

THE CANADIAN GOURDER

Spring - 2023



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy Spring, Fellow Gourders,

According to the calendar it is Spring, but looking outside and seeing freezing rain and snow does not exactly put me in a Springtime mood! Lots of the huge piles of snow have melted down to be a more reasonable size, but snow is still there. Humph!

Bruce has planted lots of seeds, he now has foot high tomato plants, cucumber plants starting to wander away from their pots, and other such happy seedlings gaining in strength and size. I have decided to wait for a while before I start my gourd seeds. My small decoration gourds from last year's crop are still hanging on the vine on the fence, though they are now dried out. Fortunately, the squirrels were not tempted by them this time. Maybe they learned their lesson in previous years?

I returned to Arizona for the Wuertz Gourd Festival in February after a 2-year hiatus. Although there were lots and lots of food vendors, many of the usual indoor vendors were missing. I had to really look for the items I was looking for as many vendors I expected to buy from were missing. There were fewer classes as well, but it was exciting to see a number of new techniques being taught. I took 3 classes this time and really enjoyed each.

I strongly suggest that you plan ahead a year or two to go to one of the big gourd gatherings in the States. It is wonderful to be surrounded by crowds of gourders, to be immersed in gourding classes, gourds, and gourd suppliers for 3-4 days. You will return home refreshed and full of new ideas. Give it a try!

Good luck with growing gourds this year; hopefully it will be a great year with just the right weather for the gourds to grow. I will stick to the mini gourds as I seem to have more luck with them.

Happy gourding!
Barbara

*Class I took at
Wuertz Gourd
Festival*



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest members: Christina Liikane (Severn Bridge, ON); Sharon Devine (Brucefield, ON); Margot Utting (Burlington, ON); Ligaya Neuhauser (Brighton, NS); Melanie Dreger (Sturgeon County, AB); Clarisse Thomasset (Ulverton, QC).

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 (bellcham@nexicom.net), and let her know what you need/want.

ARTISANity....

ARTISANity, our spring sale, is on Friday, April 28th and Saturday, April 29th this year. Held in the Peterborough Mall, there will be hand-crafted items to get you started gifting for Mothers' and Fathers' Day, garden decorating or just splurging on that special something for yourself. Gourd creations are a big part of this sale but there are also pottery, fibre, wood and jewellery articles to enjoy. Keep an eye on the ACP website at www.artisanscentre.ca and Kawartha Gourders Facebook page for any further details.

CHALLENGE---FIRE AND WATER....

The Artisans Centre Peterborough (ACP) currently has a challenge open to all Peterborough and Kawartha artists and artisans to produce a work of visual art interpreting the theme of Fire and Water. Get your creative juices flowing to produce your interpretation of this theme in the medium of your choice. Entries will be adjudicated on June 2nd 2023. For more challenge information and registration, click on the following link.

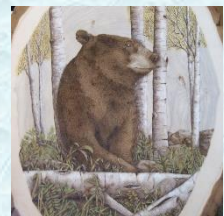
<https://acp35.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Fire%20and%20Water%20Registration%20Form%202023.pdf>



IN MEMORY:



Sadly, the group has lost another one of its talented artists. Brigitte Thompson passed away February 25th, 2023. She was a long-standing member of the Canadian Gourd Society and the Kawartha Gourders. Skilled in pyrography and Powertex, she taught several classes to the gourders in Peterborough. Fun loving and outgoing she was a very valued member of the gourding community.



You Will Be Missed!

WORKSHOPS: COMPLETED

CHIP CARVING



Sunburst Chip Carving on a Gourd
Engraving Doodle Designs



Bead Chains on a Gourd
Powertex Masks



DOODLE ENGRAVING

Workshops – Completed cont'd

BEADED CHAINS ON A GOURD



Michelle Adams



Sharron Anstey



Barbara Bellchambers



Anne Carling



Dorothy Hawkins



Sharron Anstey

POWERTEX MASKS



Edna



Dorothy Hawkins



Michelle Adams



Anne Carling



Ronnie

TUTORIAL

Woven Gourd Necklace

By Barbara Belchambers

Materials:

Small jewellery gourd
Leather cording, Rattail, or other cord for the necklace
Small eye hook
Beads, variety of size and colour
Waxed Linen, 4 ply, two compatible colours
Scissors
Gourd wax or varnish

Preparation:

- Wax or varnish gourd.
- For your first necklace, chose 2 colours of waxed linen.
- Cut 12 spokes from one colour of waxed linen, 13" long.
- Cut one piece of the second colour of waxed linen, 3' long.
- With all 12 spokes together, fold the group of spokes in half.
- Fold long piece of waxed linen so one section is 9" long.
- **1.** Slide folded loop under the centre of the pile of spokes, with 1" of loop showing.
- **2.** Thread the 2 ends of the loop linen over the spoke pile, and through the loop.
- **3.** Pull tight.
- **4.** Separate each group of spokes into half.
 - You will have 4 groups with 6 spokes each.
- Place a loose knot on the end of the first spoke of the first group.
 - This will be your marker so you know when you finish a row.

Weaving:

- **5.** Using the shorter of the long weavers, weave over and under each bundle of spokes for 3 rows.
- **6.** Separate each of the groups of spokes in half, with 3 spokes each.
- Weave over and under each new smaller bundle for 3 rows.
 - Your spokes will begin to spread out around the circle.
- **7.** Pick up the long weaver, placing it to the left of the knotted spoke.
- Pick up the new colour weaver, place it to the right of the knotted spoke, tucking about 3/8" on the back of the woven piece.
- **8.** Take the weaver on the left over the weaver on the right, behind the next spoke, and bring it to the front.
- This is the pattern you will use until you reach the top of your weaving!

Left weaver goes over the right weaver, behind the next spoke, back to the front.

- Continue weaving in this manner until weaving is about an inch across.
- Hold weaving to bottom of your gourd to see if it fits nicely.
- At some point, you will have to begin to make the weaving start to curve up to fit the gourd.
 - Keep checking how your weaving fits your gourd at the end of each row.

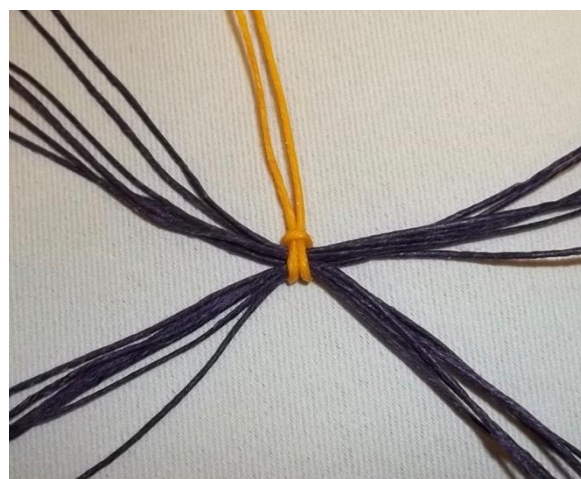
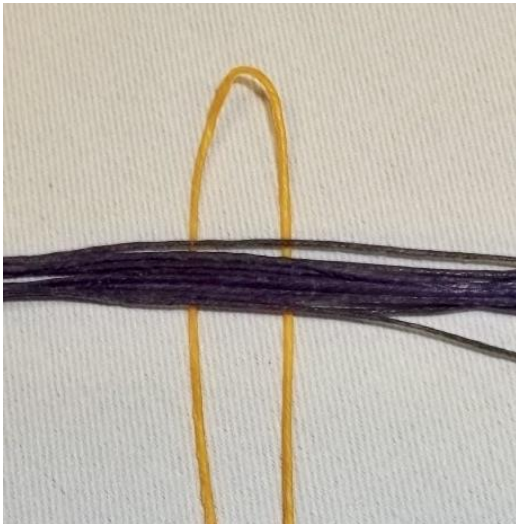


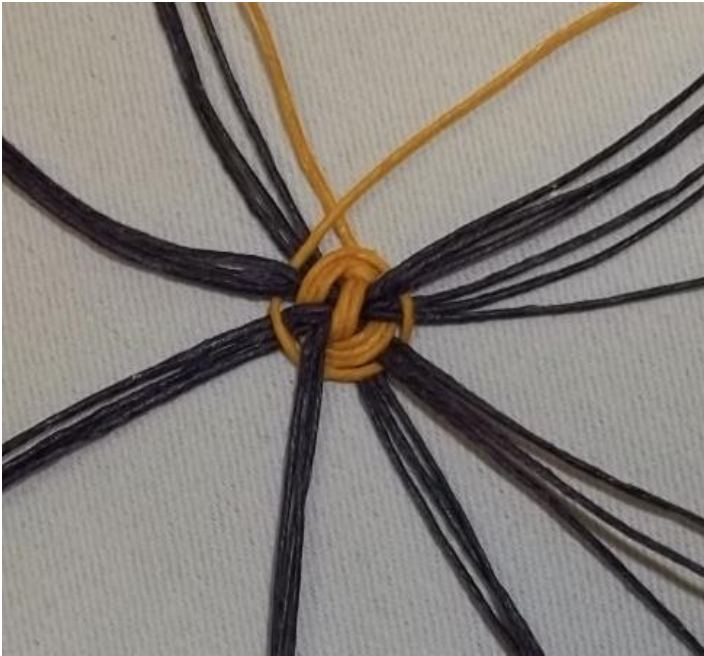
Tutorial – Woven Gourd Necklace cont'd

- To start curving up, pull your weaving a **tiny bit** tighter with each stitch.
- **When one of your weavers gets 1/2" or shorter, when it next goes behind the spoke, tuck it down behind the spoke.**
- **Cut another weaver of the same colour.**
- **Tuck 3/8" of new weaver down on the back of your weaving next to the old weaver.**
- **Keep your finger on it for a few stitches as you continue weaving.**
- Keep weaving and checking the fit of your weaving, until you reach the largest part of your gourd.
- Place your weaving on your gourd, and weave snugly to the gourd.
- Weave up to the neck of the gourd.
- Cut the weavers, leaving about 3/8".
 - Tuck ends under weaving.

The Rim:

- All the spokes should be standing up against the top of the gourd.
- Take the knotted spoke, take it behind the next spoke, and pull it down.
- Keep doing this, until you have gone all the way around, and are back to the knotted spoke. Do not go behind the knotted spoke.
 - Push backward a bit on the knotted spoke holding it near to the weaving.
 - It should loosen a bit, leaving a small loop.
 - Push the last spoke through this loop from back to front.
- Do 2 rows of this rim stitch, pulling the stitches tight.





MEMBER GALLERY



Barbara Bellchambers



Barb Powell
'Fairy home'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkins



Elizabeth Gordon
'Mother with baby in amautis'



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Anne Carling
'Tea Light'



Julia Hayes



Marianne Pedretti
'Felt Critter'



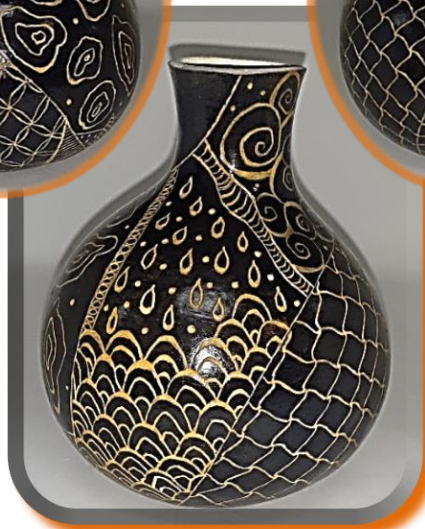
Julie-Anne Wallewin



Barbara Bellchambers



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkins
'Doodle engraving'



Marianne Pedretti
'Felt Critter'



Michelle Adams



Barb Powell



Elizabeth Gordon
'Mother with baby in amautis'



Female
Snake
Gourd
Flower



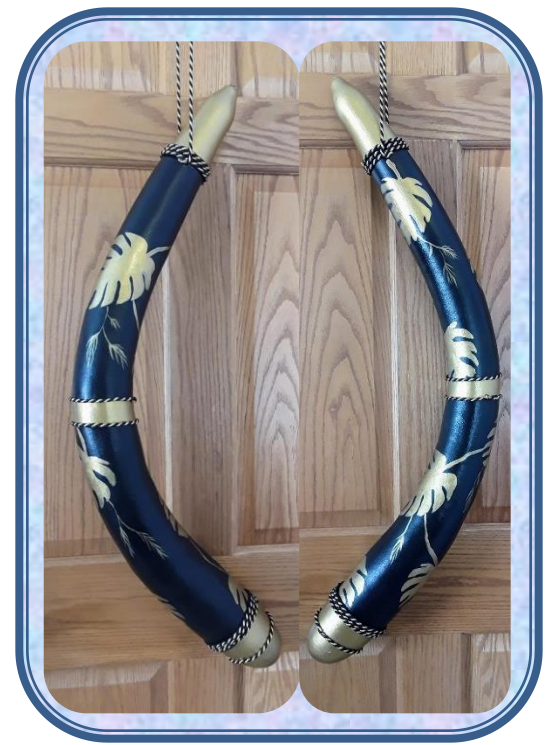
Male



Dorothy Hawkins
'Chip Carving'



Barb Powell
'Fairy House'



Marilyn Van Gerven
'Rainstick'



Julia Hayes



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Marianne Pedretti
'Felted Bird'



Judy Simmonds



Bottle Gourd Flower



Barb Powell



Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers



Dorothy Hawkins



Anne Carling



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Dorothy Hawkins



Marianne Pedretti
'Felted Octopus'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Julia Hayes



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven
'Thunder Drum'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkins



Barb Powell





Sharron Anstey
'Chip Carving'



Julia Hayes



Barb Powell



Marianne Pedretti
'Felted Octopus Nest'



Dorothy Hawkins
'Doodle engraving'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Barb Powell



Julia Hayes



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkin



Marilyn Van Gerven
'Thunder Drum'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Michelle Adams



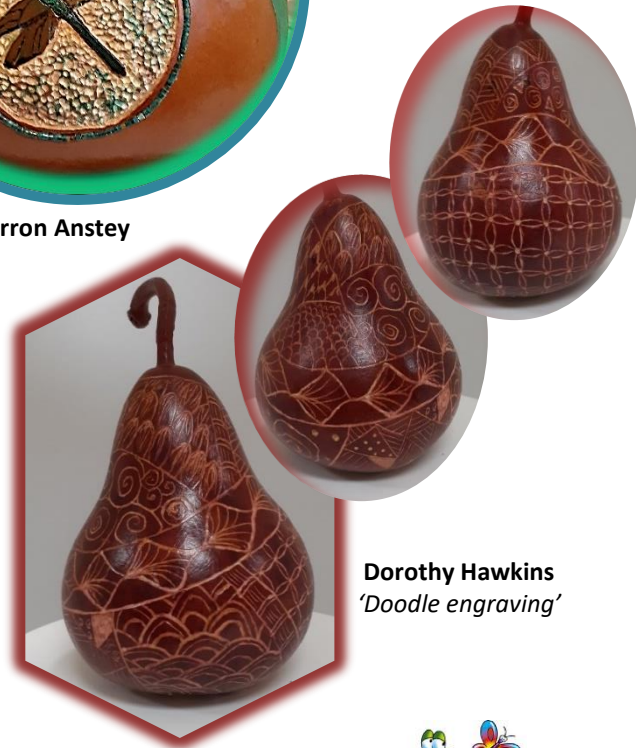
Sharron Anstey



Marilyn Van Gerven



Barb Powell



Dorothy Hawkins
'Doodle engraving'



INTERESTING INFORMATION

The following questions/answers are from the Harvard University Gazette. (<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette>)

Where did gourds come from?

The archaeological and DNA records show it is likely that the gourd was among the first domesticated species, in Asia between 12,000 and 13,000 years before present, and possibly the first domesticated plant species.

Are gourds from Africa?

Although many people don't realize that members of the Cucurbitaceous gourd plant family are indigenous to Africa, hard-shell, bottled, and dipping gourds are just a few of the varieties that spread from Africa to tropical areas of Asia and the Americas as early as prehistoric times. Feb. 6, 2018

What did Native Americans use gourds for?

They were mainly grown for rattle making; for use as water dippers; canteens, and to hold small things like seeds. There are different types of gourds that are used for rattle making among the various tribes. Nov 9, 2015

What were gourds originally used for?

Gourds (Cucurbitaceae) are among the oldest cultivated plants. They were the early water bottles of the Egyptians (2200 or 2400 B.C.), and were traditionally used as utensils, storage containers, and dippers by indigenous peoples in North America.

What culture eats gourds?

The most commonly eaten gourds are Asian. Again, they are picked young and under ripe to ensure less harsh flavor. Among these are sponge (or Luffa) and bottle (or Calabash). There is also an Italian gourd called cucuzza. Oct 25, 2022



A 'fixed-key' balafon, showing gourd resonators with membrane holes

The [Balafon](#), a West-African percussion instrument, is a xylophone that has gourds attached to the bottom of each note for resonance.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Balafoon.jpg>

**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 Spring weather – it will be here eventually!



STAY SAFE!

STAY HEALTHY!

KEEP ON GOURDING!

Sharron



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