

THE CANADIAN GOURDER



June 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Summer is here!

Now to wait for the heat. It is turning out not to be a great year in my area for growing gourds. We have had too much rain and cold through the spring, not giving the lovely plants and gourds a chance to grow to maturity before fall sets in. I guess there is always next year.

The Kawartha Gourders are now firmly settled into our new home downtown in Peterborough Square. It is delightful to see visitors' reaction to entering the centre, seeing all the materials and tools available, and hearing about the opportunities for taking classes and joining the guilds. Our gourd patch is growing too! We have examples of many of the techniques we can do on display in the centre. Our newer gourders want to learn everything at once! We keep telling them "one step at a time", learn a skill, practice it and gain some comfort with it, and then it will be time to learn another skill. We have full slate of courses to keep us busy until Christmas; hopefully our stock of gourds will hold out!



In September Anne Carling and I will be running the Creative Hands on Festival, also here in the square. For those who attended the gourd shows of the past in Toronto and Buckhorn, and the Gourd and Creative Art Shows, we are taking our ideas from these shows and adapting to what is needed now. We were fortunate to receive a Federal Grant to help with the costs. We have been contacting guilds, groups, and individuals who do other hand skills to join us this September 13-15 to participate by offering Hands On Activities (similar to the make and take), Demonstrations, and half day Classes. They do not seem to believe that we are offering to pay them to teach, and not charging them to participate! If anyone out there wants to join us, please let us know. This is not a show centered on sales, but rather, as the title suggests, getting your hands busy learning a new craft or relearning one from your past.

I look forward to seeing all the photos you have sent in from all over Canada. We need someone in the centre of the country to plan a gathering so we can come from across Canada to share in person. Let me know when you start planning this event, and I will plan to be there! I might even offer to teach.

Yours in Gourding,
Barbara



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest members: Cháron Ackhurst, Heather Heffernan-Burroughs, John D Morand, (all from the Peterborough area) and Monique LaRocque (who hails from Ottawa and who's name was missed in the last newsletter....*sorry Monique!*).

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 society members across the country, please email your thoughts and ideas to sharron.anstey19@gmail.com.*

Just a reminder that if any of your personal information (address, phone number, email address) has changed, please let us know. *Thank you.*

If you wish to communicate via *snail-mail* the address is: Canadian Gourd Society, c/o Artisans Centre Peterborough, Unit 3, 360 George St. N., Peterborough Square, Peterborough ON, K9H 7E7 (Phone: 705-775-1797). If you are in the area, drop in and visit. Gourd workshops are posted on the CGS website (www.canadiangourdsociety.ca), the Kawartha Gourder Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders) and, along with word-turning and fibre workshops, on the ACP website (info@artisanscentre.ca).

WEBSITE.....

Don't forget, If you have a website and/or gallery and would like to advertise it on the CGS website, send the web address to canadiangourders@gmail.com for consideration.

SPRING ARTISANITY SHOW.....

Several gourders, along with other artisans, took part in the Spring Artisanity Show in Lakefield. In spite of a mix-up advertising the dates, the turn-out was good. We can now get ready for the Fall Artisanity show in November.

PATCH REPORTS

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

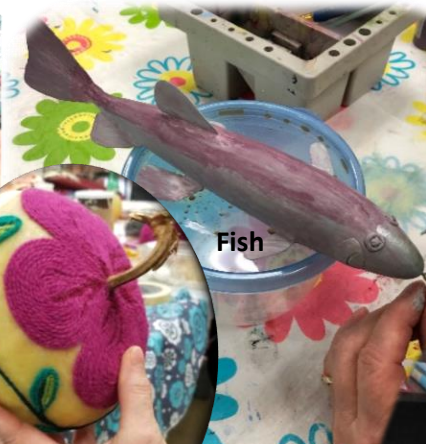
The Kawartha Gourders have again had a very busy three months. Several workshops have brought out not only our regular gourder attendees but some newbies as well. It has taken a while to organize the new *digs* but with a lot of time and effort by a few people, we are now able to find supplies. Of course, Barbara with her labelling gun has made this much easier.

As you can see on the following page, workshops were loads of fun! Anne taught Gretchen Rim Basketry, many messy basins of water, but great results. Easter weekend had kiddies come and paint eggs. Of course, our one and only Len dazzled all with his wool art and gave a great workshop on *wool on gourds*. Kudos to Steve who prepared a dozen or more cannonballs with multiple layers of beeswax.

Gourd chickens are always popular and Barbara gave us many ideas on how to stabilize that not so stable gourd. Dorothy taught several fish enthusiasts how to turn a banana gourd into a creative aquatic animal. Chinese cherry blossoms painted with puffy paint and rain sticks, both taught by Barbara, finished up June.

The next challenge will be getting ready for the Creative Hands on Festival in September and the great workshops scheduled for the rest of the year.

WORKSHOPS (COMPLETED)



PENNSYLVANIA GOURD GATHERING WELCOMES 5 KAWARTHA GOURDERS

Eight-thirty a.m., a Wednesday in mid-June, and four Kawartha Gourders, with small carry-on bags (who needs clothes) and lots of gourd tools, pile into Barbara's van (generously loaned by hubby Bruce). Heading east, Anne navigating and Barbara driving, they are off to Belleville to pick up the fifth passenger. After a short wait (the navigator forgot to phone), we had the van full of enthusiastic gourd lovers who were headed to Lebanon, Pennsylvania for a gourd gathering.

Anne, Lois and Dorothy picked up a healthy supply of wine at the duty-free shop while Barbara and I checked out the elaborate, marbleized washroom and the chocolate section. The house we stayed in was in Anneville, about 20 minutes from the gourd venue. Comfortable, but tired, the house provided many moments of interesting conversation over the next 4 days as we tried to figure out why anyone would have hundreds of personal photos, mementos, flower pots in every colour, and many, many more oddities lining the walls and shelves in an Airbnb rental.

The weather, which was supposed to be hot, turned out to be very windy and quite cool. The indoor classes were comfortable - the outdoor ones a challenge. Lois did an awesome job in the Newbie Gourd class in spite of the fact her lips were blue and she needed a blanket-wrap to keep her warm enough to hold the tools. Dorothy filled each moment of the three days with classes. She only ended up with one cut finger while learning how to carve curls and swirls. Through the pain, she went on to learn how to chip carve. What a trooper! Sharron spent the first day carving an antler cross while trying to avoid the raindrops dripping through the tent.

Barbara practiced her pyro skills and, with Dorothy, floated paint to make bamboo stalks. Anne also practiced pyro with a cute little squirrel climbing a tree. Lois and Anne both did some pine needle coiling and Anne and Sharron drilled holes and more holes to end up with a pendant lamp.

While most had at least one morning to sleep in and/or shop, Dorothy filled her final day with a wonderful patterned gourd and a metallic glue tree. Anne took the day to work with raffia and pine needles. Sharron tried to hold down her rooster in the wind, while trying to stop the burn hole leak in a pop bottle (*Why you shouldn't drink & burn!*). Barbara spent the morning dabbling in Celtic spirals and gold leaf and Lois had fun shopping.

Leaving early on the 5th day, the van was packed up quickly (*such organization*) and Anne and the host did a final walkabout - all was in order and we drove off leaving a weary house and landlord behind. After several hours driving through the rain, we again stopped at the duty-free shop, bought wine, 'trump-wrapped' chocolate bars and the worst pb&j sandwich ever made (*ruining a pb&j takes great skill - have to give credit where it's due*).

We left Dorothy in Belleville where her hubby was waiting (probably because she didn't forget to phone) and arrived back in Lakefield, tired and in time for dinner.



Anne's River Challenge gourd won second prize!

Tutorial: Texture Galore Gourd Bowl



with Leah Reed,
owner of Blue
Whale Arts

You can also watch this tutorial online at this link
<https://youtube/jtc6YW7HZJI>

Supplies:

Gourd bowl, cut and cleaned

Flat Black spray paint

Skeletal Leaves (Quantity ~50-60) & Scissors

Mod Podge (gloss) & Foam Brush

Metallic Rub-Ons or Gilders Paste

Spray Finish (such as UV resistant Clear Coat or
Acrylic Lacquer)

Steps:

1. Prep Gourd. If you plan on adding a rim treatment, mark and create the holes you will need to attach the pine needles, philodendron sheaths or other rim materials to the bowl. Paint the inside and outside of the cut and cleaned gourd with flat black spray paint. When dry, repeat with a second coat.

2. Prep Skeletal Leaves. Skeletal leaves have stiff stems & veins that need to be cut out prior to applying to the gourd. I use sharp scissors to cut the stems and veins from all of the leaves before going on to the

next step. I use about 50 or 60 leaves on the average gourd bowl.

3. Begin Applying Leaves. Brush a generous amount of Mod Podge on a section of the gourd large enough for one or two leaves. Set leaf(s) on this area and gently pat in place using the sponge brush. Do Not brush the leaf because doing so will rip the leaf. Pat or tap the leaves in place with the sponge brush and more Mod Podge.





4. Continue Applying Leaves. Randomly place the leaves as you layer them, over-lapping and layering them. The leaves should be two to three layers thick, as this is what will provide the texture.

5. Fully Dry. When gourd is completely covered with skeletal leaves, set it aside to dry. This may take 24 to 48 hours.



6. Paint it Black (again). When the leaves on the gourd have fully dried spray the gourd and leaves with the flat black spray paint. You may need to apply two coats. Allow the gourd to dry between coats and be fully dry before proceeding to the next

step. Trim the edge with scissors where any leaves extended beyond the gourd.



7. Highlight the Texture of the Leaves with a Rub-On Medium. Select one or more color of a Rub-On or Gilders Paste. Apply lightly with your finger, running it lightly over the high points of the veins of the leaves. Mix colors or use one color.



8. Finish. Seal with a clear coat of your choice.

9. Add the rim treatment of your choice.

Thanks to Leah Reed, owner of Blue Whale Arts, for her permission to include this wonderful tutorial!

HELPFUL HINTS

The following e-mail was sent from Barb in Victoria, B.C. Of course, the best I could think of was to forward it to Barbara B., our experienced problem-solver.

*"Hi again Sharron, and gourd family, ...what do I do?
This thin gourd was dropped, and cracked. I tried to cover with wood-filler, but the color is too light. How do I camouflage the crack? I'm sure someone has come across this issue. Thanks in advance for your help. Barb"*



Barbara B's reply:

"So, you have a lovely painted gourd that had an accident and ended up cracked. We all do that sometime - you are not alone.

One step you can take with thin gourds, and this one included, is to coat the inside with Wood Hardener. I buy it at Home Hardware, probably other places like Home Depot also carry it. It is like water, but once you coat the gourd with one or two coats, it does really harden and strengthen the gourd. This will help specially to strengthen the rim for whatever rim treatment you have in mind. I see the holes on the rim so guess you are planning to do pine needles or some such rim treatment.

You have done a good job covering the crack with wood filler. One suggestion would be to first paint that area the same colour as the gourd so it somewhat blends in.

Since it is the bottom of the gourd, I can see a few ideas. One would be making a wide shallow bowl with a narrow opening that your flowers are set in. That would completely cover the crack, and look intentional. You can make a base coat, then use a sponge to add contrast and to disguise the crack. Gold or bronze or both would look good lightly added to coat the bowl.

You could also sponge green shades to it looks more like grass around the bottom?

I often like to use more than one technique on a gourd. What about painting a hand holding the flowers? Or use the wood filler or quikwood to form the hand over the crack?

One technique you may not have tried before is using a thin layer of quikwood or other clay on the gourd, and then using plastic stamps to layer on design. You can use anything, a fork's tines, end of pencil, roll a hexagonal pencil across the clay to get a lined pattern, whatever textured items you can find around. You could do the whole bottom of the gourd in this way, or use it for my earlier suggestion of a flat style vase. The clay could add weight to the gourd, which you might have to balance out with some on the bottom, inside or out.

Wish I was closer to be able to help. You are such a lovely gourd artist. What about pulling out more leaves and flowers lower to cover the cracked area? Let the stems continue downward farther, and then extend out? You could even do that with clay! Have fun with it!"

MEMBER GALLERY



Dorothy Hawkins



Chris Brandon



Darienne & Ed McAuley

"The Emerald Pot" is another carving practice piece. The leaves are carved and sanded smooth and alcohol ink is dabbed on the remaining exterior. JAW



Len De Graaf



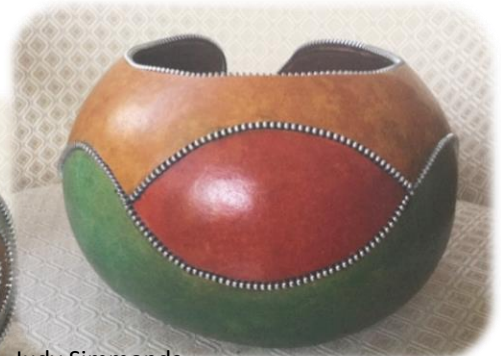
Sharron Anstey



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Cháron Ackhurst



Judy Simmonds

Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers



Darienne & Ed McAuley



"I'm sending you a picture of my works in progress. Wood burning, using transparent acrylics, and learning to blend colors. I really like the iridescent dragonfly. I used Pearl Ex gold mixed in with my paint." BP



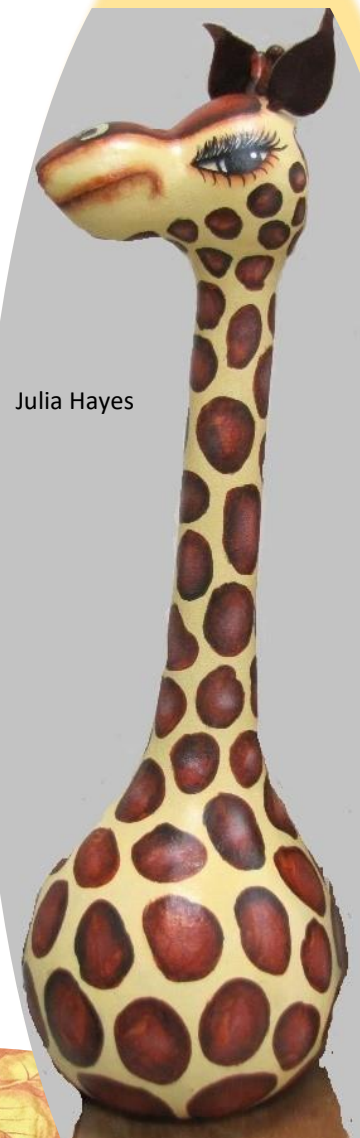
Barb Powell

"Earthen Rust" - I started Earthen Rust to practice my carving skills. When I used the alcohol ink on the carving, it gave me the wonderful patina of metal that has been buried in the ground for decades. It is so cool. It is amazing how techniques work when one is experimenting. JAW

Julie-Anne Wallewin



Julia Hayes



Sharron Anstey



Len De Graaf



Dorothy Hawkins



Len De Graaf

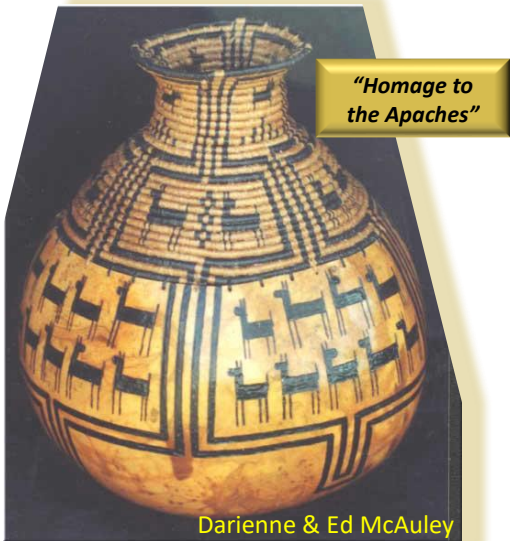
"Lily Pond" - Yarn demonstration to kick off Seniors' Month LDF



Chris Brandon



Julia Hayes



"Homage to the Apaches"

Darienne & Ed McAuley



Julie-Anne Wallewin

"Seashell with Air Plant" My sister in Regina grew this turtle gourd. The handle was cut off for easier cleaning and once again, alcohol ink gives it a marbled effect. An air plant adds a finishing touch. JAW



Marilyn Van Gerven



Len De Graaf

"Funkee Chicken"
Mixed Media LDF



Dorothy Hawkins



Dorothy Hawkins



Sharron Anstey



Steven Schrade



Sharron Anstey

"Inner Beauty" is the third of this series. The outer shell was rotting on the bottom so I cut it out and kept the stem intact for a prop, which makes the perfect angle to view the flower. Gourd pieces make up the petals and pistil. JAW



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Dorothy Hawkins



Dorothy Hawkins



Marilyn Van Gerven



Sharron Anstey

**"Utah
Petroglyphs"**



Darienne & Ed McAuley



Dorothy Hawkins



Marilyn Van Gerven



Len De Graaf



Michelle Adams



Julie-Anne Wallewin

"Red Oak Pitcher".

The oak leaf on the pitcher is from Arizona. I pyrographed it on the gourd and then used alcohol ink to make the image pop. Willow branches bend easily to make the handle. JAW



Len De Graaf

"Tulip" Needle Felting Course at Kawartha Fibre Festival LDF



Dorothy Hawkins



Darienne & Ed McAuley

"Mimbres Goat"



Marilyn Van Gerven



Len De Graaf



Len De Graaf

"Lighthouses" Yarn Painting Workshop LDF



"Moab Cliffs"

Darienne & Ed McAuley



"Gourders of the Month"
 Andrea and Allyson took their very first gourding workshop and successfully created and finished these beautiful rain sticks in one class!

KUDOs to both!!



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to all the persons who read it. The creativity and quality of the gourd art is both inspiring and beautiful to look at. I hope everyone had a celebratory Canada Day weekend and enjoys a summer full of warmth, fair weather and plenty of time for GOURDING! Keep the pictures, anecdotes and stories coming!!!!

Sharron Anstey

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