

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### ***SPRING HAS SPRUNG!***

We are living in a world so different from what it was a few months ago, with Covid-19 spreading across Canada, suddenly living in isolation, possibly working from home, using social distancing when we leave our home. We worry about our extended families and our friends, unable to go and see them. We will get through this.

Meanwhile, we are among the fortunate Canadians, as we have a hobby that we can work on at home. Gourding will help you get through the tough times. I am in my studio daily, sometimes for a long time, sometimes for only a few minutes: my studio and gourding is my place of calm and a place to express my creativity. I do not know what I would do without it. I have been looking through my old notes, finding photos and ideas of projects I can develop and share when this pandemic is over. I hope gourding is your calm in this storm too.

Only last month I was in Arizona with Sharron to attend the Wuertz Gourd Festival. Whispers about the pandemic were getting louder but were not a worry yet in North America. I took two classes, both with Robin Bryson working with alcohol inks in a way that was new to me. Guess what my next gourd project will be? Yes, the alcohol inks are out on my table!

The American Gourd Society is making a list of teachers of gourding classes. They have divided Canada and the States into divisions, and are looking for names of people who would like to teach in any of the areas. If you are interested, please let me know and I will send you the required form.

For now, stay home, stay safe, and make sure to send your photos and stories to Sharron.

Yours in gourding,

Barbara



Barbara - teaching beginner pyrography at Wuertz Gourd Festival.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest members: Liz Bonser, and Lorraine Longpre. Liz lives at Sharbot Lake near Kingston and is a newbie in the gourding world. Lorraine lives in Orleans on the outskirts of Ottawa. She recently moved from Arizona where she was an experienced, long-time gourder in the Casa Grande area.

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](http://www.canadiangourdsociety.ca)), the Kawartha Gourder Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders](http://www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders)) and, along with wood-turning and fibre workshops, on the ACP website ([www.acp35.wildapricot.org](http://www.acp35.wildapricot.org)) or ([info@artisanscentre.ca](mailto:info@artisanscentre.ca)).

Several members have not yet renewed their 2020 CGS membership. If you are still planning to renew, please send a cheque to the above address or an e-transfer to Barbara Bellchambers ([bellcham@nexicom.net](mailto:bellcham@nexicom.net)). If you do not intend to renew, we would appreciate it if you would send a brief e-mail with any suggestions/ideas how we could improve or change to encourage you to rejoin.

As always, we are still looking for creative ways to maintain and increase the membership and welcome any suggestions/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](mailto:sharron.anstey19@gmail.com).*

## 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](mailto:canadiangourders@gmail.com) for consideration.

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## AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY CONTEST...

The following article and information were sent from Terry Noxel of AGS. Members of the CGS have been invited to participate in this contest.

### ***NEW: Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest*** by Terry Noxel

For 10 years the American Gourd Society has been encouraging growers to manipulate and mold their gourds and enter them in competitions at the local gourd shows and the national AGS Jim Story Award contest. Over the years several chapters have added categories in their competitions to include manipulated gourd art. Now we'd like to make it part of the AGS magazine with a quarterly contest along the lines of the quarterly crafted gourd contest.

**What will be the parameters of the Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest?** First, the artist does not have to be grower of the manipulated or molded gourd. One or more gourds may be incorporated in the art work, as long as a minimum of one is a manipulated gourd. You can incorporate single or multiple crafting techniques and embellishments of your choice in the piece, but gourds must predominate. All work must be the original work of the person submitting the entry; partnership or group entries are not allowed. Each person is limited to ONE entry per issue.

## Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest – cont'd

**Judging.** While the judges will consider the overall artistry of the piece, they will also be focused on how the manipulated gourd is incorporated and compliments the work. For all contests, originality, creativity, as well as appropriateness to the category, skill and overall craftsmanship will be considered when judging each entry. Other considerations are technical difficulty, effective use of materials and overall construction. The judges will be three (3) highly respected professional gourd artists, AGS certified judges and/or multiple award winners.

**Photography.** It is important to remember that while it is the GOURD that will be judged, and NOT the photography, it is very important to submit a large, high resolution, quality photograph with good detail, lighting and an uncluttered background. Photographs of poor quality are not suitable for magazine reproduction.

**Why Enter?** The first-place winner of each quarterly contest will receive a free 1-year membership extension of their AGS membership, and all winners will also receive a digital copy of the magazine for sharing with family and friends. In addition, the first-place artist will be profiled in a feature article the following issue. *\*Note: First place winners may only win one membership prize during a 12-month period.*

### How to Enter:

It is easy to enter and there is no fee, so we hope that YOU will consider entering for the next contest. You can send in your entry as soon as you are ready. Do it while you are thinking about it!

Artist's info: Please send a one paragraph bio that includes your home state, and brief information about you and/or your gourd entry.

Photo info: Submit TWO photos of the entry, from different angles and ONE of the uncrafted, manipulated gourd before its transformation into art. JPG format is preferred and the largest file size possible.

Email info: Send artist info and photos to [noxel.terry@gmail.com](mailto:noxel.terry@gmail.com) Photos must be submitted as ATTACHMENTS, not embed into your email, pdf or word document. Please note "Gourd Contest Entry" in the subject line.

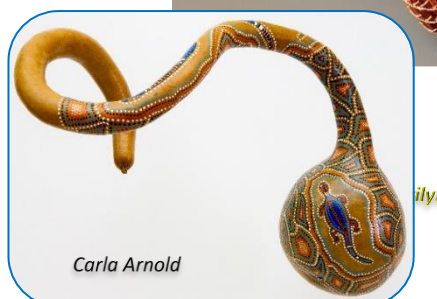
Entries by USPS mail: Send artist info and photos to Terry Noxel, 100 Barton Rd, Windsor, NY 13865-2501. Photos will not be returned unless a self-addressed/stamped envelope is included.

### Manipulated Gourd Contest Themes and Deadlines

Spring 2020	"Manipulated Gourd Floral Containers"	Entry deadline is January 15, 2020
Summer 2020	"Manipulated Gourd Animals"	Entry deadline is April 15, 2020
Fall 2020	"Manipulated Gourd Non-Floral Containers"	Entry deadline is July 15, 2020
Winter 2020	"Manipulated Gourd Sculpture"	Entry deadline is October 15, 2020

These are pretty broad categories and any manipulated or molded gourd can be used to create your entry. Manipulated gourd floral containers include vases and planters for dried, live or artificial flowers or plants. Manipulated gourd animals can be a real or fantasy animal, it can be 3D or have animal designs on it. Non-floral containers can be baskets, bowls, boxes (lids optional) and Manipulated gourd sculptures can be any assemblage using a manipulated gourd(s).

### Photos





# PATCH REPORTS

## KAWARTHA GOURDERS

The Kawartha Gourders had a busy fall and winter. Several members took part in the November ARTISANity show and sale which again was a success. The money raised helps to fund the Artisans Centre Peterborough, where the group enjoys gourding each Monday. A monthly workshop is usually held and beginner gourding is taught once a month to any newbies.

Anne gave an introductory coiling class and Dorothy taught an engraving class on a black gourd prior to Christmas. As usual the group made wonderful gourd decorations for the Christmas tree donated to the fundraiser for the 5 Counties Children's Services. The Christmas party was, once again, a great success with lots of action, laughing and fun. Barbara always comes up with challenging games and taught the art of snowflake-making.

The New Year brought with it some new challenges. Fortunately, the group was able to get in some gourding before being closed down in March due to CoVid-19. Barbara taught knotless netting in January; Anne, after a trip to Cuba, showed everyone how to make a drilled tea light candle holder; and Barbara, after returning from Arizona, was able to fit in her wonderful zipper gourd workshop.

Hopefully, we will all be back at ACP before too long. In the meantime, the pictures below will help remind us of the fun with gourding and maybe inspire new projects while *staying close to home*.



# TUTORIAL

## Gourd Tea Light Holder



**Instructor: Anne Carling**

1. Clean the outside of the gourd. A 3" to 4" cannonball works well.
2. Choose a glass tea light holder.
  - ❖ If the glass is straight sided, it will sit on the bottom of the gourd and you will make an opening large enough for the glass and your fingers. You can make the opening slanted or irregular to fit a design.
  - ❖ If the glass has slanted outward sides you can make the glass sit into the top of the gourd with a small amount of glass rim sitting up from the gourd edge.
3. Flatten the gourd bottom if necessary.
4. Cut your opening in the gourd at the top.
  - ❖ Use a mini saw for irregular shaped rims. Use a door hole saw slightly smaller than the circumference of the glass rim for a slanted side tea light glass.
5. Clean out and sand the insides of the gourd. Wear a dust mask.
  - ❖ Make the glass fit perfectly by enlarging the hole by first marking a line and then with the large Dremel sanding drum gently sand away the hole to the best size approximately 1/16<sup>th</sup> smaller than the glass rim.
6. Paint and seal the insides. I recommend natural or light colour on the insides. Dark colour absorbs light making your candle shine less brightly.
  - ❖ Design your hole pattern on the gourd and mark with a pencil. I recommend you pick a repeated shape such as a leaf, star, circle, or triangle or geometric. You can enhance the design later by combining carving, pyrography and dyeing in colours. Decide if you want holes around your pattern or inside your pattern. Decide where you would like larger holes, medium size hole or smaller holes. If your glass is sitting at the top of the gourd you need most holes in the top half of the gourd.
  - ❖ I recommend: for the largest size hole a **1/4** drill bit  
for a medium size hole **3/16** drill bit.  
for the smallest size hole **1/8** drill bit.
7. Practice drilling clean cut holes in a shard first. Keep the drill perpendicular to the gourd surface.
8. Drill the holes as per your pattern.
9. Sand inside if necessary. Add stain colour to the outside and into the holes.
10. Sign the bottom and varnish your tea light holder.

### **Tip for dividing a gourd into 4 or 8 even sections horizontally.**

Take an inch-wide strip of paper and wrap around the gourd at it widest part. Tape tightly. Remove the paper strip and fold in half making sharp creases. Fold the creases together to make 4 creases. Fold crease to crease to make 8 equal sections. Slip the paper strip back over the gourd and mark each crease top and bottom of the paper strip. Now with a bending ruler make a line vertically from top to the rim of the gourd.



## MEMBER SPECIAL

### *Finding a Gourd Instrument Maker in Cuba*

by Anne Carling

Whenever I travel, I keep my eyes open for gourds. I have seen them used to display jewellery in Amsterdam and gourd lamps for sale in Lyon. However, on a recent trip to Cuba, I was fortunate to meet Harlem Campos, a renowned instrument maker in his home/workshop in Santiago de Cuba. I found out about him on the internet but there was no address. I was very interested in meeting him, seeing his workshop and the gourd instruments he makes.

I was on a Toronto Jazz FM safari. On the itinerary was the opportunity to meet Mendez, a guitar luthier who of course knew Harlem Campos. Mendez gave me his phone number, address and then called to make an appointment for us to visit the next day.

The following morning my husband and I, accompanied by Larry Cramer and Jane Bunnett, both renowned jazz musicians, took a cab to Harlem's house. Jane, known for her all Cuban women band, *Maquette*, which was nominated for a Juno this year, was particularly interested in the *Corneta chinas* that Harlem makes. Our cab driver phoned for instructions and we found Harlem's house on the edge of Santiago de Cuba. Harlem Jr. was waiting outside to flag us down. After traipsing through their living room and kitchen we found Harlem in his open-air workshop attached to the back of the house.

Harlem's workshop walls were covered with signed posters from the many bands for whom he has made *Guiros*, *Maracas*, *Corneta chinas*, and *Shekeres*. Harlem Jr. pointed out a pair of *maracas* used on a Grammy winning album. This is a testament to the respect musicians have for the quality of instruments Harlem produces.



Harlem, Jane & Larry



Harlem in garden with one gourd plant

Harlem doesn't speak a word of English and I can only say "gracias" in Spanish. After I showed him 3 pictures of my gourds, he showed me his one plant with 2 blooms. It was winter. A farm outside of the city grows gourds for him. He then demonstrated how he carves on a gourd with a large horizontal rotary machine and uses 2 sizes of large cutting wheels. We discovered our common word, 'Dremel', when I tried to tell him how I carved. His method is very quick but limited to near straight lines.



Harlem demonstrating carving

Harlem also does some excellent wood burning without a temperature-controlled wood burning pen. He has very little paint or stain but what he has he gets from Japan. Even though his equipment is rustic and his methods simple, his results are excellent. Both Jane and I purchased professional quality, beautifully decorated *Guiros*.

While Jane explored the *Corneta chinas*, Harlem Jr. gave my husband a lengthy lesson on the *Guiro* I had purchased. I watched as Jane took a full natural reed from Harlem and cut it into 2 little reeds, tied it onto the *Corneta china* with dental floss from her purse to play the instrument. The neighbourhood dogs and chickens replied with vigour when Jane blasted forth.



Large Maraca with pyrography

I met Harlem's daughter who was busy in the kitchen making Valentine decorations. She also makes tiny *maracas* for tourist souvenirs. She asked to see my gourd pictures. I asked if she was using mini gourds for her maracas and she indicated a motion of putting on deodorant. It took a while to figure it out but she uses the balls out of roll-on deodorant bottles, something I haven't seen in 20 years. It shows just how resourceful the Cuban people are as a result of the U.S. embargo. Gas is scarce so they get to work on horseback, horse-drawn carts, in farm trucks with 20 people standing in the back or by walking. I saw farmers plowing with a hand plow and oxen and men pushing handcarts of food for delivery. At a large restaurant for breakfast one morning they had little on their menu. No tea, butter or eggs. We had a choice of coffee, mango juice and a ham and cheese sandwich.



**Guiros for sale**



**Guiros Maracas and a Corneta china with posters in the back-ground**

When we went into a Cuban home like we did with Harlem Campos and Mendez the luthier, we were always offered coffee, wine or rum. They are warm, friendly and welcoming of strangers. With 2 *Guiros* and a *Corneta china* purchased from Harlem Campos, we found our patiently, waiting cabbie. After thanking the entire Campos family, we headed back into Santiago de Cuba. I told Jane I would write up our adventure for the Canadian Gourd Society. She laughed and said she had never heard of it but had met a gourd artist in the London Ontario area once.

Our trip to Cuba, filled with Cuban jazz music, culture, the Cuban people and their economic hardship, was a great learning experience. However, as a gourd enthusiast, I was most delighted to meet Harlem Campos, a technician of excellence with cruder tools than my gourd group and ultimately a gourd artist of vision and skill.

## ***Wuertz Gourd Festival – Casa Grande, Arizona***

*by Sharron Anstey*

For gourders who have never been to the Wuertz festival, it is an experience you may want to consider some time. Not only are there mountains of gourds in every possible shape and size to purchase, the Wuertz family puts an incredible effort into presenting a unique display. Below are just a few of the gourd creations that greet you as you come through the gate. The many vendors have all of the supplies you will need for your own gourd creations and the experienced workshop instructors teach a variety of different techniques. The competition provides an opportunity for all skill levels and certainly offers excitement, enthusiasm and ideas to the *gourd-addict*.

The day before the festival Barbara and I bought gourds for our own workshops. We took them back to the hotel for cleaning. It's amazing what one can do in a bathtub!! Barbara took 2 workshops and taught 2 beginner pyrography classes. I took 3 workshops and bought supplies on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Of course, neither of us completed our gourds during the classes – more projects to finish at home.



Although the Arizona weather experts were predicting cold (cool in Canadian terms) weather, the temperature was around 68F – 72F. Wind was a bit of a factor as it hampered the use of the pyro pens but, as usual, Barbara provided great instruction and had happy students.





When not at the festival, we enjoyed *butter burgers*, *cookies* during hotel cookie hour, and *sweet tangerines* from Barbara's friend, Tom's prolific tree. Dinner with CGS new member Lorraine Longpre was interesting, a great way to meet her and learn a bit about her experience gourding in Arizona.



## WUERTZ COMPETITION GOURDS





# MEMBER GALLERY



Anne Carling



Sharron Anstey



Barbara Bellchambers

See how Julie-Anne made these unique gourd ornaments on the last page of the newsletter.



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Marilyn Van Gerven



Brigitte Thompson

Len de Graaf

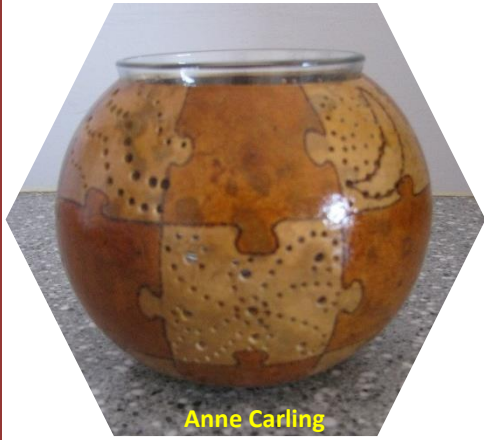


"**Marbles** was burned on a round piece of birch which was inserted into a piece of furniture... a hall-stand if I remember correctly.... it was a commission piece by the man making the furniture piece for his daughter."



Michelle Adams





Anne Carling



Len de Graaf



Anne Carling



Marilyn Van Gerven



Steven Schrade



Barbara Bellchambers



Barbara Bellchambers



Sue Robertson



Michelle Adams



Len de Graaf



Sharron Anstey



Sharron Anstey





Barbara Bellchambers



Michelle Adams



Brigitte Thompson



Barbara Bellchambers



Marilyn Van Gerven

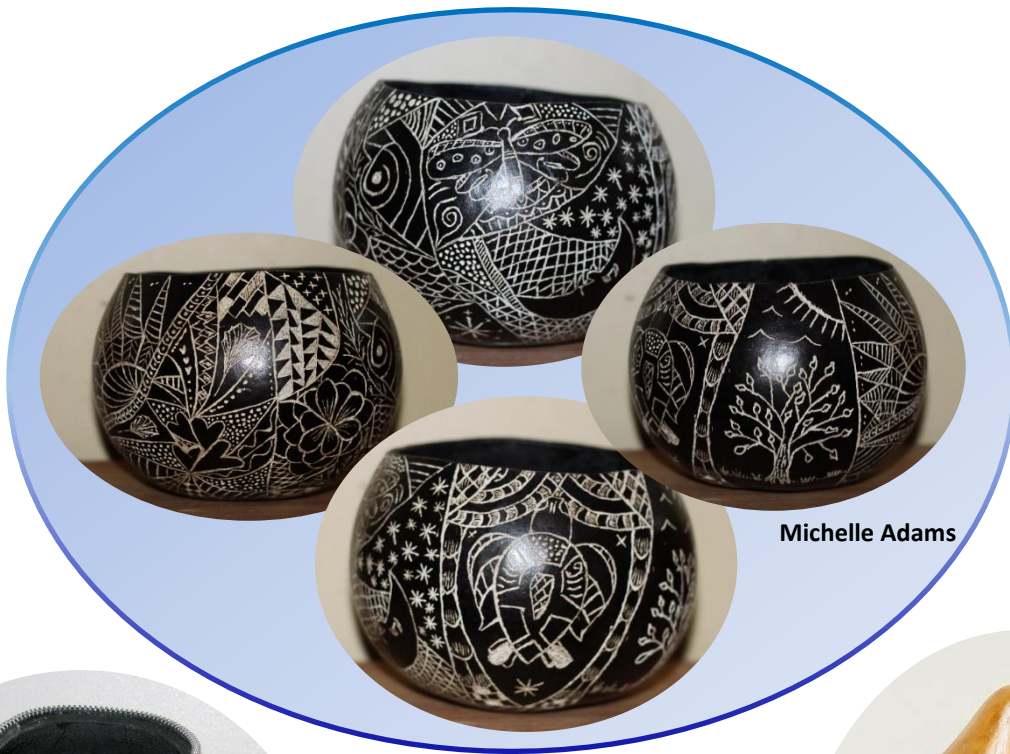


Marilyn Van Gerven



Sharron Anstey





Michelle Adams



Anne Carling



Marilyn Van Gerven



Barbara Bellchambers



Marilyn Van Gerven



Anne Carling



Sharron Anstey





Len de Graaf



Len de Graaf



"These 3 pictures were taken by Barbara at a gallery in Phoenix, Arizona. The doll on the far right is wonderful!"



Julie-Anne Wallewin

"These gourds are jewelry gourds that I spiraled and then put in hot water to soften in order to stretch. Then put a stick in them to hold until dry. I have used alcohol ink to decorate them. I need to put a hanger on them and think they will make cute Christmas tree ornaments."



**Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to all the persons who read it. This is a very difficult time with the pandemic CoVid-19 across the country. Hopefully everyone stays well while enduring social distancing and isolation. Having hobbies (like gourding) can help us through the next few months. Spring is on the way, bringing daffodils, tulips and crocus to brighten the days ahead. Stay healthy and happy gourding!**

*Sharron Anstey*

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