

THE CANADIAN GOURDER

Fall - 2023



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's Report September 2023

We have been so fortunate to still have nice temperatures at the end of September. Gourds are near or at the end of growing, and we just need patience until it is time to pick them.

Watching the wildfires in the west and north of Canada kept me glued to the tv for many days. I hope that none of you were burned out of your home. I know how bad the smoke and ash falling was, with many evacuated from home for an extended time. My thoughts were with you.

In Ontario it has not been a great summer for growing gourds. Dorothy usually has a big crop of a variety of gourds, this year she has one. I have heard similar stories from other gourders as well. Much as the plants like to be watered, they do not like being flooded with the downpours we had in the summer.

In July, I received an email from Eden in Ottawa, asking if I could teach her mother, Marilyne, about carving and working on gourds. Marilyne had done some work on gourds, but had only learned from tutorials online. She was planning to come to visit her daughter for a few weeks from her home in the Ivory Coast. We worked out a day, and I had the pleasure and opportunity to meet this wonderful woman on

Saturday August 5th. Fortunately, a bus runs from Ottawa through Peterborough daily, so she had a ride here and back. Marilyne was a delightful student with a steady hand, eager to learn all she could. She will return in May when her daughter graduates, and this time stay for a few days to learn even more. Who knew that the Artisans Centre had such a long reaching reputation for teaching classes?



Yours in gourding,

Barbara



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest members: Denise Rosychuk (Brosseau, AB); Félicia Gagnon (Sainte-Thècle, QC); Jacqueline Theoret (Lakefield ON); Kathie Karancz (Didsbury, AB) Kelley Brockley (Peterborough, ON); and Lisa Hutchinson (Washago, 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 sashadow1019@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. 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 AND SEEDS FOR SALE....

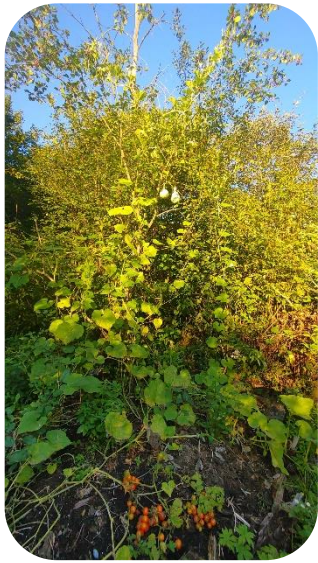
If you are interested in buying gourds contact Barbara Bellchambers (bellcham75@gmail.com), and let her know what you need/want. If the Kawartha Gourders have what you need, she will arrange the delivery with you. She also goes to Arizona every February and may be able to get what you want at that time. Apparently, there is a farm market outside of Hamilton, Ontario, (Shearlea Acres Farm Market), which sells hard-shelled gourds. They have a website on facebook.

Leah Reed at Blue Whale Art Supplies in New Hampshire has been growing gourds and harvesting the seeds for years. She, as have many others, has had a terrible year for growing gourds and is not sure how many seeds she will get from this crop to sell. She recommends that if you want seeds, you should order them soon.

If you are interested in purchasing seeds to plant next spring contact Barbara by October 9th with the kind and number of packages you want to buy and she will put an order together to send to Blue Whale Arts. Leah will send what she can to Barbara in Arizona in February. Barbara will bring back the seeds in late February and send them off to the buyers. Note that the package says \$4 (US) which will be \$6 (Cdn), plus the cost of postage which is usually around \$2 or less, depending on the number of packages of seeds.

If you wish to look at what Blue Whale Arts sells and for gourd growing tips, click on the following link:
<https://www.bluewhalearts.com/product-categories/gourd-seeds-and-growing-supplies.html>

GOURDS , GARDENS , GROWING



*Clarisse Thomassett
Quebec*



*Sharon Devine
South-western Ontario*



Melanie, a first-year gourd grower from Alberta, asked:

1. I read that you shouldn't transplant your gourds outside until the nights are consistently above 10 degrees. Someone else said after your last frost. The difference between those two in my area is about a month. What would you recommend?
2. When do you stop pollinating gourd flowers? I think my gourds went into the ground late and I'm worried I won't have enough time for them to mature. Everyone's saying gardens this year are about 3 weeks behind schedule because of the weather.
3. Do you limit the number of gourds per vine to help them mature?

Barbara's answer:

You can start your gourds indoors, so they have started to grow before being moved outdoors. They do not always like being moved, so start them in a container where you can easily move them into a larger container or outside. In southern Ontario, we usually plant outdoors during the May 24th weekend, the weather is usually very good by then. If you do get a frost after that, just cover your plants overnight.

As your vines grow longer, snip off the main vine when it is around 8' long, this will encourage secondary growth. You want those secondary vines, as they have the female flowers.

You can use a qTip or a paint brush to fertilize your female flowers. I check the plants each day, and go from male to female. It is not necessary, as the bees and other insects will fertilize them, I just like seeing all the new flowers. They do not last long!

GOURDS, GARDENS, GROWING...CONT'D

As the summer goes along, if you have a number of gourds growing well on each plant, you can again snip the end off the vine so the strength goes into those gourds as opposed to new gourds that will not have time to mature. The end of July or early August is good for this step.

Do not remove your gourds until after a good frost. Gourds need to be on the vine when the frost comes, and the frost "sets" the gourd, so it will not shrink, unless it has not reached maturity. You may not get a lot of gourds this year, but you can be better prepared for next year! I leave the green gourds outdoors during the winter, gourds dry from the inside out, and as they dry, they usually form mold on the outside. You do not want the mold growing in your home. In the spring when the snow melts, I pick each one up to see if they are dry. If they are still heavy, I just put them on the sidewalk and they will dry quickly then.

For more information on growing, harvesting and gourd identification, click on the Canadian Gourd Society link:

[ABOUT GOURDS](#) | [CANADIAN GOURD SOCIETY](#)

ARTISANITY....

ARTISANity, our fall sale, is on Friday, November 3rd and Saturday, November 4th this year. Held in the Peterborough Mall, there will be hand-crafted items to get you started gifting for Christmas 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.

PATCH REPORT

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

(Submitted by Anne Carling)

The Kawartha Gourders had a quiet summer with a few good workshops and 2 birthday cakes.

An Advance Coiling workshop was held in June with successes and challenges. When one person goes on to coil again on another gourd, you know that the class was a well-taught success.

A Bugs workshop had a new person make 5 bugs for screens while the regular members had fun going wild decorating theirs. There was a request by some grandmas for the Bugs workshop so a special one was held for 3 grandchildren.

During August, four instructors got together to explore new techniques to teach. They all carved a faux basket look with some having more success at mastering the technique than others. Watch for that workshop in the future to advance your carving skills. They also tried paper and copper sheet techniques from a book Barbara found cleaning up her studio. We will need to do more work on perfecting it although 2 of the 4 have managed to complete a project.

At one of Barbara's pyrography workshops, a long time Canadian Gourd Society member appeared for a refresher. It was good to see him starting to work with gourds again. Barbara found him in an old photo from 2011...again because she has had a summer of cleaning up files.



KAWARTHA GOURDERS...cont'd

We have added 2 new file cabinets for storing equipment in the Power Room. Hopefully you will all find it more organized and less crowded in the Artisans Centre. We already have 2 new people signed up for the Beginners class this fall. Watch for the new Textured Surface workshop, one of my favourite techniques, in October and the gourd Thunder Drum workshop in November.





Upcoming Gourd Workshops



Beginner Pyrography

Textured Design on a Gourd



Beginner Gourd Art

Thunder Drum



Beginner gourd classes are taught bi-monthly.

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

WHAT IS AN IPU?

Wikipedia's definition and description - (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ipu>)

Ipu is a percussion instrument made from gourds that is often used to provide a beat for hula dancing.

There are two types of ipu, the **ipu heke**, which is a double gourd made by taking two gourds of different sizes, cutting them and joining them at their necks with the smaller one on top, and the **ipu heke 'ole**, which is made from a single gourd cut across the top. Both are made from gourds that have been dried, hollowed and usually polished smooth with sand or sandpaper.

Ipu Heke



Hawaiilive.org



Bishop Museum

Ipu Heke 'ole



Pinterest



voicesfromthenations.org/2008/hawaii

TUTORIAL

The following tutorial was in the newsletter a few years ago. Recently I applied this rim to a gourd and realized that I needed to follow the directions carefully. CGS has a number of new members who might want to try it and some of our more seasoned gourders have started to experiment with different borders/rimms and may need a refresher.

Braided Rim

Barbara Bellchambers

Courtesy of Bill Usher, Wood Turner, who taught me

MATERIALS:

Lace - leather, suede, or artificial lace, 3/32" or 1/8"
Leather needle
Pliers, needle nose, and optional: "split ring"
Drill and drill bits 1/16", 1/8"
Scissors
Awl
Optional - beads, feathers

Tape Measure
Math compass
Narrow tape - masking or similar
Pencil, pen, or narrow marker
X-acto knife or similar kind of knife
Glue that dries clear

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JOINING LACE:

When you run out of lace and need a new piece, do not panic. It is simple to add another piece of lace. In fact, you will add the piece at the front of the gourd, and no one will notice.

Pull the short lace **over and under** as usual, leave an inch or so of lace in front.

Put the needle on the new piece of lace, and follow the same path as the short piece of lace, only going **under, under and over**, directly under the short piece of lace. Put glue on the last 1/2" of this lace, and pull it into place under the other lace, with the end tucked in.

Loosen the short lace, and put glue under the lace for the first inch after it comes out of the hole. Pull it tight into place above the new lace.

Hold the lacing in place for a minute for the glue to dry.

Cut off the end of the short lace, pulling so you can cut just below where it went under. Hold for a minute to be sure the lace is caught. You should not see any ends of lacing! When you are finished, it should be hard to find this spot!

PREPARATION:



Using a compass, draw a pencil line all the way around the gourd 1/4" from the rim.

Using the compass again, mark the position for the holes 1/4" apart along the line. Rarely do the holes work out perfectly! Stop 2" from the first hole, and work out whether you need to make your next holes slightly larger or smaller to fit the space left.

Use an awl to pierce the skin of the gourd. This makes it easier to drill the holes.

Your final hole size will be 1/8", but start with a 1/16" drill bit. It is easier to come back and enlarge the holes later. Starting with a larger drill bit on a curved surface can be difficult.



Although I have not done this on the examples, if you paint above the holes and on the rim with the colour of the lacing, the gourd does not show through the finished braiding. It gives a nicer finished look.

Braided Rim Tutorial – cont'd



Use a piece of tape that is long enough to reach at least 8 holes. Place tape below the holes, and print the numbers from left to right.

Cut the lace. You need 9 times the diameter of the rim of the gourd to complete the project. For example, if your gourd measures 18" around the rim, you will need a total of 13 1/2'.

Trim the end of the lace, to fits in the 2-prong leather needle. If using suede, thin the lace in the last 1/2". Please trim away from yourself!

Attach the needle to the end of the lace. A pair of 'split ring' pliers are great to hold the needle open.

You can also use another needle! Use needle nose pliers to tighten the lace into needle and to make the prongs grab the lace.

I find that bending the needle with pliers makes it easier to slide under the stitches.



SEWING THE BRAIDED RIM:

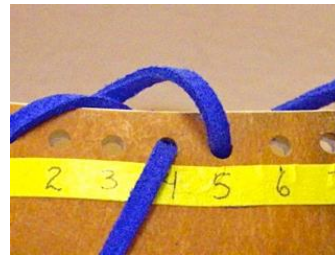
You will always be sewing from the front to the back of the gourd, that is, the needle will enter the holes on the outside of the gourd, going through to the inside.



outside of the gourd to keep it in place.

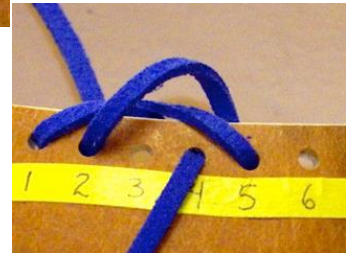
Starting with your needle at the front, push it through hole #4, leaving enough lace on the outside to touch near the bottom of the gourd. Put some tape over the lace on the

Return your needle to the front of the gourd, and pass through hole #1. Make sure your lacing is flat, with no twists.

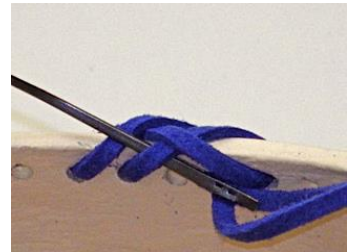


Go through hole #5, front to back.

Bring your needle to the front again to go through hole #2.



Now, a new step for you! Before you leave the inside of the gourd, you need to pass your needle **under** the first lace as you head diagonally to the "northwest" (\), and then **over** the next lace.



Turn your gourd around so you are looking at the front again, and go into hole #6.



Bring the needle to the front of the gourd, and hold it down so it goes over hole #3. Notice that you go over 2 laces on the front of the gourd.

Take your needle back, and this time go **over** and then **under** the laces as you head to hole #3.



Pass through hole #3 from front to back.



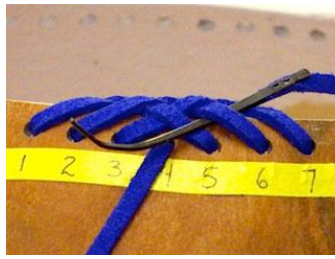
On the back, you are always going to head diagonally "northwest" (\), crossing 3 laces: going **over** the first, **under** the second, and **over** the third. This is where the bent needle really helps, getting under that second lace.

Bring your needle forward, and go to the right into hole #7.

Braided Rim Tutorial – cont'd

Okay, are you ready for something new? This is the last thing you need to learn until you get back to hole #1.

You are going to go **over, under, and over** the laces as you head left to hole #4. Yes, hole #4. This will be the second stitch in this hole.



You may need to use the pliers now and then to help pull the needle through the holes with a stitch already in it. It can be a tight fit!

From now on, you will be going back through holes that have one stitch in them, as you head to the "southwest" (/) in the front of the gourd. Do not skip a hole!

To untwist the lacing, stop pulling it through the hole when approximately 5" remain inside the gourd. Pull your fingers along the lacing from the hole at the back, straightening it. Keep your fingers on the flattened lace, and pull the twisted lace through until you reach your fingers, and then pull the flattened lace through. You will be able to use this method as you continue lacing, going under other laces.



Now the stitches will be the same as you go around the gourd.

GO OVER, UNDER, OVER AND THROUGH THE NEXT HOLE FROM FRONT TO BACK.

As you head right to the hole, you will be going to the next empty hole.

As you head left, you will do the second stitch in the next hole with only one stitch in it.

DO NOT SKIP HOLES! Keep checking. Go through hole #1 again.



Heading left from hole #1, go **over, under, over**, and through the next hole on the left that has only one stitch.

Now, you are going to go **over, under, over, under**, to hole #2.

At the back, go **under, over, under, over** and through the next hole on the left that has only one stitch.

Go **over, under, over, over, under**, to hole #3.



Go **under, over, over, under, over** to the hole left of hole #1.

Okay, this the most rewarding row of all, as well as your last row.

Go **over, under, over, under, over, under** and **STOP** in front of hole #4. Do not go through this hole!



You are ready to add beads, and then you will be done!

CONGRATULATIONS!

MEMBER GALLERY



Barb Powell



Julie-Anne Wallewein
'Small vessel (< 6")
with alcohol ink'



Michelle Adams

*"Negative space with dyed
pine needles & copper wire"*



Dorothy Hawkins



Sharron Anstey



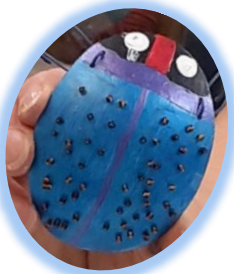
Michelle Adams



Anne Carling
'Scarlet Tanager'



Sharon Devine



Michelle Adams



Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers

'Multi textured'



Julie-Anne Wallewein



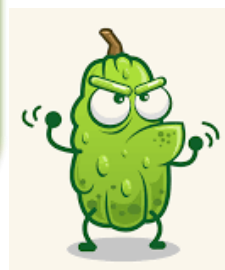
Michelle Adams



Michelle Adams



Julie-Anne Wallewein



Barb Powell
"Mini gourds,
wood burned,
acrylic paint"



Anne Carling
'multitextured'



Kelley Brockley
(Beginner class)



Jacqueline Theoret
(Beginner class)



Lydia Rousell-Graham



Michelle Adams



Anne Carling
'Powertek green lady'



Michelle Adams



Barb Powell
'Mini gourds with metallic paint'



Julie-Anne Wallewein



Sharron Anstey



Barbara Bellchambers



Sharron Anstey
'Irish Thistle'



Michelle Adams



Julie-Anne Wallewein



Michelle Adams



Anne Carling



Barb Powell
'zentangle'



Sharron Anstey
'cow's head & eagle done in micro chains'



Sharron Anstey

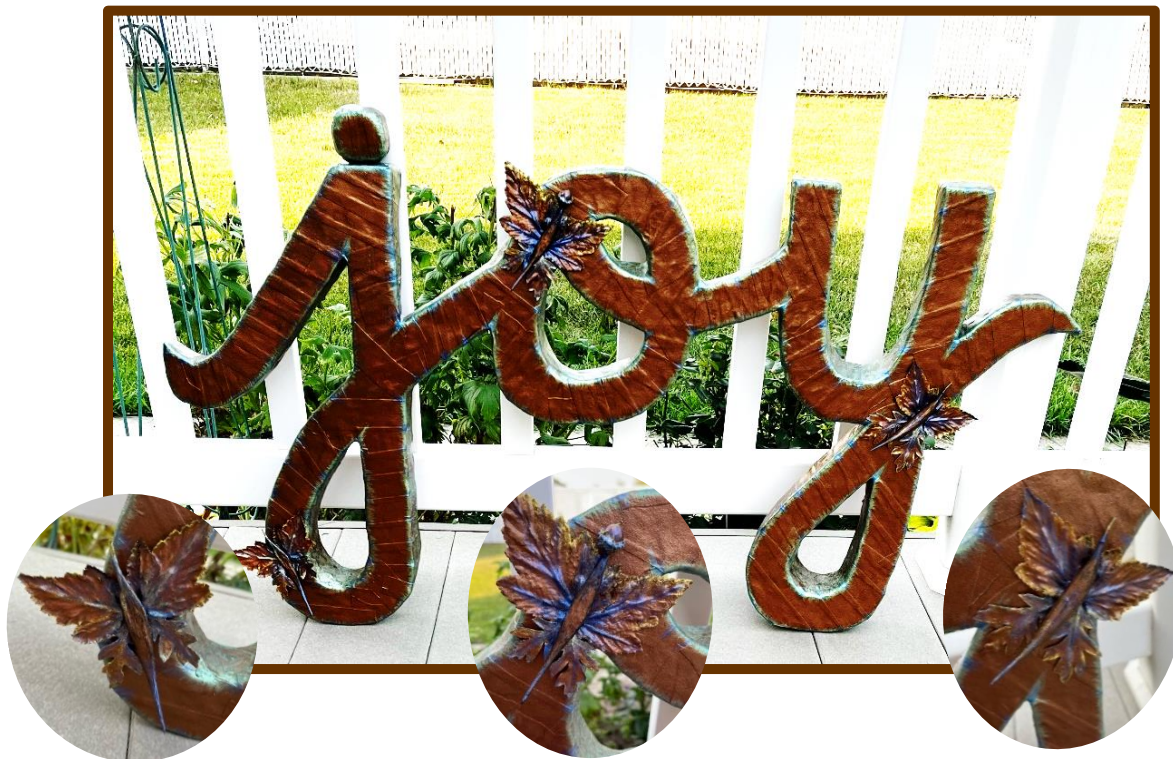


Michelle Adams

Sharon Devine's Hallowe'en Gourds



Happy
Ghoulish
Day!!



Julie-Anne Wallewein

"Here are photos of the paverpol project I made this summer. I cut the word Joy out of a sheet of Styrofoam. The butterflies are made with the seed pod from milkweed for the body and leaves for the wings. One has an acorn for its head. It will hang in my garden next spring."



Julie-Anne's project creates 'joy' just looking at it. It is a wonderful way to welcome the fall season with its bright, lively colours. Let's all stay inspired as we move into a new phase of the year and hope for health and well-being.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to everyone who reads it. Keep sending those photos and any gourd-related experiences for the next newsletter. Enjoy the Fall!

STAY SAFE!

STAY HEALTHY!

KEEP ON GOURDING!

Sharron

President

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