"



Anne Carling



Sharon Anstey





Anne Carling



Barbara Powell - "Pine Needle Basket, plain, and ammonia dyed needles, with a walnut center"



Janet Bisset  
"Lidded Bowl"



Sue Robertson



Dorothy Hawkins  
"Ocean Drum"



Sue Robertson & Judy Simmons  
"Bad Hair Day"





Julie-Anne Wallewein  
"Maple Leaf Pyrography"



Barbara Bellchambers



Dorothy Hawkins  
"Wacky Bird"



Barbara Bellchambers  
"Pointillism"



Anne Carling  
"Chicken on a Stick"



Sharron Anstey  
"Luminaire"

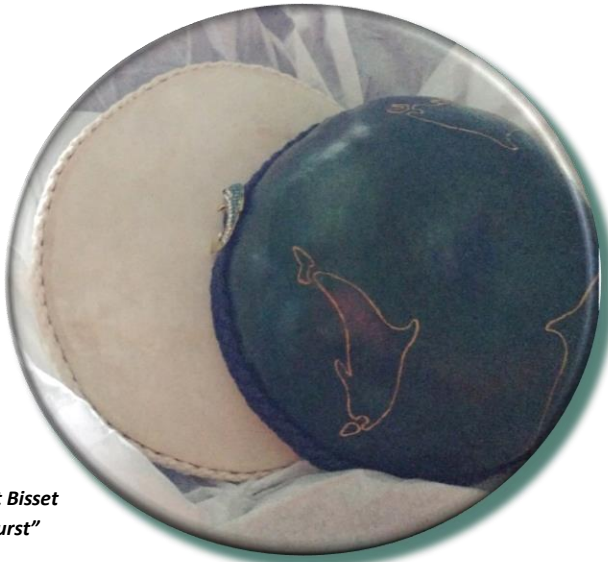


Julia Hayes



Janet Bisset  
"Ocean Drum"





Janet Bisset  
"Burst"



Julia Hayes  
"Scratched Design"



Barbara Bellchambers  
"Shaker"



Julie-Anne Wallewein  
(Table at Estavan Sale)



Janet Bisset  
"Pitcher"



Lorraine Hodges



Sharron Anstey  
"Tight-fitted Lid"





Lorraine Hodges



Barbara Bellchambers  
"luminaire"



Barbara Powell – "Painted, unfinished  
needing a rim – possibly coiled"



Julie-Anne Wallewein  
"Leaf Pyrography"



Janet Bisset  
"Thunder Drums"

Many *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

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