

THE CANADIAN GOURDER

Fall - 2024



Pinterest



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall 2024

October, Fall, and how many of us have gourds growing still on the vine? Please do not cut them off until after at least one good frost to set the gourds. Remember they are not like pumpkins that need to be harvested before the frost, gourds need more time on the vine. My 4 gourds are happily still hanging on the vines, held up with my mother-in-law's stockings, the old ones from before panty hose! She would not be happy to know the stockings she saved for so long are now holding up gourds. I hope they will continue to hold them on the fence until spring arrives.



I recently had the pleasure to introduce lots of children and their parents to ornament gourds at a "LOCAL" show in the centre of Lansdowne Mall in Peterborough. I had prepared 100 ornament gourds by cleaning them and adding a mini-screw in the top for hanging. Knowing that paints can be very messy, I took an assortment of markers for the children to use to colour the gourds. What fun! The artists ranged from those who could scribble a bit on the gourd, to others who planned what they would do, and spent a lot of time getting their gourd coloured just right. You never know where the next gourd artisan will come from!



Do you receive the American Gourd Society magazine? You can receive it as a pdf or get it mailed to you. The magazine is so worth paying for with so many ideas in it. The fall 2020 magazine had instructions for how to make bobble-head animals out of gourds. The Kawartha Gourders had fun making a variety of different animals using the directions. There is always lots of interesting material in the magazine which is very useful. Without a group to work with, it is a great source of ideas. Go to their website and sign up! You won't regret it.

Yours in gourding,
Barbara



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBERSHIP.....

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. Information/questions regarding the CGS newsletter can be sent to 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), and on the ACP website (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 for consideration to have it advertised on the website, (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.

ARTISANity....

The Artisans Centre Peterborough is holding its Fall ARTISANity Show and Sale the first Friday and Saturday in November at the Peterborough Mall. In addition to the beautiful, colourful and inspiring gourds, there will be wood turned items, fine jewelry, fibre work, and much more ... a wonderful opportunity to start gift shopping.

GOURDS FOR SALE....

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

GOURD CROPS....



Julie-Anne's Ornamental gourds.



Julie-Anne Wallewin's Saskatchewan farm gourd crops.

GOURD CROPS....CONT'D



Sharon Devine's
Gourd Crop and Gourd Hut helper,
"Ava"



WORKSHOPS :



Completed Workshops

Beginner Gourd Art



Albert



Irene



Rose



Lois



Dorothy



Marilyn

Sassy Chickens



Michelle

Advanced Pyrography



Upcoming Gourd Workshops

Make a Festive Wreath

Oct 21st



Gourd with a Wire Tree

Nov 11th



Beginner Gourd Art

Nov 25th



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



PATCH REPORT

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

The past three months have been hot and humid here in Peterborough. Our Monday get-togethers vary in numbers as everyone always has lots to do in the summer. We met four new gourders in workshops, celebrated three birthdays and had a 4-day retreat in Muskoka again this year.

Lois adopted 'Hunter', the beautiful, and very cute, kitten in the picture...a competitor for Tankar, our retreat mascot. Anne deserted us for a three-week vacation in Ireland with her family. Michelle took up kayaking with her husband while, Dorothy and Patti have immersed themselves in the art world around Belleville.

The last week of August seven gourders were invited to the country for a retreat. It is always a lot of fun to learn new techniques, eat so many varieties of food (*so much food!*), swim, eat smores at the fire pit and generally relax and enjoy the atmosphere. This year project one was *faux-raku*, which seemed to be a bit of a challenge with a couple of different methods and kinds of crackle medium tried. Most of the gourds were taken home to be completed. A *bobble head doll/pet* was an exciting project and produced wonderful creations. (*See them in the gallery!*) It was amazing to watch as different ideas flew across the table amid laughter and joking. The last project was the most challenging and new to most of us. It involved carving and embedding broken china, glass, gravel, stones and whatever else was available. No one finished at the time but all took a gourd home to complete. Of course, Tankar, the lab always enjoys the extra attention he gets from everyone.



TUTORIAL

OAK LEAVES TUTORIAL

(adapted from the original free internet tutorial by the late Reggie Eakin)

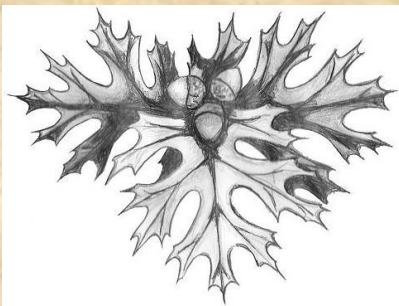
MATERIALS:

Clean small to medium gourd (cut or uncut). Any shape but this design works well on cannon ball or small pear-shaped gourds.

- Transfer paper, pencil, red pen,
- Memory Ink or Ink Dye of some sort
- Scissors, Tape, Ruler
- Mask
- Hair Dryer/Heat Gun
- Ink Applicators
- Sandpaper or sanding tools that you like to use.
- Rubber Gloves
- Varnish/Clear Acrylic Sealer and Brush for varnish/sealer

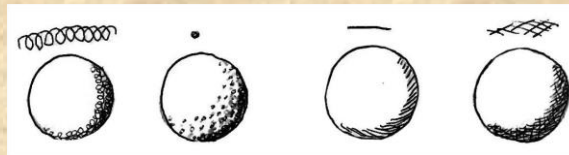
TOOLS:

- Adjustable wood burner, a small ball tip pen, a skew tip pen, a rotary tool with a ball cutter.



Oak Leaf Cluster

1. Trace the design to the desired location on your gourd. Use the red pen to trace over the pattern. (add extra leaves if desired)
2. Using a skew tip pen burn the outline of the leaves, veins and acorns.
3. Using a ball shader pen darken the shadows and shape of the leaves and acorns.
4. The shading can be done using any of the traditional ways to create shadows.
Increasing the heat or slowing your hand movement will darken the shading.



5. If you have chosen to ring the neck of the gourd with oak leaves those patterns should be drawn on the gourd and burned before proceeding to add ink dye colouring.
6. Using ink dye, you may or may not choose to LIGHTLY dye the leaves. It takes very little ink dye to add colour. Use it sparingly.



7. Using ink dye, colour the rest of the gourd up to the outline of the leaves.
8. Heat set the ink dyes.
9. Using a carving tool with a ball shaped bur LIGHTLY etch an area around the oak leaves.
10. Spray the gourd with a fixative that preserves the light colour of the gourd pulp.

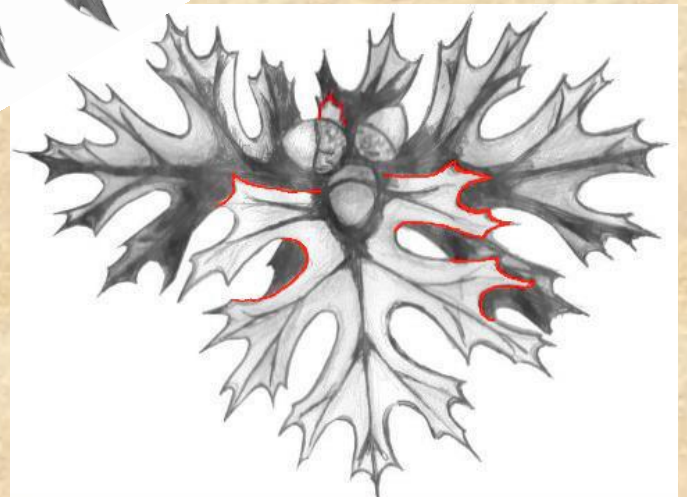
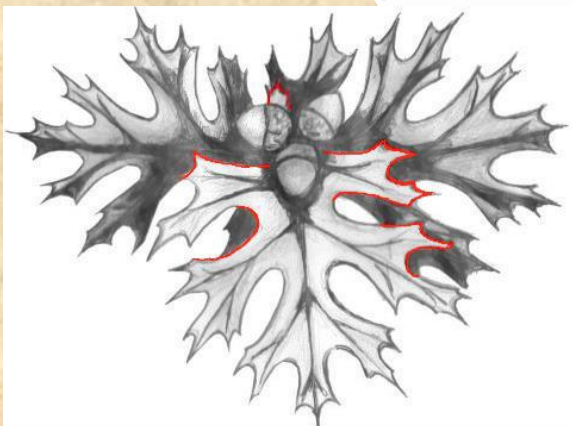
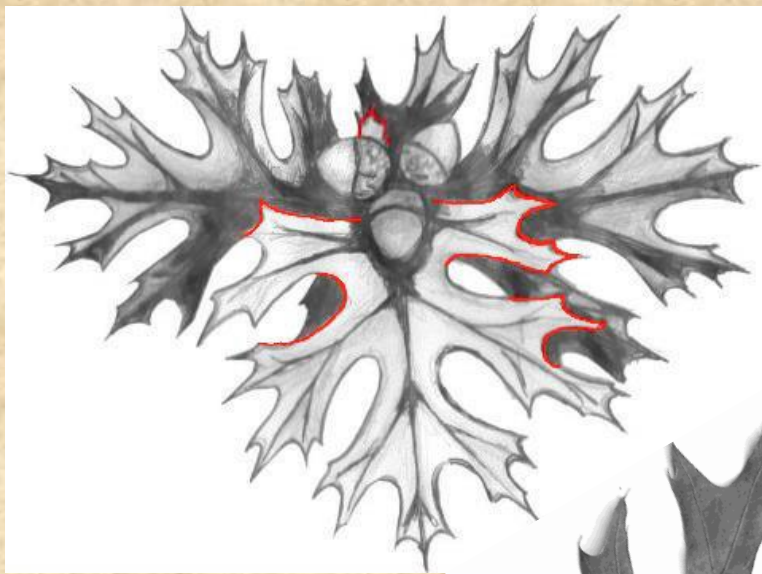


Oak Leaves Tutorial ... cont'd

How to apply heat to draw on a gourd surface:

1. Do not bear down on the burning pen. Let it glide on the surface.
2. Start at a low heat for drawing on a gourd. If you see smoke, you are probably too hot for drawing.
3. Make long lines by turning the gourd and holding your hand in a fixed location.
4. Begin new lines in a darkened area of the gourd.
5. End a line by lifting the pen like a plane taking off from the ground.
6. DO NOT stop before lifting the pen or you will create a dark dimple.
7. Vary the darkness of a line or shading by varying the heat, speed of movement, or repeatedly going over that area.
8. Gourds have a lot of surface trash that should be cleaned from the pen point using leather or light sanding paper.

The way that you use the tool changes dramatically when you use it to carve or accent carvings. Lighter duty burning tools may not hold up under the high heat used in gourd deep relief carvings. Carving with heat creates lots of smoke.



MEMBER GALLERY



Barbara Bellchambers
'Alcohol Ink'



Dorothy Hawkins
'Alcohol Ink'



Julie-Anne Wallewin
'Gourd Vase & Flower'



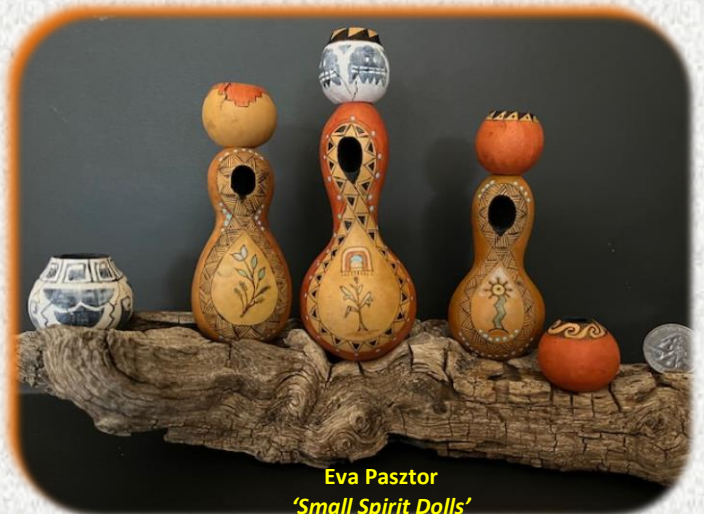
Michelle Adams
'Alcohol Ink'





Barbara Bellchambers

-Bowl with gourd butterfly appliques-



Eva Pasztor
'Small Spirit Dolls'

-class at Arizona Gourd Society retreat-



Sharron Anstey
'Spirit Doll'



Michelle Adams
'Worty'

-on a warty gourd-



Sharon Devine
-customer request-



Albert Furtado
-Beginner workshop -



Pinterest



Marilyn Wedlock

SASSY CHICKENS



Dorothy Hawkins



Rose Kriedmann



Barbara Bellchambers



Barbara Bellchambers



Lois Shaw



Barbara Bellchambers
'Faux Raku'



Dorothy Hawkins
'Bleeding Hearts'
-watercolour-



Sharron Anstey
'Faux Raku'



Eva Pasztor
'Love Bird'

-class at Arizona Gourd Society retreat-



Sharron Anstey
'Mini Vase'
-burned & dyed-



Julie-Anne Wallewin
'Nativity Figures'



Julie-Anne Wallewin
'Nativity Figures'



Irene Fontaine
-Beginner Workshop-



Sharon Devine
-ready for Hallowe'en-



Dorothy Hawkins
-carved, burned & dyed-

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Barbara Bellchambers
'Bobblehead Cat'



Dorothy Hawkins
'Bobblehead Dog'



Lois Shaw
'Bobblehead Sheep'
-on a warty gourd-



Michelle Adams
'Bobblehead Hippo'



Pinterest



Julie-Anne Wallewin
'Etched vase'



Sharron Anstey
'Ornament'



Michelle Adams



Sharron Anstey
'Tea Light'



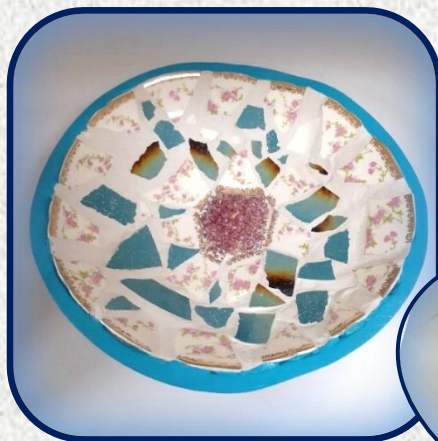
Dorothy Hawkins
'Half gourd pot'
Mounted on gesso on canvas



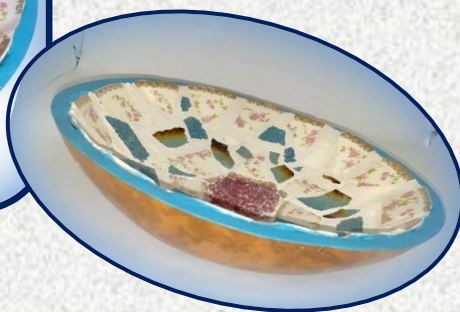
Dorothy Hawkins
'Gourd butterflies'
Mounted on gesso on board



Dorothy Hawkins
'Half gourd pot'
Mounted on gesso on canvas



Michelle Adams
'Gourd bowl'
Embedded with china mosaics



Sharron Anstey



WARNING **GOURD CARVING POX**

**HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS TO ADULT FEMALES
MAY ALSO BE CONTRACTED BY ADULT MALES**

SYMPTOMS - Patient has blank, "dusty" expression, often deaf to family members. Has no taste for normal household activities. Continual complaint as to need for trips to gourd farms, and brings home miscellaneous plant items for "embellishing". Frequent time spent on the internet and perusing craft and tool sites. Always has gourd dust in pockets and other odd places. Makes secret purchases of supplies and hides them from family. Mumbles to self about "patch meetings". **NO KNOWN CURE**

Treatment - Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal. Victim should be allowed to carve as often as possible.

Gourdella Curcubitae - Department of Public Health



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!

S. Anstey



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