

THE CANADIAN GOURDER



Spring - 2022



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy Spring!

How many of you have your gourd plants started and are watching them every day, or still waiting for the seeds to burst forth with new life? My hubby decided to use my electric heating pad this year to get his vegetables started, they sure popped up quickly!

Have you found a gourding partner yet? What a difference it makes to have someone to work with, to chat with, encourage you, share tools and ideas. You can challenge each other as well, to try new ideas.

Do you have a bin of cracked gourds, gourd tops or bits and pieces of gourds? I am challenging each and every one of you to make a "totem" pole with gourds as the main feature. The gourd pole can be used in a garden to add interest. You need to finish it by June 30th 2022. Now no complaints, it gives you over 2 months to play and create with gourds. When finished, please send Sharron a photo of your gourd pole so she can display them all in the newsletter. I am looking forward to seeing the variety of gourd poles that are made. Your garden and you will be happier!

Working on gourds with children can be so much fun. During the March Break, Artisans Centre Peterborough's administrator, Julia, had 2 birdhouse classes for children, one for ages 6-9, the other ages 9-12. The creativity shown by the children was amazing. Who would think of using the hole in the birdhouse to be a porthole in a ship sailing on a sea with a whale nearby? This past Saturday Anne Carling had a drop-in Easter Egg painting session. Thirteen children dropped by with their parent/s to decorate wooden eggs! No, she did not use gourd eggs. When I was still teaching, I bought a box of wooden eggs and said that when I used them all up I would retire. I lied, I still had lots left when I retired!

Enjoy Spring! You can now work outdoors on your gourds, especially on your gourd pole, hint, hint. You can do it!

Happy Gourding,
Smiles,
Barbara
bellcham@nexicom.net



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Editor's Note:

This is a complementary e-copy to all members, former members and individuals who have expressed an interest in gourdng. 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 www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders, the Kawartha Gourder Facebook page and 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.

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.....

If you are interested in buying gourds contact Barbara Bellchamber ((bellcham@nexicom.net), and let her know what you need/want.

SPRING ARTISANITY.....

ARTISANity, our spring sale, is being held again for the first time in a couple of years on April 22nd and 23rd in the Peterborough Square. There will be a wide selection of beautiful gourds, fibre work, pottery and wood turned items. If you are in the Kawartha area, come and see what you might buy for yourself or that special other. Check the ACP website (www.acp35.wildapricot.org) for times and details.

PATCH REPORT

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

Just a reminder that Kawartha gourders will be required to pay membership fees by September 1, 2022 to cover the KG membership and use of supplies and the Artisans Centre. The annual fee amount has not changed at this time.

Although the Artisans Centre Peterborough has been reopened most months since last summer at reduced capacity and following all Covid protocol (masks, distancing & double vaccinated), there has been a small turnout of members. Hopefully the coming months will see more individuals joining us on Mondays as we all learn to live with Covid-19. Masks and vaccination remain a requirement and the vaccinated members that have attended have been extremely conscientious about hand hygiene and wearing masks.

A few classes have been held since January. Barbara held an introductory pyro class at her home with one of our newest members as the mall was closed for a stat holiday. Julia, our wonderful, organized administrative person, worked with the kids' at March break camp. She appeared to enjoy preparing to teach birdhouse making by creating a one-of-a-kind sample.



Anne gave up a Saturday to do a drop-in children's egg painting event that turned into a huge success.

Anne also taught a *Washi Paper* gourd class. She had a good turnout of 4 members and with a bit of 'finger-sticking', fun beautiful gourd bowls were created.



Barbara taught an introductory *Kumihomo* class. Her skill with the kumihomo disc is awesome. She has produced many bracelets, cords and useful gourding embellishments in the past. All are colourful and finely finished.

After Christmas Anne challenged Barbara, Dorothy and Sharron to try pointillism. This turned out to be an extremely productive challenge as Barbara not only completed one gourd, but continued on to make several egg pointillism bunnies for Easter. Dorothy got right into it after a hesitant beginning and finished two beautiful eggs and then went on to work on a bowl with a goldfish theme. Sharron put her love of wild animals into a full gourd with images of Canada's three wild cats. Anne finished a *character* frog on an egg. These can all be seen in the gallery on the following pages, so keep on reading.....

"Have pity on those who are fearful of taking up a pen, or a paintbrush, or an instrument, or a tool because they are afraid that someone has already done so better than they could, and who feel themselves to be unworthy to enter the marvelous mansion of art."

—Paulo Coelho, *The Pilgrimage*

WORKSHOPS

COMPLETED

Introduction to Kumihimo
Beginner Pyrography
Washi Paper Gourd
Beginner Gourd Art
Bird Houses (March break children's camp)
Kids' Egg Painting



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 or www.artisanscentre.ca.

Upcoming workshops include:

Ammonite Gourd Gourd Birdhouses Gourd Sea Turtle Tree Bark with Nesting Animal

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

TUTORIAL



Coiled Pine Needle Rim Tutorial

Vickie Henderson

(<http://vickiehenderson.com/coiledrimtutorial.htm>)

Supplies for pine needle coiling:

1. Hand awl for piercing holes
2. artificial sinew
3. Long leaf pine needles with caps still attached



Single Needle Pine Needle Coiling on Hard Shell Gourd

1. Soak Pine needles in boiling hot water for 30 minutes. Wrap in towel and let set overnight. Pine needles will remain moist and pliable for three to four days. Desired moistness of needles depends on personal preference. However, if the needles are too wet the stitches will become loose when needles dry. Moist to dry needles secured with a firm stitch will create a firm coil.
2. Pierce holes in rim of gourd approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from rim edge and $\frac{3}{8}$ inch apart. (Use your "little" finger for a guide). Wider spacing (width of index finger) is required for insertion of two needles. These instructions are for the insertion for one needle per stitch.
3. Thread artificial sinew through needle. Select the front of your piece, then select a starting place $\frac{1}{4}$ a turn back to the left. Tie a starting knot by inserting the needle from the outside through a hole and pulling the thread to the inside; bring the threads up near the end of your thread and tie a knot. Position the knot on the inside of the gourd.
4. Begin coiling by holding a pine needle against the rim between two holes and stitching a stitch across the fascicle (cap) and into the next hole. This will create a diagonal stitch across the fascicle.

Moving from right to left, continue around the rim adding a pine needle each time you make a stitch. Place each needle below the previous needle and with the needles angled upward slightly to create a smooth coil.



Tutorial – cont'd

5. When you reach the beginning of the first coil, begin the second coil by placing the needle on top of and even with the first pine needle. You will insert the sewing needle into the same hole of the first stitch.



Continue to stitch into the hole for three to four stitches until the coil builds enough to allow you to insert the sewing needle between the pine needles of the coil and secure it to the coil. To lock the stitch and create uniformity, insert the needle on the left side of the stitch that preceded it on the coil below.



6. When you run out of thread, make a loop knot by inserting the needle back under the stitch and pulling the knot snugly to the back side of the coil. Then insert the needle back through the coil toward the front, being careful to go between the needles rather than piercing a needle. Cut the end thread close to the pine needle coil and if visible tuck in with the tip of the sewing needle.

Begin the next stitch by tying the thread to the next stitch in the coil beneath and pull the knot through to the inside between the two coils to the right of the stitch. Take the second stitch by coming over the coil, crossing over the added pine needle and inserting the needle over (to the left) of the stitch of the coil beneath it.



7. When your coil reaches its starting point, you will have two rows of pine needles placed completely around the rim. Continue to stitch as previously without adding pine needles, rolling the coil toward the inside. As you continue this process, the number of needles will thin and you will continue to make stitches securing the ending coil toward the inside until you run out of needles.

Tie off the thread pulling the knot to the inside and securing the end by pulling your thread to the front side of the coil, coming between pine needles. Snip off this end thread close to the coil and tuck any thread that is visible. Tuck or snip any pine needles that look untidy.



MANY THANKS TO VICKIE HENDERSON FOR PERMITTING THE USE OF HER TUTORIAL. VICKIE IS AN ACCOMPLISHED ARTIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER WITH A WONDERFUL GALLERY OF HER WORK AT VICKIEHENDERSON.COM. MUCH OF HER INSPIRATION SHE FINDS IN THE NATURAL WORLD AND THROUGH THE "DEEP CONNECTION" SHE "FEELS WITH NATURE".



MEMBER GALLERY

In January, Anne challenged Barbara, Dorothy and Sharron to create something on a gourd using pointillism. To facilitate the challenge, she had given each of them black ink micro pens. The gourds are displayed in the gallery, so keep looking and see the finished products.



Darlene Tetarenko



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkins
(pointillism)



Anne Carling



Lorraine Longpré



Anne Carling



Barbara Bellchambers
'Clay Bunny'



Debbv Russell

"I was cutting a hole in a gourd with my exacto for my plant when I noticed the Styrofoam heads up on the shelf. I brought it down, hollowed it out, painted it and put my mini wandering jew in it I kind of like not only how it looks but also how quick and easy it was. Perhaps someone might want to use the idea for their gourd?"



Sharron Anstey
'Funky Ornament'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkins
'Washi Paper'

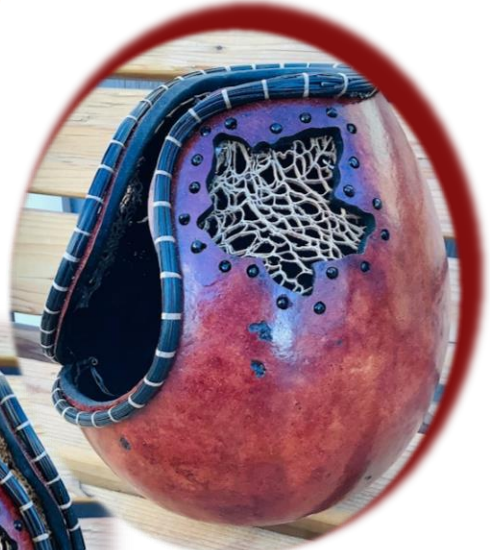
*"Creativity is intelligence
having fun".
--Albert Einstein*



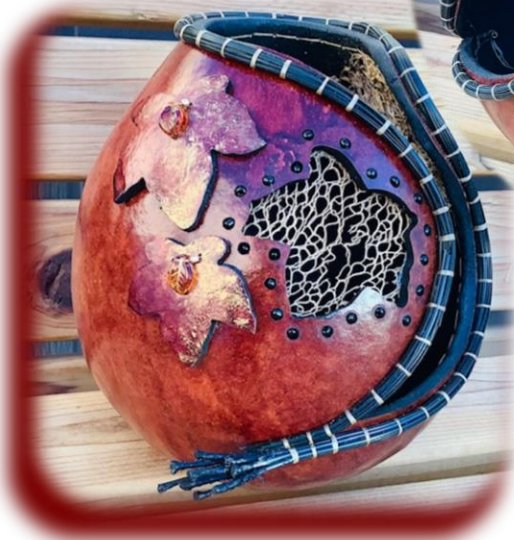
Marilyn Van Gerven
'Thunder drum'



Anne Carling
'Beaded Necklace'



Lorraine Hodges



Dorothy Hawkins
'Pointillism'



Darlene Tetarenko



Barbara Bellchambers
'Miniature Ornament'



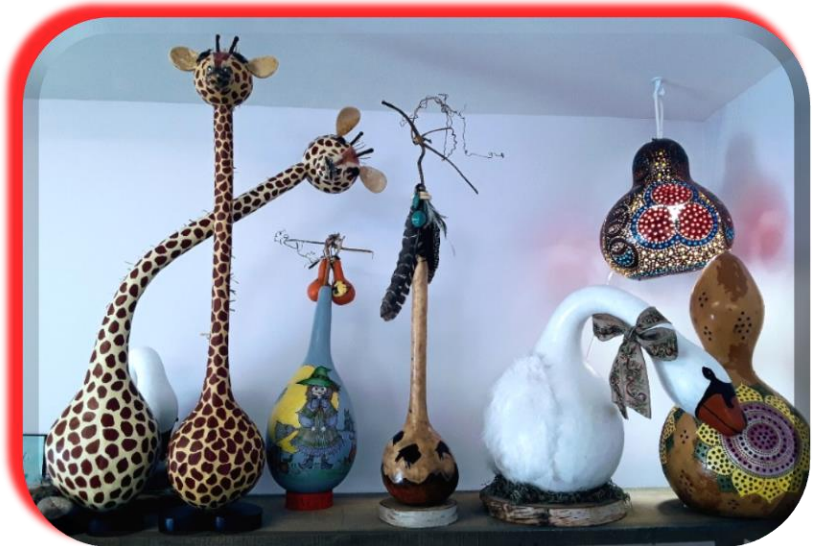
Darlene Tetarenko



Lorraine Hodges



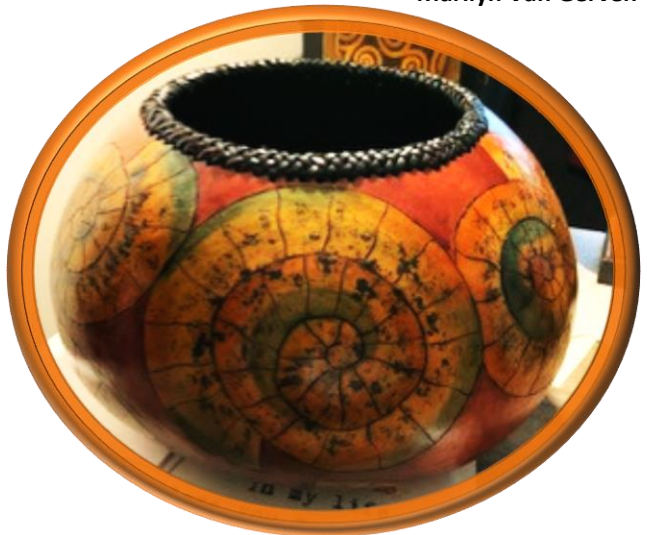
Barbara Bellchambers
'Pointillism'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkins



Patti Blackburn 10



Lorraine Longpré



Darlene Tetarenko



Lorraine Hodges



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers
'Miniature Ornament'



Anne Carling
'Pointillism'

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."
--Albert Einstein



Darlene Tetarenko



Lorraine Longré



Barbara Bellchambers
'Pointillism'



Patti Blackburn



Barbara Bellchambers
'Pointillism'



Lorraine Longré



Anne Carling
'Washi Paper'



Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers
'Pointillism'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven
'Thunder drum'



Patti Blackburn



Patti Blackburn



Marilyn Van Gerven
'Thunder drum'



Julie-Anne Wallewin
*'When Julie-Anne couldn't carve
gourds outside because of the cold I
Saskatchewan winter she turned her
creativity to beautiful quilt making'.*



Darlene Tetarenko

"The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt." —Sylvia Plath,
The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath



Marilyn Van Gerven
'Thunder drum'



Marilyn Van Gerven
'Thunder drum'



Sharron Anstey
'Pointillism'



'Lynx'



'Bobcat'

"One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star."
—Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

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!

Sharron Anstey

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