

THE CANADIAN GOURDER

Summer - 2023



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's Report June 2023

Summer is here! I imagine that many of you are checking your growing gourd plants every day, paintbrush or q-tip in hand. I hope they are doing well. Don't forget to snip the end of the main stem when it gets around 8 feet long, so the secondary branches will take over. This will result in more flowers on the plant. I planted my seeds directly into the soil this year, unfortunately I have had no success so far.

I taught a power carving class last month, using one partially finished piece as an example. I used a second gourd for demonstrating the steps as the students were ready to start the next step. This inspired me to keep carving at home to finish both of the gourds. By next newsletter I will have the insides painted, the gourds dyed/varnished on the outside, and the rims finished. So many decisions to make!



Check out the Member Gallery to see Barbara's finished gourds – ahead of her “next newsletter” prediction!

For July through September the Kawartha Gourders will be offering short classes for anyone aged 16 and up. One class will be “Bugs Bugs Bugs for Screens and Jewellery”, another “Charming Doll Pins”, and finally “Sassy Chicken”. We hope these fun classes will entice some people to come in and experience working with gourds. There will also be “Beginner Pyrography and “Beginner Gourd Art” classes during this time. You can check out these classes under Workshops, Gourds, at artisanscentre.ca.



Enjoy the summer, a perfect time to gourd outdoors and share your interest with your friends. You never know who will get addicted to working with gourds!

Yours in gourdng,
Barbara

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest members: Claudette Hart (Merrickville, ON); Lydia Roussel-Graham (Napanea, ON); and Paul Arrowsmith (Kingston, ON).

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 can be found at the end of this newsletter. Alternately a message can be left by Phone: 705-775-1797 or at canadiangourders@gmail.com. Information/questions regarding the CGS newsletter can be sent to sharron.anstey19@gmail.com.

If you are in the area on a Monday, drop in and visit. Gourd workshops are posted on Kawartha Gourders Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders), and on the ACP website (www.acp35.wildapricot.org).

CGS WEBSITE....

Don't forget to check out the CGS website. It no longer requires a username or password to see all of its features. Check out the growing tips, health and safety when working with gourds, tutorials and more. Fill in the membership form so we can contact you with upcoming events and news. If you have a website or gallery, send the web address to canadiangourders@gmail.com for consideration to have it advertised on the website, (www.canadiangourdsociety.ca). In addition, if any member would like to see his/her gourd creations in the website gallery, email Sharron with a large picture for forwarding to the webmaster.

ON-LINE ARTISANS MARKET PETERBOROUGH....

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 Bellchambers (bellcham75@gmail.com), and let her know what you need/want. (*Note the change in Barbara's email address!*)

ARTISANity....

ARTISANity, our fall sale, is on Friday, November 3rd and Saturday, November 4th this year. More information regarding the sale will be in the fall issue of the CGS newsletter. Below are a few photos taken at the Spring ARTISANity show which had lots of visitors, many of whom were browsing but not buying.



Fuzzy Slippers
Barb Powell



FIRE AND WATER CHALLENGE....

The Artisans Centre Peterborough (ACP) challenge was held at the beginning of June. Although most of the entries were in other mediums, there were three gourders who entered the competition. It was a difficult theme to put onto a gourd. Barbara entered three pieces – a tapestry, a picture in fused silk and an inspiring gourd. Anne and Sharron each entered a gourd. These pictures were gourder entries.



Tapestry



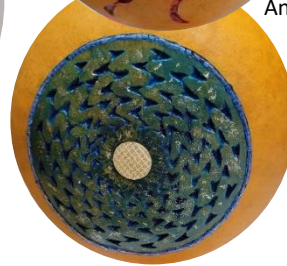
Fused Silk



Barbara Bellchambers



Anne Carling



Sharron Anstey

PATCH REPORT

KAWARTHA GOURDERS



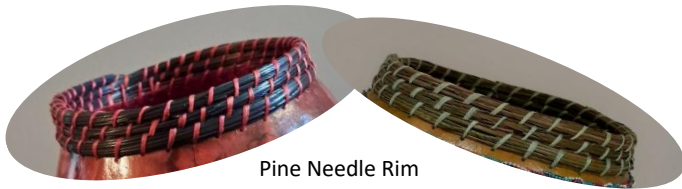
Another three months have come and gone and we are still meeting on Mondays. Anne and Dorothy both managed to travel across the Atlantic for well-deserved breaks while the rest of us enjoyed the spring weather. Much of our gourding time was spent trying to get ready for the spring ARTISANity sale and trying to decide what to create for the Fire and Water competition.

We always manage to have lots of laughs (*and chocolate*) on these days and there is an ongoing source of helpful suggestions and ideas flowing around the room. Of course we celebrated one birthday ... the first of 2022's four 70 year olds to turn the '0' to a '1'.

Anne taught pine needle rims and advanced coiling to a few members. Both were excellent workshops and quite challenging. Barbara's carving course welcomed regular members and a couple of new persons. Dorothy spent time experimenting with a new process using embossing powders with great success.



WORKSHOPS: *COMPLETED*



Pine Needle Rim



Pine Needle Rim



Power Carving



Beginner Gourd Art



Advanced Coiling on a Gourd



Leslie



Tina



Lynda



Anna



Michelle



Beginner Gourding



Bente Graham



Penny Suhr



Advanced Coiling



Upcoming Gourd Workshops

Gourd Bugs for Screens & Jewelry



Gourd Doll Pins



Beginner Pyrography



Sassy Chickens

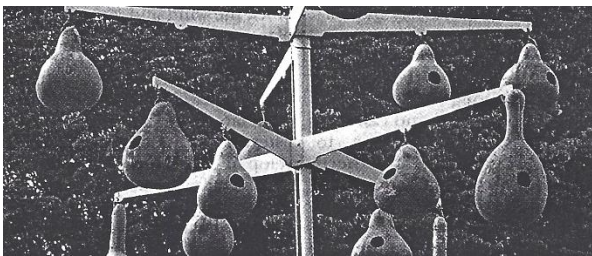


Textured Design on a Gourd



Beginner gourding classes are taught bi-monthly.

For workshop information, dates and times, log onto the ACP website (www.acp35.wildapricot.org).



House wren on a chip carved bird house by Paul Arrowsmith

Gourds are for the birds

Gourds make excellent birdhouses—and are especially good at attracting colonies of insect-eating purple martins (which, we are told, have become totally dependent upon such human-made housing). Here's how the Purple Martin Conservation Association says to do it.

- 1. Grow, cure and scrub clean some BIRDHOUSE or BOTTLE gourds with a diameter of 8 inches or larger.
- 2. Drill a 2½ inch entrance hole on one side of each gourd. Drill 6 or 7 drainage holes—about ¼ inch wide—in the bottom of each. Drill two more ¼ inch wide holes at the top for hanging, then drill four holes—½ inch wide each—about 2 inches below the top for ventilation. (Wear a mask and gloves and work *outside*—gourd dust is *very* irritating.)
- 3. Use a long-handled metal spoon or screwdriver to scrape out as many of the seeds as you can, then paint the outside of the gourds with clear polyurethane or white high-gloss enamel. (The Purple Martin Association reports that white gourds attract more martins.)
- 4. Hang a group of at least 6 to 8 such gourds on a pole or line 10 to 20 feet high, in a wide clear area near your home (martins seem to actually *prefer* to nest near their human homebuilders). Put the gourds up before mid-May in the South (mid-June in the North) and take them down and clean out the nests each fall.

The Purple Martin Conservation Association can supply plenty of additional information on how to attract martins, as well as MARTIN HOUSE gourd seeds, finished gourds that are ready to hang, and plans for building a gourd hanging rack that you can raise and lower with a hand crank! To receive their free catalog, write: PMCA, Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA 16444.

To make houses for *other* birds, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology recommends using the following size gourds and entrance holes:

BIRD OCCUPANTS	MINIMUM GOURD SIZE (WIDTH X HEIGHT IN INCHES)	ENTRANCE HOLE DIAMETER (IN INCHES)
➤ Wrens, Titmice, Nuthatches Downy Woodpeckers	4 x 9	1¼
➤ Chickadees	4 x 9	1¼
➤ Bluebirds	4 x 10	1½
➤ Crested Flycatchers	6 x 10	1⅝
➤ Flickers	7 x 18	2½

TUTORIAL

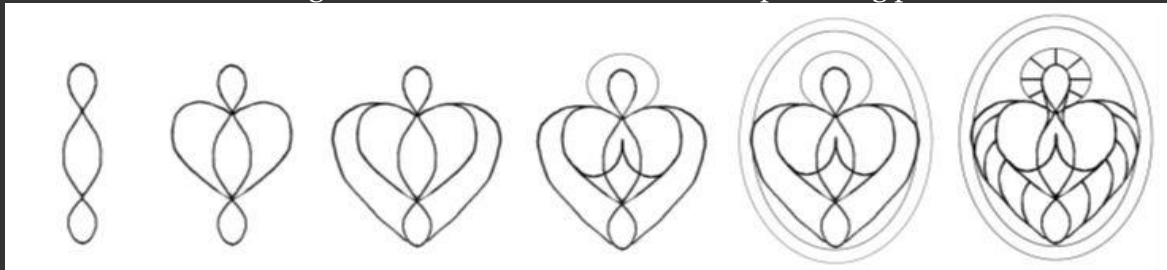
THE FOLLOWING TUTORIAL WAS COPIED FROM THE INTERNET. IT WAS WRITTEN BY THE RENOWNED GOURD ARTIST, REGGIE EAKIN, KNOWN AS THE GEORGIA GOURD GUY, WHO SADLY PASSED AWAY IN 2018.

Geometric Angel by Reggie Eakin

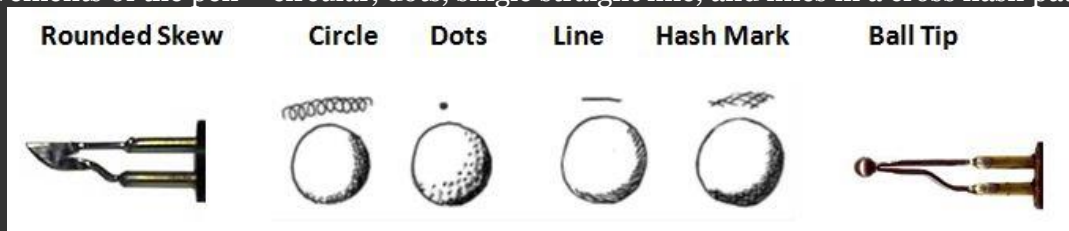
Pyrography (wood burning) Exercise using an adjustable heat tool.

Burning a Geometric Angel on an Egg Gourd

Draw the angle on one side of the egg gourd. The angel shape is formed by drawing a series of figure 8, heart, circle and oval. When you complete the pencil outline, use a rounded skew to burn the outline. Erase your pencil lines. Adjust the heat so that the pen moves freely. Use a skew tip pen to follow the lines on the egg gourd surface only scorch the surface to darken the outline. You can stop now or add shading or decorative details with a ball tip burning pen.



Shading is controlled by stroke, speed, pressure, and heat. To create a shaded area there are four strokes or movements of the pen – circular, dots, single straight line, and lines in a cross hash pattern.



GENTLY make contact the surface with your pen at the darkest area and lift the pen from the surface in lifting motion. Some artist prefer to burn at an extremely high heat. Some artists prefer to begin at a very low heat and slowly increase the heat to create the shading effect. Make the pen glide over the surface.

Do not bear down on the pen.

Make continuous motions - do not stop (unless you plan to make a dimple.)
Start your line or shading in a dark area - then lift the pen at the end of your line.

Beginner or experienced artist should begin burning at the lowest heat that produces a light scorch mark on the gourd surface. Gradually increase your heat to produce the desired result. Below are examples of Angles with a variety of decorative details.



MEMBER GALLERY



Julia Hayes



Eva Pasztor
'Tablita Spirit Figure'



Claudette Hart



Lydia Roussel-Graham



Michelle Adams



Lydia Roussel-Graham



Julie-Anne Wallewein
'Campfire Coral'



Paul Arrowsmith



Sharron Anstey



Barb Powell



Julie-Anne Wallewein
'The Moth'



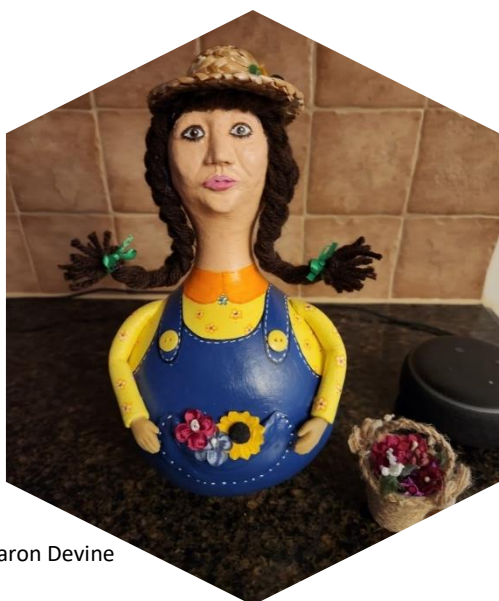
Michelle Adams



Sharon Devine



Lydia Roussel-Graham



Sharon Devine



Julia Hayes



Paul Arrowsmith



Paul Arrowsmith



Sharron Anstey



Sharon Devine



Julia Hayes



Barb Powell
'Dive Helmet'



Claudette Hart



Lydia Roussel-Graham



Dorothy Hawkins



Barb Powell
'Mini Baskets'



Barbara Bellchambers



Sharon Devine



Paul Arrowsmith



Sharron Anstey



Sharon Devine



Michelle Adams



Lydia Roussel-Graham



Julia Hayes



Anne Carling



Barbara Bellchambers



Barb Powell



Paul Arrowsmith



Barbara Bellchambers
'Tea Light'



Sharon Devine



Eva Pasztor



Michelle Adams



Sharron Anstey



Sharon Devine



Claudette Hart





Sharon Devine



Michelle Adams



Julia Hayes



Julie-Anne Wallewein
'Joy and Love'



Julia Hayes



Sharon Devine



Sharon Devine



Michelle Adams
'Power-tex'



Sharron Anstey
'1.5 mm chain
covering a 2" gourd'



Sharon Devine



Claudette Hart

GOURD CROP BEGINNINGS



Sharon Devine's garden with
husband tilling.



Julia Hayes' gourd garden.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

"The record for the **heaviest gourd** is a bushel gourd that weighed in at 470 pounds, 8 ounces and was grown by Steve Connolly. It was officially weighed at the Southern New England Giant Pumpkin Growers' Weigh-off in Warren, Rhode Island, in October 2020."

Excerpt from: "*America's Most Amazing, Amusing Vegetable: The Bottle Gourd*";

Researched and written by Mark S. Thompson from Knowledge Resources, Inc., 2022.

Definition of a **Gourdsket®**: This peculiar word that isn't in the dictionary is the result of the combination of a "Lagenaria" or a hard-shelled gourd with pine needles and palm fibers added, using the ancient technique of coiled basketry. Hence **Gourdsket®**: a gourd base with a basket top.

Gourdsket® is a registered trademark of W. Jayne Stanley and Gourdsket® Vessel Company, Inc. ©1997



Photo taken from television by:
Barbara Bellchambers.

Note the Gourd Musical Instruments.

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.

Enjoy the Summer!

STAY SAFE!

STAY HEALTHY!

KEEP ON GOURDING!

Sharon

President

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