

THE CANADIAN GOURDER



Happy New Year 2022



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Fellow Gourders,

We have all had a long fight with COVID, and depending where you live you may still be under strict rules on where you go and what you do. The CGS Executive have been talking about what we will do as we regroup and move ahead at this time.

One big decision is that we no longer will be asking for membership fees for the Canadian Gourd Society. We would like to be able to distribute email newsletters a few times a year to any Gourders in Canada, active or not, to keep them up to date. I sometimes get requests from people across our lovely country asking whether there are any gourders near where they live. The only referrals I can give are to gourders we are aware of, mainly through our newsletter list.

I always hope that a couple of people can get together to gourd no matter where they live. Our patch in Peterborough Ontario started with three people meeting in my studio once a month. We now have up to 16 gourders, most coming from 2 hours north, east or west of Peterborough to meet weekly. Some members have learned enough that they usually only come when there is a class they want to take. Others come as often as they can. What I find extraordinary is that the members who live the farthest away are the ones who come almost every week!

If you know any gourders, please pass along this newsletter so they can get in touch with us and I can add their name to our mailing list.

I must share with you a gourding experience from last fall. Sharron invited regularly attending members of our patch to join her for 4 days at her home to gourd. Four of us were able and eager to go, as Sharron lives in a beautiful forested area near a lake, close to Bracebridge Ontario. We made plans, with each person planning to bring the ingredients for a meal or two. As well, we brought our own tools, gourds and some to share, and we had our little retreat. Dorothy challenged us to make a gourd featuring ammonites. We chatted, shared ideas, tested out techniques, and generally had a great time. When we left, our gourds were not finished, but they were well underway. Some of us even started a second challenge to make a gourd doll. What fun we had! Since we could not travel south to attend a gourd festival at the time, this was a great substitute.

Some of you may know Ed and Darienne McAuley, the couple who started the Canadian Gourd Society in 1998. They are slowly getting out of gourding, yet they still have a large number of gourds they would like to sell. Ed cuts the tops off the gourds, and stores them on shelves in their drive shed. If he does not cut off the tops, the mice chew holes in the gourds to get at the seeds! They are selling the gourds at a reasonable price, and if you are interested in buying some gourds, send me what you would like, and I can gather and send them off to you.

President's Report – cont'd

I challenge you all to spread the gourd word and try to find at least one person to gourd with. You never know how your group will grow! There are a lot of "snowbirds" who travel south in the winter, gourd while they are there. Maybe you can interest them to gourd back in Canada also!

We would like to be able to support any and all gourders in Canada in any way that we can. Please let me know how we can help you.

Happy Gourdng,
Smiles,
Barbara
bellcham@nexicom.net



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Editor's Note:

The CGS executive has decided to send a complementary e-copy to all members and former members. We are hoping to generate/regenerate interest in gourdng after an extended period of forced covid restrictions. Canadian membership has declined over the past few years and it would be exciting to see it rejuvenate across the country. There are no membership fees but if you have let your membership lapse prior to 2020 and would like to be reinstated on our member list, e-mail me at sharron.anstey19@gmail.com and your information will be updated.

Sharron Anstey

MEMBERSHIP.....

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) or contact CGS at canadiangourders@gmail.com. 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 wood-turning and fibre workshops, on the ACP website (www.acp35.wildapricot.org) or (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, (www.canadiangourdsociety.ca) send your web address to canadiangourders@gmail.com for consideration. In addition, if any member would like to see his/her gourd creations on the website, email Sharron with a large picture for forwarding to the webmaster (sharron.anstey19@gmail.com).

ON-LINE ARTISANS MARKET PETERBOROUGH.....

Don't forget to check out the Artisans Centre Peterborough online gift shop which has a number of Kawartha Gourders members' gourd art for sale. In addition to gourd art, there are wood-turned items, pottery, weaving and other ACP member articles. To access the gift shop, go to the ACP website at www.artisanscentre.ca.

GOURDS FOR SALE.....

As Barbara mentioned in the President's Report, Ed & Darienne McAuley have some gourds to sell. Below are some pictures of their gourds.



If you are interested in buying gourds contact Barbara Bellchambers.

PATCH REPORT

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

The Canadian Gourd Society has always had a membership year from January to December. As Barbara mentioned in her report, no dues will be collected from CGS members. However, as COVID has interrupted all our lives for the past 22 months, with restrictions that have limited group meetings and gourding get-togethers, we have decided to change the membership year from the first of September to the end of August. Kawartha gourders will still be required to pay fees by September 1, 2021 to cover the KG membership and use of supplies and ACP. The annual fee amount has not changed at this time.

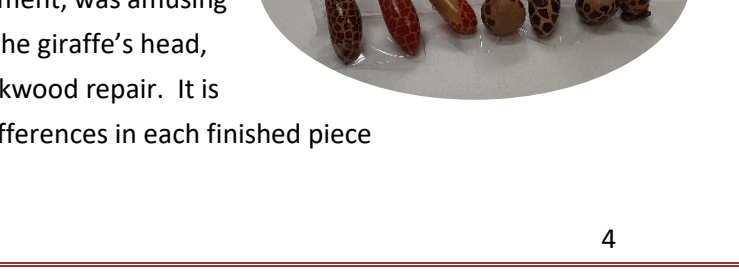
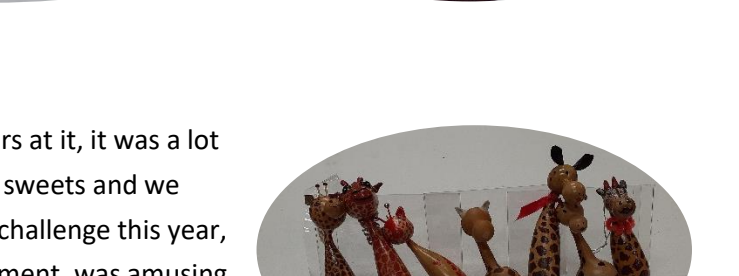
The Artisans Centre Peterborough has been reopened since the summer at reduced capacity and following all Covid protocol (masks, distancing & double vaccinated). A few classes have been held since August but fluctuating covid restrictions make it difficult to plan too far in advance as cancellation is always looming in the background. Classes are presently being planned for the next few months. Online classes are still a possibility in the future. Anne deserves kudos for taking on the task of developing the Centre's COVID-19 Safety Plan so all requirements for reopening were met.

Zoom meetings in the spring helped get many of us through until reopening but unfortunately there are a number of Kawartha gourders that we have not heard from since the onset of the pandemic. Hopefully this will change over the next few months.

KAWARTHA GOURDERS - CONT'D

Barbara, Anne and Julia, our new administrative person, helped with the kids' summer camp days at the pottery centre. The kids' creations of gourd bugs and animals were a big hit.

ARTISANity, the ACP Christmas sale held for nine days this month in the mall, was a great success with a few KG members adding their work to the other ACP guilds. It was terrific holding it in the mall this year as it was handy for set-up/take-down and capitalized on the market and mall shoppers.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Although the Christmas party only had seven members at it, it was a lot of fun. There were plenty of sweets and we ordered in sandwiches. The challenge this year, to make a gourd giraffe ornament, was amusing as several of us knocked off the giraffe's head, resulting in a quick glue/quickwood repair. It is always amazing to see the differences in each finished piece



SEPTEMBER GET-TOGETHER



WORKSHOPS

COMPLETED

PENCIL CRAYON INSERT



WAX-RESIST TECHNIQUE



BEGINNER GOURD ART



Mary Gair

Lesley Armstrong

BEGINNER PYROGRAPHY



TEA LIGHT HOLDER



CHARMING DOLL PINS



WORKSHOPS - CONT'D

HUICHOL STYLE BEADED GOURD SHARD



FUTURE WORKSHOPS

If you wish to stay up-to-date on current workshops and gourdng activities in the Peterborough area, check out the Artisans Centre website at www.acp35.wildapricot.org.

Upcoming workshops include:

Beginner Pyrography
Introduction to Kumihimo

Beginner Gourd Art
Gourd Sea Turtle

Washi Paper Gourd
Ammonite Gourd

You can register on-line or contact the Centre at 705-775-1797.



PYROGRAPHY SAFETY TIPS

- ✚ Work in a well-ventilated room. Use a fan, pointed away from your work to draw the smoke away. The air from a fan pointed at your work (or a draft from a window) can affect the nib temperature, resulting in inconsistent work.
- ✚ Keep your head far back from your work.
- ✚ Wear a mask and use smoke filtration systems, if possible, to reduce smoke inhalation. Smoke particles are extremely small. An average filter or standard dust mask is not sufficient.
- ✚ Always turn your burner off when you are not working.
- ✚ Always turn off the burner to change nibs and/or pens.
- ✚ Take regular breaks if burning for long periods, in order to rest your hands.
- ✚ Never burn near water, chemicals, or flammable substances.
- ✚ When resting your burning pen, use the holder provided to prevent any accidents.
- ✚ Never leave children or animals unattended around a burner.
- ✚ If the cord or handle of your burner gets hot, becomes tangled, or you are getting little or no heat to the nib, turn off the unit and check all the connections to see if they are firmly plugged or screwed in. If the problem persists, contact the manufacturer for advice before further use.

(Reference: "Woodcarving Magazine" Winter, 2021; Issue 97; Pgs: 18-19)

TUTORIAL

HUICHOL STYLE BEADED GOURD SHARD

(TAUGHT BY BARBARA BELLCHAMBERS)

Huichol (pronounced wee-CHOL) is a unique style of beadwork from the Huichol people – indigenous peoples of the mountainous regions of north central Mexico. The process is considered to be meditative and prayerful. Traditionally worked over wood or gourds, they cover the item with a beeswax and resin mixture and press the beads into the surface. This wax mixture will not reject the beads as it hardens.

Materials:

Gourd shard, begin with shard no larger than 3"-4"
Tackee Wax
Size 11 beads, assorted colours
Awl/Pin
Bead mats & bead patterns
Scissors, Pencil, Small piece of paper

Beadswax and Huichol supplies can be purchased on line at: www.beadfx.com. Beadfx is located in Toronto, ON.
(1-888-473-2323)

Free Huichol bead patterns can be found on the internet

Preparation:

- Cut gourd piece into a circle
- Clean & sand inside of gourd shard
- Sand rim of gourd shard
- Finish outside of shard with wax/varnish
- Choose a design, or design your own pattern
 - Colour main part of design
- Knead and warm slivers of Tackee Wax in fingers until pliable
 - Smear, rather than press wax into bowl
 - The wax layer should not exceed ½ of the depth of your beads
- Mark centre of shard
 - Draw around outside of upside-down gourd shard on paper
 - Cut the circle & fold into equal quarters
 - Lay the paper over waxed side of shard
 - Push the awl/pin through the centre of the paper into the wax

Finishing Your Beaded Bowl

Use a heat gun to melt away any wax that clings to the beads. The wax will melt and sink into the beadwork, turning clear and holding the beads well.

- **Do not overheat the wax, or your beads will slide! Not fun.**
- If this happens, simply slide the beads back into place.
- Some people spray varnish over the beaded bowl when all finished, to further help to hold the beads in place, and to add a nice shiny surface.

Beading:

- Based on your pattern, choose the colour of beads you will need, and place a small number on pad
 - Make sure all the beads are the same size
- Beginning at the centre of your shard, use an awl to lift a bead and apply in place. The hole will show on the top of the bead.
 - Press bead firmly into the thin layer of wax]
 - Only half the bead should disappear under the wax when you press it firmly into the gourd.
 - Place more beads so you have 6 beads circling the centre bead.
- Next row: pick up bead and place it so it touches 2 beads of last row.
 - Do this 6 times, so it will look like a 6-pointed star.
 - Place one bead between each of the points of the star to complete this row.
- Nestle each row into the one before.
 - You will have a six-sided pattern emerging
- Keep adding row by row until you complete your pattern.
- You may want to slowly change from a hexagonal shape to a rounder one.
 - This is easier to do when you finish your design; add a single colour outer ring.
 - Begin by moving the centre beads in a row outwards just a tiny bit.
 - Each ring of beads should be a little rounder than the one before.
- To make a round top edge on your beading, stop when you have at least ½" of space left after completing your design.
 - Start making a row from the top, and work down until you meet the beads that came up from the bottom of your bowl.

MEMBER GALLERY



Barbara Bellchambers
(Ammonite Bowl)



Anne Carling



Barbara Bellchambers
(Doll Pin)



Dorothy Hawkins
(Happy Penguins)

"The stable is a look through. I feel this gives great depth. Alcohol ink is applied on the outer shell with a bit of acrylic paint to accent the palm branches. Crackle paint is used on the inside.

I will state that Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus figures are not my own idea. I saw a picture of another creation and I thank the artist for this. I have made them my own way and they are not the same as the original artist's.

The characters have filigree cutting and crackle paint. Once again putting pieces together makes each person an individual sculpture. "



Julie-Anne Wallewin
(Nativity)



Judy Simmonds
(Dream Catcher & Doodle
Engraving)



Anne Carling
(Woven Gourd Necklace)



Barbara Bellchambers
(Felted Swirl Necklaces)



Dorothy Hawkins



"This very colourful flower "Bird" is actually the top off Inner Beauty 4. I have used alcohol ink and acrylic paint for the coloration and did some filigree carving on the pistol. It is 11" long and 4" wide."

Julie-Anne Wallewin
(Bird)



Sharron Anstey
(Hanging Ornament)



Anne Carling
(*"Lakelands"* Bracelet)





Dorothy Hawkins
(Tea Lights)



Anne Carling
(Pine Needle Rim & Base)



Sharron Anstey
(Gecko Ornament)



Patti Blackburn
(Ammonite Bowl)

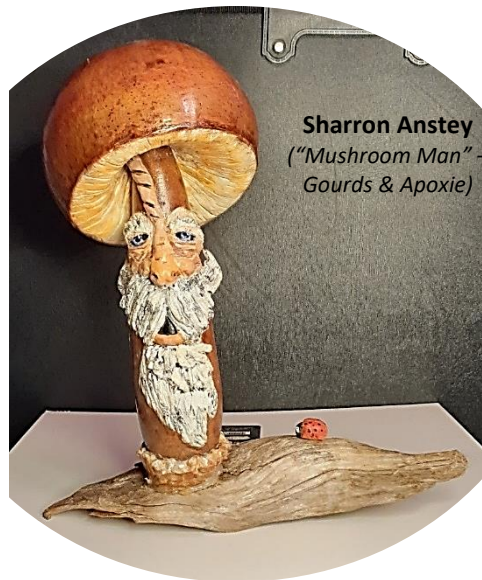


Barbara Bellchambers
(Ancient Mask on Gourd)





Dorothy Hawkins



Sharron Anstey
(*"Mushroom Man"* –
Gourds & Apoxie)



Anne Carling
(*Filigree Egg Ornament*)



Barbara Bellchambers
(*Pyrography*)



Barbara Bellchambers
(*Doll Pin*)



Dorothy Hawkins

"This handsome guy is "Bashful". His body is a gourd with a little building up of his head. I then paverpoled his body. His beautiful tail and comb are made of crocheted doilies dipped in paverpole and elegantly shaped."



Julie-Anne Wallewin
(*Bashful*)

"I used powdered iridescent colours mixed in clear coat to make his tail feathers stand out. He is perched on a piece of wood from our old poplar tree. Bashful is 15" tall and 18" long."





Sharron Anstey



Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers
(Embedded Pencil Crayon Necklace)



Barbara Bellchambers



Anne Carling
(Gourd Earrings & Necklace)



Barbara Bellchambers
(Doll Pin)



Anne Carling
(Ammonite Bowl with Vase)



Patti Blackburn
(Sunflower Bowl)



Barbara Bellchambers
(Pyrography)



Anne Carling



Anne Carling
(Tea Light)

Julie-Anne Wallewin
(Blossom)

"The Flower centre is a gourd that has filigree carving and gold beads inset on the outer surface after dying with alcohol ink. A gourd piece is inside and is adorned with tiny beads. Petals are a doily dipped, shaped, and hardened with Paverpol. Pigment powder is used for colouration. "



Sharron Anstey



Dorothy Hawkins
(Embedded Zippers)

Dorothy Hawkins
(Eggshell Turtles)



Sharron Anstey
(Filigree Ornament)



Barbara Bellchambers
(Woven Gourd Necklaces)



Dorothy Hawkins
(Philodendron leaves)



Barbara Bellchambers
(Swimming Turtles)



Sharron Anstey
(Hanging Butterfly Ornament)



Anne Carling
(Apple Birdhouse)



Dorothy Hawkins
(Ammonite Bowl)



Anne Carling
(“Forest Walk” Bracelet)



Julie-Anne Wallewin
(Inner Beauty 4))



Patti Blackburn
(Gourd Shaker)



Dorothy Hawkins

"Meet 'Inner Beauty 4'. I grew the outer gourd in my garden and gave it a sculpted cut. Alcohol ink was applied on the outer shell, and crackle paint on the inside. The petals are all individual and painted with acrylics and put together to form the flower. The inner pistol is a small gourd. It is 20" inches tall and 8" wide. There is inner beauty in everything."



Dorothy Hawkins



Sharron Anstey
(Ammonite Bowl)



Anne Carling
(Huichol Beaded)



Dorothy Hawkins



Dorothy Hawkins
(Feather ornaments)



Dorothy Hawkins



Sharron Anstey
(Filigree Ornament)



Sharron Anstey
(“Safe Nest” Carved)



Mary Gair



Mary Gair
(Bird Feeder made of
gourd pieces)

After one ‘Introduction to Gourd Art’ workshop,
Mary went home and turned out these!
Terrific!

During these difficult pandemic days, when life seems completely out of sync with the familiar, I hope each and everyone who got some enjoyment from looking at the wonderful creations in the gallery, can find, as Julie-Anne says, some “Inner Beauty”. Take time to explore your creativity and find the part of your individual self that gives purpose and that sense of well-being everyone needs while isolated from the norm!

**Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to all the persons who read it.
Keep sending those photos and any gourd-related experiences for the next newsletter.**

STAY SAFE!

STAY HEALTHY!

KEEP ON GOURDING!

HERE’S TO A BETTER NEW YEAR!!!

Sharron Anstey

President

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