

# THE CANADIAN GOURDER

*Summer- 2024*



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July 1st, 2024

Summer is here and my gourd plants are enjoying all the heat and rain we have received so far. I was fortunate with the seeds I started this year. I planted 8 seeds into tiny pots, 4 each of the canteen and small kettles, 6 successfully grew. I kept one of each plant type, and gave the rest away to other gourders. I wish everyone who is growing gourds across Canada all the best of luck with your plants, enjoy assisting the bugs with "sex in the gourd garden", and may you have many gourds grow to maturity. Don't forget to nip off the end of the first long vine after 8-10 feet, to get lots of secondary vines!



My hubby, Bruce, takes care of all our gardens. The front garden is a riot of colour with a variety of mainly perennials. Our water feature with constantly flowing water is always a great hit with the birds for bathing and drinking. Hummingbirds suddenly appear to fly through the sprinkling of water when Bruce lightly sprays areas of the gardens. They empty the hummingbird feeders quite quickly as well. Our back yard also has flower gardens all along the edge, inviting both hummingbirds to the flowers and birds to the honeysuckle berries. Unfortunately, the squirrels and chipmunks challenge Bruce daily by digging in the large tomato and potato pots, and trying to get into his fenced raised vegetable gardens. Bunnies take their turn trying to get to the lettuce!

Mondays are my favourite day of the week. Getting together weekly with other gourders to work on gourds, take classes, share ideas and generally have a wonderful social time together. We are so fortunate to have our space at the Artisans Centre to store our tools and supplies, and to meet. Besides meeting on Monday, we can go into the Centre any day of the week to work on gourds. We have many eager people who take our Beginner Gourd Art classes with Anne. Some return for more classes, some just want to learn about working with gourds. One young couple came for the Beginner class. Last Christmas they decided that instead of giving each other gifts, they would do something special each month. Our gourd class was one of their special events! They went home with 2 lovely but very different finished gourds.

Happy Gourding to you all,  
Barbara



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



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## MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest member: Jeanette Dunke-Collings (Fergus, ON).

Just a reminder that if any of your personal information (address, phone number, email address) has changed, please let us know. *Thank you.*

Over the past year there have been many new members added to the CGS list. Several are living in the same geographic area. If anyone is interested in starting a gourd group (*patch*) in your province/area, contact us. Perhaps, with individual permission, we can pass on contact information to you and, who knows, a *patch* may grow.

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](mailto:canadiangourders@gmail.com). Information/questions regarding the CGS newsletter can be sent to [sashadow1019@gmail.com](mailto:sashadow1019@gmail.com).

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

## CGS WEBSITE....

Don't forget to check out the CGS website. 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](mailto:canadiangourders@gmail.com) for consideration to have it advertised on the website, ([www.canadiangourdsociety.ca](http://www.canadiangourdsociety.ca)).

## 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](http://www.artisanscentre.ca).

## ARTISANity....

The Artisans Centre Peterborough held their Spring ARTISANity Show and Sale the last week of April. Three gourders included their work. Although not as successful as the Fall/Winter show, it generates enough interest to add funds to the ACP coffers.



## GOURDS FOR SALE....

If you are interested in buying gourds contact Barbara Bellchambers ([bellcham75@gmail.com](mailto:bellcham75@gmail.com)), and let her know what you need/want.

## ART CHALLENGE....

Three Kawartha Gourders entered this year's art challenge with the theme '*Trees at Risk.*' Lois Shaw had a unique entry with her '*Reflections on our Forest.*'

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to Anne Carling and Barbara Bellchambers for their 2nd prize win with their entry of '*Forest Ecosystem.*'



**Forest Ecosystem**

Often when we think about a forest, we focus on the trees. Trees play a big part in the ecosystem. Over their lifetime, a healthy tree can provide homes for birds, animals and bugs. As the tree ages, holes in trees provide even more homes, as these entries show. Finally, the tree will fall and provide homes to the creatures who thrive on old wood, enriching the soil of Our Fragile Forests.

**"Reflections on our Forests"**

The entry piece is using a gourd as a base with wood-burning techniques and fused glass.

The piece represents how we can try to protect the forests but even under a dome of glass the forests are prone to fires. We can not appreciate the true beauty of the forest if we were blocked by a protection element. We need to learn to truly appreciate nature and try to protect it from human's reckless nature.





## PATCH REPORT

## KAWARTHA GOURDERS



The past three months have been a busy time for members. Two birthdays were celebrated; preparation for ARTISANity and the art challenge was completed. Barbara was the featured artist in the Peterborough Art Crawl. She set up a gourd display in the mall; demonstrated her craft and answered many questions about gourding. Anne is scheduled for the next one. Barbara and Anne retrieved a car load of gourds from two members who are no longer gourding. It was lots of fun to look through the boxes filled with all shapes and sizes and imagine the creative ways to work with them.

As well, Anne taught the beginner workshop and we all had a great time with three other workshops. Zippers, dolls and alcohol ink brought many laughs and super new ideas to the group.

Of course, with spring arriving, several members started their gourd growing. As this writer is not into gardening, it is always interesting to listen to the others talk about their crops ... good season, bad season, not enough sun, too hot, too cold... and the list goes on.



## Patti

Dorothy and Patti took part in a gourd demonstration in Belleville. They have become quite involved with the area art group and enjoy spreading their talent and knowledge about gourd art. Both are also avid fine art painters.



**Michelle**



**Anne**



**Dorothy**



# WORKSHOPS :



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## Completed Workshops

### Beginner Gourd Art

Joe – Hard working student



Douglas



### Zipper Gourd

Find the finished gourds in the gallery



### Gourd Doll



Find the finished gourds in the gallery

### Fun with Alcohol Ink



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## Upcoming Gourd Workshops

There are no scheduled workshops over the summer months.

For workshop information, dates and times, log onto the ACP website  
([www.acp35.wildapricot.org](http://www.acp35.wildapricot.org)).



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## TIP FOR CRAFTING SPECIAL GOURDS

For gourds which are not cut open, which will bring a high retail price, involve lots of time in crafting or gourds which have thin shells, a large hole or cracked. One of our customers who paints expensive gourds uses this technique to protect his gourds in case they are dropped.

- ❖ Drill a small hole [about ¼"] near the stem, where the stem was, or use another opening.
- ❖ Inject some **Expanding Foam Insulation** which comes in a spray can and can be purchased at most hardware or lumber yards.
- ❖ It expands several times it's size and fills all open spaces. It is extremely sticky but dries hard and is lightweight.
- ❖ After reading the directions, simply insert the plastic tube inside the gourd.
- ❖ Inject in one hour stages allowing for expansion until the foam pushes out the hole & do not restrict the outward expansion. Allow the excess to harden, cut off and sand smooth.
- ❖ Our customer said he had dropped gourds which literally bounced like a ball instead of cracking

(Copied from: "GOURD NEWS from OZARK COUNTRY CREATIONS" – January 10, 1998)



## **TIP FOR REPAIRING CRACKS, HOLES & THE SAW-CUT AROUND CUT -OUT PLUGS**

Gourds basically have three different types of pulp – *styrofoam*, *honeycomb-beehive*, & *paper-thin sheets*. Each type works best for a different problem.

First, applying a liberal amount of yellow **Elmer's Carpenter Glue**:

- ❖ Holes – Use the honeycomb type by soaking in the glue for a short time before working it into the gourd.
- ❖ Cracks – Use thin Styrofoam pieces about the thickness of the crack and soaked in the glue.
- ❖ Narrow Cracks & the Crack around a cut-out Plug – Use the thinnest sheet of pulp. They can be glued flat on the gourd surface to cover cracks

After the repair has dried overnight, finish sanding removes any roughness. Unlike the slick surface that glue leaves, this method allows you to paint, wood burn or carve the repaired area.

Reference: (Method used by Kati Breeding, Monroe, Va.) "*GOURD NEWS from OZARK COUNTRY CREATIONS*" – January 10, 1998)

## **TUTORIAL**

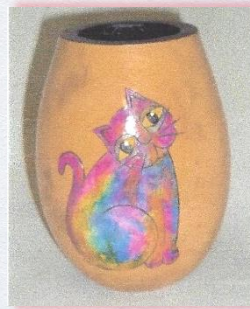
This tutorial is a workshop that Barbara taught the Kavartha Gourders. It is a lot of fun and tests your creativity. You cannot be sure what the end result will be until you finish.

### **FUN WITH ALCOHOL INKS**

BARBARA BELLCHAMBERS BELLCHAM75@GMAIL.COM

#### **Materials**

Clean gourd – I suggest you start small!  
Pencil  
Colourless masking fluid  
Alcohol Inks  
Paint pallet, waxed paper  
Small spray bottle  
91% rubbing alcohol  
Small paint brushes  
White paint  
Paper towel or cotton balls  
Variable temperature wood burner  
Skew or other straight edge burner pen  
Varnish



#### **Directions:**

- Using design of your choice, draw it on your gourd with a pencil.
- Burn the outline and any other necessary lines, e.g. eyes.
- Wipe off any pencil lines.
- Using a small paint brush, paint a ¼" line of masking fluid on the outside of the design.
- Wash your brush carefully to remove all the masking fluid.
- Paint all your design with white paint. This makes the colours more brilliant.
- Prepare your colours of ink, putting only a drop on your pallet.
- Using a brush, dab or brush on your colour starting with the lightest and working towards the darkest.
  - Do not be precise as you are going to move the colours next.
- Put alcohol in a small spray bottle.
- Holding your gourd so the coloured design is horizontal, spray the alcohol a little.
- Spray some more until the colours slowly blend together and soften the lines.
  - If it starts to run, use a cotton ball or paper towel and lightly wipe off the excess.
  - When you are pleased with your colours, let it dry
- Rub your finger over the masking fluid lines, it will roll into a ball which you can lift to remove.
  - Make sure you have removed all the masking fluid by passing your fingers over the whole design. You will be able to feel if any is left.
- You can add bits of colour if desired, the eyes, nose, any details.
- I like to heat set the ink to be sure it is dry before varnishing or waxing.

**HAVE FUN!**

# MEMBER GALLERY



Michelle Adams  
'Doll Workshop'



Dorothy Hawkins  
'Doll Workshop'



Anne Carling  
'Doll Workshop'



Sharon Devine



Barbara Bellchambers  
'Doll Workshop'  
*Flowers made of gourds*





Barb Powell



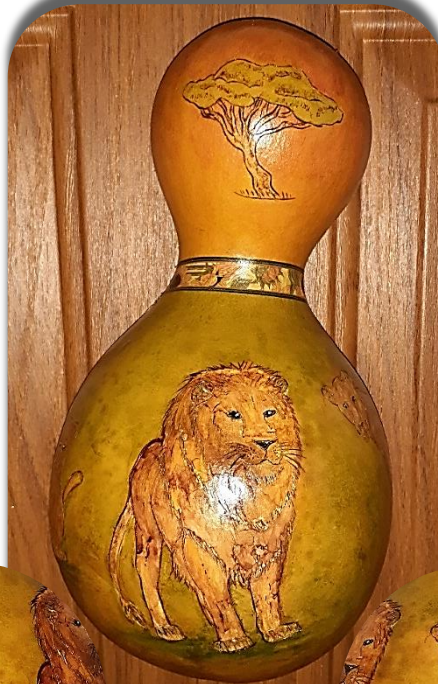
Lydia Roussel-Graham



Julia Hayes



Sharon Devine



Sharron Anstey  
'Fun with Alcohol Ink'  
Door/Wall hanging



Lois Shaw  
Fused Glass over  
Burned Gourd



Anne Carling  
'Fun with Alcohol Ink'  
Ornament



Anne Carling  
'Fun with Alcohol Ink'  
Ornament







Michelle Adams  
Creative Masks



Lydia Roussel-Graham



Julia Hayes



Sharon Devine



Sharon Devine



Julia Hayes  
Ocean Drum



Michelle Adams





Barbara Bellchambers



Sharon Devine



Michelle Adams



Sharron Anstey  
*Mini Vase with Pyro designs*



Lydia Roussel-Graham



Anne Carling  
*Hanging Lamp*



Julia Hayes



Barb Powell  
*Warty gourds made into Daisies*





Barbara Bellchambers  
'Zipper Workshop'



Michelle Adams  
'Zipper Workshop'



Lois Shaw  
'Zipper Workshop'



Sharron Anstey  
'Zipper Workshop'



Sharon Devine



Michelle Adams



Michelle Adams



Sharon Devine



Barb Powell  
*Netting on small gourds*



Lydia Roussel-Graham



Julia Hayes





Sharon Devine uses this plug to close the hole on the bottom of the gourd when she fills them with sand to make them heavier. They make a nice tight fit.



Barb Powell is creating a field of gourd mushrooms...a work in progress!



Julia Hayes' gourd crop

## CREATIVITY: "

- ✚ "Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." – Vincent Van Gogh
- ✚ "Creativity is more than just being different. Anybody can plan weird; that's easy. What's hard is to be as simple as Bach. Making the simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity." – Charles Mingus
- ✚ "You can't use up creativity. The more the you use, the more you have." –Maya Angelou

## GOURDS – NATURE'S POTTERY

### Did you know:

- Gourd bottles dated to 7000 B.C. have been found in ancient cave dwellings of Mexico;
- Tombs of the Egyptian pharaohs were stocked with gourd containers to keep the departed supplied for the journey to the great beyond;
- For thousand of years the Peruvian Indians used gourds as floats for their fishing nets;
- In Japan, intricately carved and lacquered gourds were used to store sake;
- Russia and Burma inlaid gourd containers with silver;
- Hawaiians used huge basket gourds for storing seeds.

Reference: Eric Carlson, Cusick & Taylor. The Complete Book of Nature Craft Rodale Press: Emmaus, Penn, 1992

**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.**

**STAY SAFE!**

**KEEP ON GOURDING!**

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