

THE CANADIAN GOURDER



February 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A year ago, I had just returned to Canada from attending the Wuertz Gourd Festival in Arizona, along with some holiday time with a friend and his pets. What a year this has been! COVID has dramatically changed our lives, yet to be determined if it is for better or worse. Unfortunately, it is not over yet.

However, we are so lucky to be gourders. We have found a way to express our feelings through our gourd art. More time at home saw me spending time in my studio, both putting things away and cleaning, as well as creating. My shelves are full of finished gourds, so I recently started making thunder drums. There is a small store in the middle of nowhere in cottage country that sells all the thunder drums I can provide each summer. Last year I was only able give her 6 to sell, and they were all gone in days! So, although I do not usually like making things specifically for sales, I decided to make the owner happy by making her lots of thunder drums. To make it interesting, I am exploring different techniques that I have not used for a while; I made one with 2 lizards covered in dyed eggshells, another had deer in profile by using the deer stickers. I explored pouring alcohol inks on another before engraving a pattern in the gourd through the inks, and on it goes. These thunder drums are proving to be a good way to push some limits and see what I can do differently. So far, I am having success! I am not sure what to try next, but I know it will be fun experimenting some more.

Keep safe while keeping busy indoors and out. Make sure to send your new creations to Sharron as she gathers photos and articles for the next newsletter. Reach out by phone, zoom, email to friends and family.

Smiles,

Barbara



Barbara's pandemic
Elf ornaments

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP.....

The Canadian Gourd Society has always had a membership year from January to December. Since COVID has interrupted all our lives since last March, with restrictions that have limited group meetings and gourd get-togethers, we have decided to change the membership year from the first of September to the end of August. This means that no fees were collected in January, 2021. A memo will be sent to all current members in July, reminding you to pay fees by September 1, 2021. The amount of annual fees has not changed at this time. Sharron will continue to pull together the newsletter with the assistance of those who send her articles and photos.

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.

PATCH REPORT

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

Unfortunately, Artisans Centre Peterborough has been closed since the lockdown started on Boxing Day. At this time, although we had classes planned to take us to the summer, we have had to cancel everything for the time being. We were hoping to get some classes pulled together to offer online, but so far that has not happened. Anne has taken on the task to work her way through the requirements for reopening, and is developing the Centre's COVID-19 Safety Plan. Fingers crossed that we will be able to reopen for small groups of members in the near future.

We did manage to have a Zoom get-together in early February. It was wonderful to connect again with the gourders who participated and see some of the work being done over the past months. We hope to do it again in the near future as everyone is missing our time with each other.

Hopefully, we all will be fortunate to live through this momentous historical pandemic and come out healthy at the end!

WORKSHOPS

COMPLETED

In November, Sharron taught a multi-media rooster workshop similar to the one taught by t Robin Bryson at the 2019 Pennsylvania Gourd Gathering.



CAN YOU FIND THE ROOSTER THAT IS AN ODDITY?

When you do, the difference is the result of COVID-19 lockdown...an attempt at humour and creativity when the class instructor doesn't provide all of the necessary parts for the project!

TUTORIAL

FIXING MISTAKES ON YOUR GOURD PROJECT

Barbara Bellchambers

Gourds can crack, break, and unfortunately, we can also cause problems to happen with gourds we work on. Fortunately, most can be fixed with the problem unnoticeable to most. I cannot forget a large gourd Janet Bisset was trying to decide what to do with. It was in our early days of gourdng, we were working in my garage. Janet had set the gourd aside on my freezer thinking it would be safe there, when a gourd I was reaching for from above the freezer fell and knocked Janet's gourd to the cement floor where it cracked in many, many places. Janet ended up making many, many items out of the cracked pieces, and probably made more money from those items than if she had used the whole gourd.



However, for most cracks, there are easy solutions. Ed McAuley taught me years ago to drill a small hole just beyond the end of the crack before filling the crack with either wood glue or glue mixed with gourd sawdust. Tape across the crack while holding the crack together tight, and leave to dry. For most cracks this works well.

I seem to make big "cracks", usually when I try to cut a gourd that is too wide on our band saw, and the saw takes over and cuts a line where it was not wanted. However, this is the same process. Drill a hole, fill with glue that you press through to the inside, hold tight, and tape. Often, I need to then add wood filler to cover the top of the crack if the glue shrinks as it dries.



The secret is to make the crack part of your design. I am including some photos to show you two examples of repairs I have done. One has a large bandsaw cut,



which became a branch; the other gourd had an unseemly spot on it, which became a tail of a fantasy creature.

I hope this gives you an idea of what you can do with cracks and blemishes instead of pitching the whole gourd. You never know, it may become your favourite gourd!



. "If you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You are doing things you have never done before, and more importantly you are doing something."

Neil Gaiman

MEMBER GALLERY



Julie-Anne Wallewin
(Warmth)



Marilyn Van Gerven
(7" Apple)



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Elizabeth Gordon
(Upholstery trim, duster
feathers, 19"x7" stand)



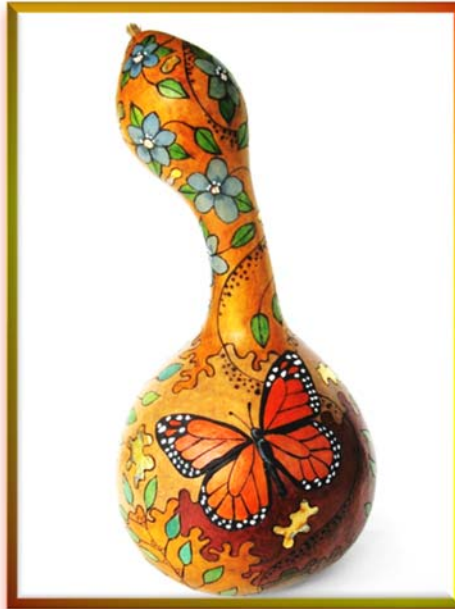
Barb Powell



Marilyn Van Gerven
(5 ft. high rain stick)



Darlene Tetarenko
(*Waiting for Mama to Come Back*)



Elizabeth Gordon
(*wood burned, acrylic ink, gold leaf, gold flakes – 15" high*)



Barbara Bellchambers
(*Thunder Drum with egg shell lizard*)



Anne Carling
(*Goat's Eye*)



Lorraine Hodges



Patti Blackburn
(*Abstract Acrylic Painting*)



Patti Blackburn
(*Bert the Rooster*)



Dorothy Hawkins
(Lidded Pot with
(Bead Inlay, Crackle Base)



Julie-Anne Wallewin
(*'Inner Beauty'*)



Barbara Bellchambers
(Alcohol Ink with Moose neg stickers)



Patti Blackburn
(Magnolia Acrylic Painting)



Anne Carling
(Pine Needle Rim)



Elizabeth Gordon
(Wood Burned with Acrylic Ink)



Barbara Bellchambers
(Rocky the Rooster)





Barbara Bellchambers
(Thunder Drum, Alcohol Ink)



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Elizabeth Gordon
(Acrylic Paint with crackle effect, Feather Boa, Fabric Fringe, Plastic Pearls)



Patti Blackburn
(Black/white Abstract
With free Flow & Resin)



Anne Carling
(Doodle Carving)



Dorothy Hawkins
(Ralph the Rooster))



Barbara Bellchambers
(Thunder Drum with Pyro trees)



Lorraine Hodges



Julie-Anne Wallewin
(Red Oak Pitcher)



Marilyn Van Gerven
(Sophie & Gerome)



Elizabeth Gordon
(Drawing – Arctic Flowers: Arctic Poppies, Dwarf Fireweed,
Arctic Willow, Purple Saxifrage, Daisies)



Dorothy Hawkins



Julie-Anne Wallewin
(*'Protect'*)



Barbara Bellchambers
(*Alcohol Ink, Fern Stickers*)



Dorothy Hawkins
(*Eggshell Turtles, Pointillism*)



Barbara Bellchambers
(*Alcohol Ink, Engraved Trees*)



Lorraine Hodges



Len de Graaf
(*Wool Art*)



Michelle Adams
(*Seagrass Rim*)



Len de Graaf
(*Wool Art*)



Michelle Adams
(Ralph the Rooster)



Michelle Adams
(Zipper & Medallion)



Julie-Anne Wallewin
('Earthen Rust')



Barbara Bellchambers
(Ancient Animals)



Dorothy Hawkins
(Ink Dyes, Aged Silver Embossing Powder)



Dorothy Hawkins
(Mount Albert grown Swan gourd)



Barb Powell
(Kelp Baskets)



Dorothy Hawkins
(‘Health & Happiness’ wax resist)



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Len de Graaf
(Wool Art)



Barbara Bellchambers
(Thunder Drums)

The past year has been one of uncertainty and disruption. I know I am feeling the affects of isolation and lack of focus and it is time for life to return to some semblance of ‘normalcy’. Len’s art above has a poignant message. Don’t stop creating – find beauty because it is still there, all around us. The pandemic will end and with it, let’s hope that we can all return to, in Dorothy’s words, “health and happiness”.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to all the persons who read it.
Keep sending those photos for the next newsletter.

STAY SAFE!

STAY HEALTHY!

KEEP ON GOURDING!

Sharron Anstey

President

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