

The Canadian Gourder



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Yes, it is finally warm enough that we can gourd outdoors! I like being able to power carve outside; I do not need the noise of the vacuum also going when carving, the dust just blows away. Yes, I do still wear a mask. Besides being able to work and also relax outdoors, I enjoy hearing the neighbourhood children playing. I can enjoy their laughter and teasing, knowing I am not immediately responsible for any of them. That is true relaxing, after years of spending time outdoors with my own children and then my kindergarten classes and having to be on full alert. Yes, summer is good.

While in Cherokee earlier this month, we met up with Helen from Port Perry. Helen was a member for many years, but now she travels so much she does most of her gourding in Florida in the winter. It is always good to catch up with old friends.

Kudos and congratulations to Lorraine Hodges in Kelowna for teaching how to make Gourd Birdhouses at Lee Valley. You must have plenty of gourders for an active patch now! Maybe Lee Valley will let you use their classroom regularly, with the knowledge many will buy tools from them?

Enjoy your summer, getting together with family and friends, travelling, gourding, whatever strikes your fancy. If you are over my way, remember the Kawartha Gourders meet every Monday in Peterborough. We would love to have you join us!

Smiles,
Barbara



Barbara's firefly watching post at Cherokee.

'Fireflies show up better in the dark, Barbara!'



Barbara's "Perfect Lady"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP.....

Welcome Lillian (Lil) Kryzanowski, Cheryl Madge-Yerrow and Cynthia Lord, our newest members. Lil hails from St. Albert, Alberta and Cheryl & Cynthia both live in Peterborough.

Because it is difficult for the executive to find creative ways to maintain and increase the membership, we would welcome ideas that would involve the west and the east. The Kawartha Gourders and the other 3 guilds that meet in Peterborough have been given the challenge of creating a gourd that makes one think of a river. *If you have any ideas for a project/challenge for the society members, please email your thoughts and ideas to sharron.anstey19@gmail.com.*

WEBSITE.....

The *Canadian Gourd Society Website* is still not complete but is a work in progress.

If you are interested in any gourding workshops held by the Kawartha Gourders, they will be listed on the Artisan Centre Peterborough website or follow *artisancentrepeterborough* on Instagram. Join the Kawartha Gourders Facebook page by sending a 'friend request' and check out following Monday workshop/activity.

WORKSHOPS



Chris in the chicken workshop!!



Anne & Barbara making chickens in the chicken workshop!!



The End Product



Chicken Display at "Artisanity" –
Sold as a fundraiser for the
Artisan's Centre

WORKSHOPS – CONT'D



**Beginner Bowl Workshop
2 happy ladies with their
beautiful finished bowls done in
alcohol ink & rimmed.**



**Brigitte giving Chris a
'spontaneous' pyro session**



Cynthia

Chris



Julia

**Barbara's Beginner
Pyrography Lesson**



Dorothy



**Anne making chickens in a
Beginner Workshop with Cheryl**

PATCH REPORTS

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

The Kawartha Gourders have had a busy time since the last newsletter.

Barbara wants to keep us challenged and says: "Have you started on the 'River Challenge'? Now is the time to get going on it. Since I set the challenge, I may not enter, though I do keep getting ideas of what I would do. You never know, I may yet do one piece as I am not judging. It is a fun challenge; I hope you give it a try. I have no idea how many will enter from the four guilds; we are the smallest group, so let us give the rest a run for their money!"

In May four gourders participated in Artisanity in Lakefield. The weather was completely uncooperative, offering a violent windstorm which knocked out power and did a great deal of damage in the area – hence, attendance at the sale was down. However, it is always a positive to get together with the other guilds and show off what we can do with 'dried fruit from the garden'.



Gourd Display at Artisanity

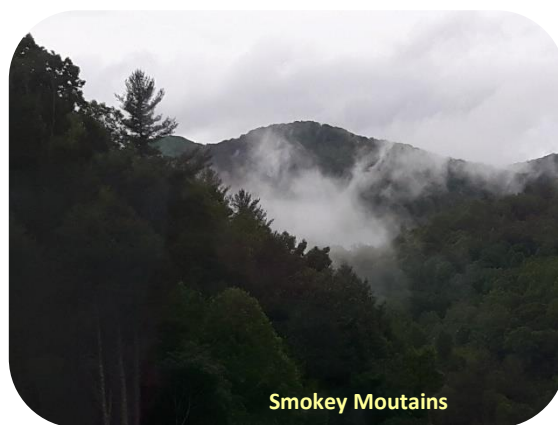
In spite of being very busy writing up a proposal for a government grant, Barbara and Anne joined Dorothy and Julia for a week-long trek to Cherokee in North Carolina. Barbara's narration of the adventure is as follows....

Cherokee 2018

What do dumpster diving, finicky air conditioning in 32 C weather, and duct taping car parts have to do with gourding at Cherokee? Everything and nothing, if that makes sense. It should tell you that we had a wonderful time at the gourding festival, and even through the 'hard times' we kept laughing. Put 4 gourders together for a number of days, and of course things happen. Make those 4 women, and things definitely happen!

On the second day of our trip south, Anne, Dorothy, Julia and I stopped at Tamarack, an Artisan Centre, in West Virginia. A huge facility, filled with magnificent works of art of every kind, even the lovely gourd. It was amazing to see such high quality and variety of work in one place. We headed out again, with Anne and I stopping to visit Heartwood Artisan Centre 2 hours later. Another wonderful visit, four galleries filled with more high quality work, even a section of gourds. We now have lots of ideas for a gallery after visiting these examples of what can be done.

Our 'home' in Cherokee found by Julia was a lovely cabin in the woods, up in the Smokey Mountains. Not a little cabin mind you, a very luxurious cabin with a bedroom for each of us, a deck that went around two plus sides of the cabin, a hot tub at one end. With chairs, a picnic table and a long swinging bench, we had lots of room for sitting and relaxing outdoors. The fire flies entertained us each evening at dusk, a tiny gecko visited one afternoon, and – no mosquitos to bother us.



Smokey Moutains

What about dumpster diving you ask? Well, to tell the truth, it was actually a big garbage bin that Dorothy had to dive into; she realized after supper that when she cleaned up the work table at her class, she had thrown out her little paper package of embossing. As she had been drinking (yes, some of these delightful women had to taste all the local wine), I drove her back to the fairgrounds. After half emptying the bin head first, the needed tiny package was found, and we were able to put everything else back and drive home. Phew! There were many vendors indoors, with my favourite being Blue Whale Art, manned by Leah and Barry Reed. Leah always has a lovely variety of things to tempt gourders, and of course I had to buy some of her wares. Outdoors, there were gourds galore, spread across the centre of the fairgrounds. I knew I would be in trouble if I dared to bring home any gourds, as Bruce swears I have thousands in the garage, but as we can park both vehicles in the garage, surely I do not. However, I resisted, though I did enjoy talking with the vendors.

Classes were spread out along the outside of the buildings, under the extended roofs. Good thing they were under cover, as we did have rain every day, just enough to cool down the hot days to be enjoyable. There was a great variety of classes, and we each took as many as we could from Wednesday to Sunday. We brought back lots of new ideas! Watch for classes coming soon at the Artisans Centre.

One enjoyable part of attending a gourd show elsewhere was the many opportunities to visit with other gourders from various parts of the United States. We were able to learn how their patches worked. I had the fortune of meeting and chatting with Raymond Konan, 1st Vice President of the American Gourd Society. He is a gourd historian, with an interest in gourds that began when he was living and teaching in Africa and saw the women and young girls carrying gourds full of water on their heads.

Anne and I left a day later than Julia and Dorothy, as we wanted to complete some work, and also visit the Qualla Art and Crafts Centre in Cherokee. Founded in 1946, Qualla represents over 350 enrolled tribal members' exceptional work.

On our way north, we needed the above mentioned duct tape repairs. Our mountain road connected with the highway by means of a very steep junction, where the underside of the front of my little car always scraped going in and out. I also pulled in too far on angle parking at a visitors' centre, scraping the underside yet again. So, it should have come as no surprise when Anne and I heard a banging coming from outside the car, and a scraping sound. We needed gas, so at the next gas station we pulled off the highway to find that our front bumper was pulled out a bit on one side, and a plastic piece was dragging on the ground instead of being tucked inside the bumper. Fortunately Home Depot was right next door, and with bright blue duct tape in hand, Anne wiggled under the front of the car to tape the underside together while I pulled up with a paint stirrer. We were able to 'fix' the car supervised by a few manly men who stopped to watch and comment before going on their way without offering to help.

As to the finicky air conditioning, once we were able to get it going, we found we could not adjust it or it would just quit. Stopping every two hours to switch places and walk around a bit, gave the car time to cool down, and kept the air conditioning working on the way home.

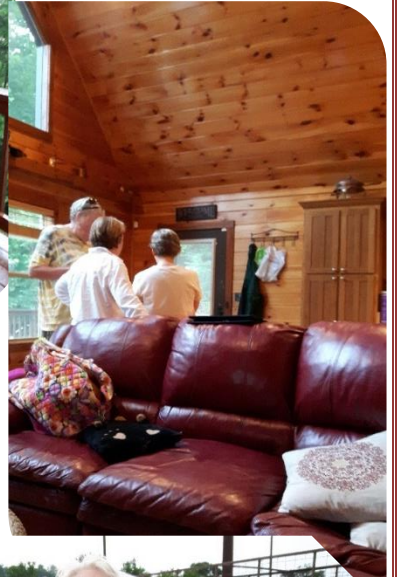
If you get a chance to go to a gourd festival, please do. You will find yourself inspired and eager to gourd!

So, as my Mother always said, "A good time was had by all".



Strapless
Heartwood
Apron



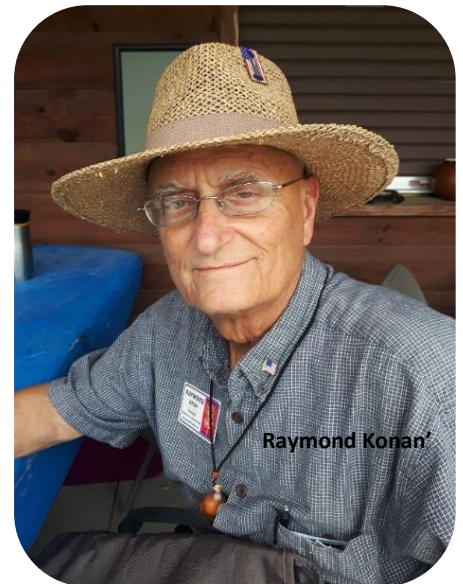




Pottery
imitating a Gourd



Qualla Arts & Crafts Centre



Raymond Konan



4 DAYS OF MAGNIFICENT CREATIVITY
'THE TOTAL WORKS'

MUSKOKA GOURDERS

The Muskoka Gourders continue to meet once a month although we are down to two members over the summer. Judy is rapidly increasing her range of skills and is currently working on a lidded bowl with pyro, stippling, metal leaf and her wonderful design.

TUTORIAL

Reggie Eakin was a wonderful gourdist who sadly passed away in February of this year in his home state of Georgia. Known as the Georgia gourd guy, he was a member and past president of the Georgia Gourd Society and the American Gourd Society. Although his website www.georgiagourdguys.com is no longer working, he put the following free beginner tutorial, "Oak Leaves Your Way", on it. If you would like to see some of his work, you can google "reggie eakin gourds" to see images. He will definitely be missed in the gourding world.

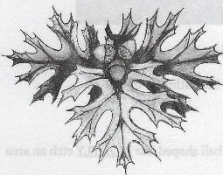
Oak Leaves Your Way – Free Tutorial

The student will burn a design on the gourd with wood burning pens, stain the gourd, and etch with a rotary tool cutter. The oak leaf cluster design will be applied to the student's choice of gourd. Depending on the student's choices the gourd may or may not be completed. The design can be placed on any type of gourd (lamp, box, or bowl) and expanded to suit the gourd artist.

INSTRUCTOR PROVIDES: Tutorials, patterns, transfer paper, pencil, red pen, memory ink, ink applicators, scissors, tape, and sanding tools.

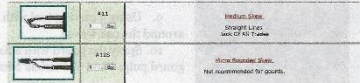
STUDENT SHOULD BRING: Adjustable wood burner, a small ball tip pen, a skew tip pen, a rotary tool with a ball cutter (Dremel, Foremost or similar tool). A clean small to medium gourd any shape - cut or uncut. The design works well on cannon ball gourds or small pear shaped gourds.

Oak Leaf Cluster

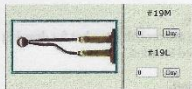


1. Trace the design to the desired location on your gourd. Use the RED pen to trace over the pattern. (add extra leaves if desired)

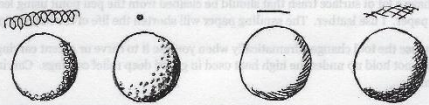
2. Using a skew tip pen burn the outline of the leaves, veins, and acorns. These burn lines will lightly cut into the surface of the gourd skin. The curved shape of the pen blade will allow you to make tight turns at the leaf points.



3. Using a ball shader pen darken the shadows and shape of the leaves and acorns. The shading will scorch the gourd skin, but not cut into it.



4. The shading can be done using any of the traditional ways to create shadows. I'd like for you to try circular motions. Increasing the heat or slowing your hand movement will darken the shading.



Oak Leaves Your Way – Free Tutorial

5. (If you have chosen to ring the neck of the gourd with oak leaves those patterns should be drawn on the gourd and burned before proceeding to add ink dye coloring.)



6. Using ink dye, you may or may not choose to LIGHTLY dye the leaves. It takes very little ink dye to add color. Use it sparingly.

7. Using Memory ink dye you may color the rest of the gourd up to the outline of the leaves.

8. Heat set the ink dyes.



9. Using a carving tool with a ball shaped bur LIGHTLY etch an area around the oak leaves.

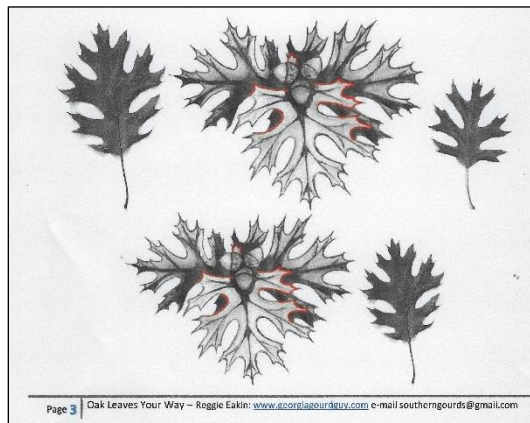
10. Spray the gourd with a fixative that preserves the light color of the gourd pulp: Plaid® Patricia Nimocks™ Clear Acrylic Sealer - Matte.

How to apply heat to draw on a gourd surface:

1. Do not bear down on the burning pen. Let it glide on the surface.
2. Start at a low heat for drawing on a gourd. If you see smoke you are probably too hot for drawing.
3. Make long lines by turning the gourd and holding your hand fixed location.
4. Begin new lines in a darkened area of the gourd.
5. End a line by lifting the pen like a plane taking off from the ground.
6. DO not stop before lifting the pen or you will create a dark dimple.
7. Vary the darkness of a line or shading by varying the heat, speed of movement, or repeatedly going over that area.
8. Gourds have a lot of surface trash that should be cleaned from the pen point using leather or light sanding paper. I use leather. The sanding paper will shorten the life of the burning pen.

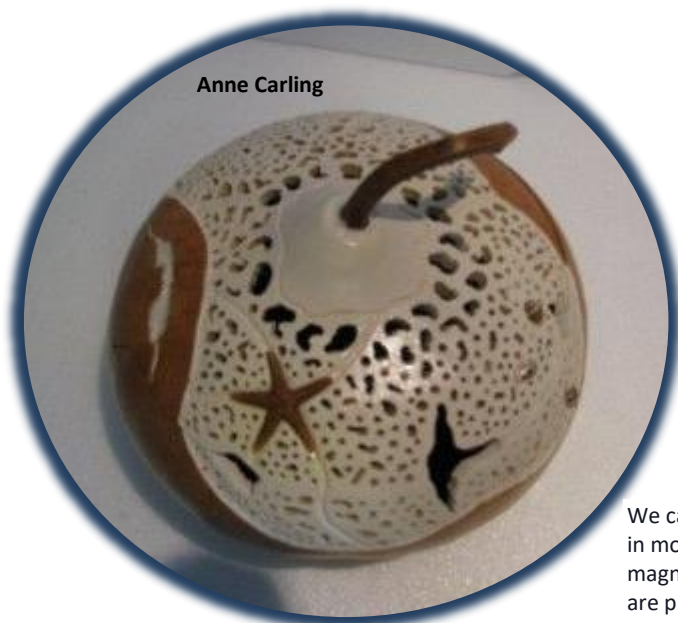
The way that you use the tool changes dramatically when you use it to carve or accent carvings. Lighter duty burning tools may not hold up under the high heat used in gourd deep relief carvings. Carving with heat creates lots of smoke.

You can find suggestions for carving and burning on my new website: www.georgiagourdguys.com



MEMBER GALLERY

Anne Carling

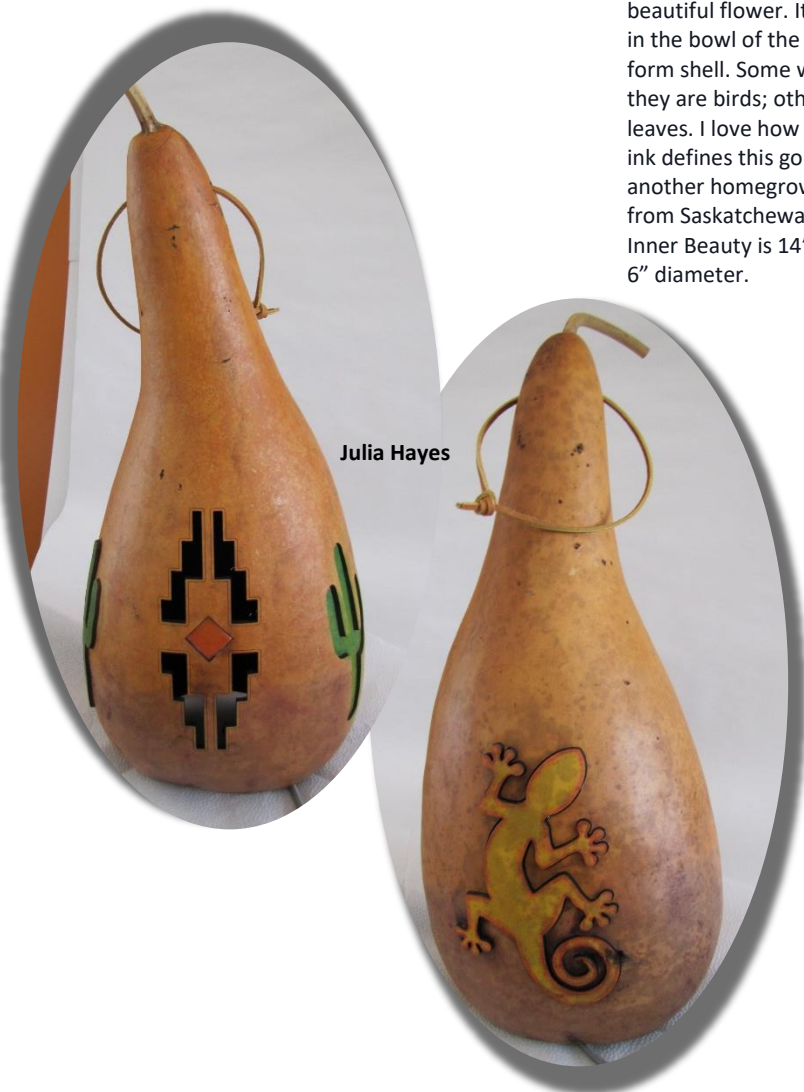


We can find "Inner Beauty" in most anything. The magnolia petals and stamen are pieces of gourd painted and fit together to make a beautiful flower. It is nestled in the bowl of the outer free form shell. Some will say they are birds; others will see leaves. I love how the alcohol ink defines this gourd. This is another homegrown gourd from Saskatchewan. Inner Beauty is 14" tall and 6" diameter. JA W

Julie-Anne Wallewin
"INNER BEAUTY"



Julia Hayes



Julie-Anne Wallewin



I have been working on my ever-popular Maple Leaf Ornaments. Here are photos of three. Each one is made out of a single gourd. Leaves are drawn and pyrographed on surface. The pieces are then cut out and put together to make a cute little bobble. These are my own creation and I enjoy the challenge. JAW



Judy Simmonds



Flowers molded using Quik Wood & Suede look created using a fine powder



Barb Powell



Barbara Bellchambers



Sharron Anstey



Anne Carling



Barbara Bellchambers

Dorothy Hawkins

Banana gourd with
cardboard fins



Julia Hayes



Sharron Anstey



Julie-Anne Wallewin

Meadow is one of those gourds you need to see in person. Here are 4 different glimpses of it but all the details do not fit into these photos. I enjoyed drawing and wood burning this piece. So many details that remind me of walks out in the pasture. Mom always put the flowers I brought her in a glass of water on the windowsill even though they were likely weeds. This piece is approximately 8" tall and 8" in diameter and is one that I grew in my garden. Near and dear to my heart. JA W



Cynthia Lord

Seed Beads placed in a beeswax & pine resin mixture – a technique used by the *Huichol*, indigenous people of SW Mexico.



Julia Hayes

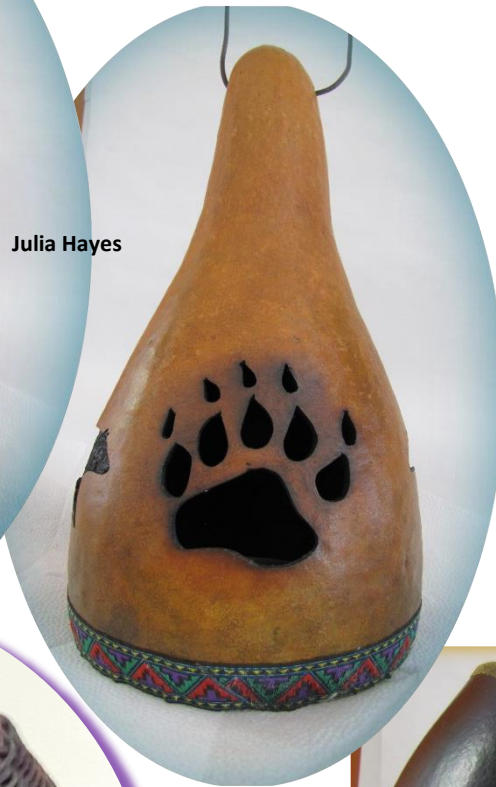
Coloured with alcohol ink



Anne Carling



Julia Hayes



Cynthia Lord



Barbara Bellchambers



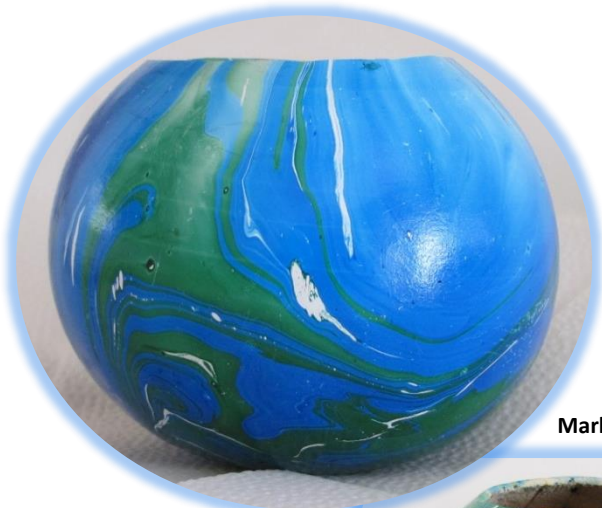
Dorothy Hawkins



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Dorothy Hawkins



Marbling Technique

Anne Carling



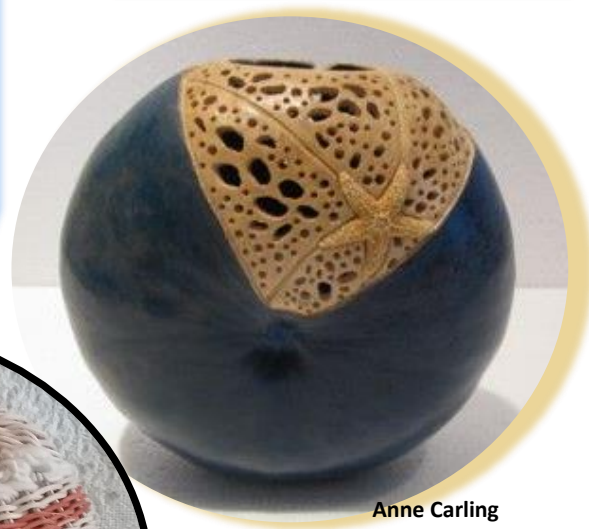
Julie-Anne Wallewin



Barb Powell



Barb Powell



Anne Carling



Anne Carling



Sharron Anstey

Julie-Anne Wallewin's
Home-grown gourds



Julia Hayes



Barb Powell



Brigitte Thompson's PowerTex
display at Artisanity



HAPPY CANADA DAY



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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