

THE CANADIAN GOURDER



Winter / Spring - 2024 / 25



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CGS news March 2025

After a cold, snowy winter, many gourders are beginning to plan for growing and working on gourds. Some gourders only carve and burn their gourds when they can work outdoors, to keep their home dust and scent free..Members of Kawartha Gourders are fortunate to be able to work year-round on gourds as we share a "Power Room" with woodturners at Artisans Centre Peterborough. The room is equipped with a large vacuum that removes much of the dust. We also have 2 large air cleaners in the room which remove any remaining dust as we work. Of course, we also wear good masks as our first way to keep our lungs clean. It is such a treat to have a devoted room to store and work with our tools safely. Gourders are also considering what gourds to grow this year, what seeds they have on hand, what seeds they want to trade for. Have fun preparing for a great gourd growing season!

My last summer's gourds, all 4 of them, are still hanging on the fence, supported by Gramma's stockings. Although the gourds have changed from green to brown, they are still quite heavy. We just need some warmth to suck out the remaining moisture from inside the gourds. I cannot wait to take them off the fence and clean off the surface to see how they look.

I have enjoyed introducing some friends to working with melted crayons. As they were not gourders, I provided wooden discs to work on. They had a blast, experimenting with a variety of colours, watching how they move and mix together depending on how they hold the heat gun. After they left, with the equipment all still out on my work table, I decided to do the same thing on a gourd I was working on. The biggest difference was that suddenly instead of a flat surface I was working with a curved one. I found that using the heat gun from the outside of the crayon helped keep the crayon from sliding way out of place. I hope you enjoy the tutorial experimenting with the melted crayons.



Happy Spring to all Canadian Gourders!

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. Suzanne Erickson, from Langley, BC, is the latest addition. She has been gourding for a while. A wonderful artist and a keen gourder, she says she would like to start a *gourd patch* nearby. Her website (suzanneerickson.ca or just google her name) has a beautiful showing of her work. She can also be contacted through her website if any BC gourder is interested in being part of a patch.

If anyone else is interested in starting a gourding 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 Spring ARTISANity Show and Sale Friday and Saturday, April 25th and 26th, 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 find exciting items for your gardens, as gifts, or just for your own pleasure.

GOURDS FOR SALE....

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



Marilyn Van Gerven



Remember Hunter, Lois' Maine Coon cat, in the last newsletter...six months later he sits beside his gourd friend, bobble head sheep.

WORKSHOPS :

Completed Workshops



Festive Wreath



Wire Tree on a Gourd



Gourd Decorations

Make a Guiro



Zip Up Your Gourd



Night Light

Upcoming Gourd Workshops



Spring Up a Gourd Chicken

Experiment with Crayons



Ocean Drum



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

Special Workshops – Barbara and Anne provide craft workshops to the ODA in the Peterborough area. The passport members of ODA love to attend and call themselves the “Keen Crafters”. December’s project was a wreath and March focused on St. Patrick’s Day.



Holding their wreaths



Anne Carling



Showing shamrock pictures & necklaces

- wearing the necklace she taught the members how to make-

PATCH REPORT

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

Since the last newsletter at the end of September, the next six months have been eventful. Some Mondays the group had two or three gourdng; other days there were seven or eight. Marilyn and Marianne have both returned after lengthy breaks; Anne returned from her Ireland trip; Dorothy went to Florida to visit a fellow-gourder and friend who wanted to learn how to make a zipper gourd; Lois travelled to the sunny south where she enjoyed snorkeling in the warm, turquoise seas; and Marianne made a solo trip to hike and camp in the Grand Canyon.



Christmas is always a busy time for everyone and part of the fun is the decorating. The season wouldn't seem festive without the annual Christmas party. Of course, Barbara always comes up with creative ideas and games. This year the challenge was to place a paper plate on your head and draw a Christmas tree. Anne supervised the making of gourd ornament deer. And... it wouldn't be Christmas without a group photo with Santa.

We all enjoy the many workshops and the comradery in the group. Marilyn was so thrilled with her wire tree that she has made five of them. The various guiros that were created gave some idea who liked big vs small. Anne's night lights were a big hit and, luckily Dorothy kept her balance as she climbed in the dark closet to see what hers looked like when lit.

This winter has been a bit of a struggle with the amount of snow, making it difficult at times to drive. Everyone is looking forward to spring, checking last year's gourds for dryness and starting this season's crop. While grass and buds are starting to peek through in the Kawarthas, the northern country still has several feet to plow through...lucky Sharron!



MELTED CRAYON GOURD NECKLACES

Barbara Bellchambers

bellcham75@gmail.com



MATERIALS:

Stylus or small pieces of wooden ¼" rod. The plain end of a paint brush also works!
Old brushes that you can discard after you finish
Crayola Crayons
Pieces of gourd
Heated pad or electric frying pan
Aluminum foil
Hobby Knife
Silicone cupcake holders or cupcake pan (referred to as crayon holder)
Plastic table cover
Wet ones or paper towels
Heat gun

PREPARATION:

- Prepare your gourd pieces by cutting out the shape you want, (circle, oval, square or triangle). Clean the skin of the gourd and sand the inside (back) to be smooth. Set aside.
- Cover your work space with a plastic table cover.
- Place either a piece of cardboard or a paper towel to do your work on.
- Using a hobby knife, run the tip of the blade down the length of the crayons. You will then be able to pull off the paper and discard it.
- Break off pieces of crayon that will fit in the crayon holder.
- Cover heat source with foil to make clean up easier.
- Turn on heat source at medium or low.
- Place the crayon holders in the heated pan or on the heated pad, and allow the crayons to melt.
 - o Adjust the heat to keep the crayons melted.

COLOURING YOUR GOURD PIECE:

- Place your gourd piece on your cardboard or paper towel.
- Use the heat gun to heat your gourd piece.
- Place a brush in your base colour to heat it up, and then spread on the gourd piece.
- Take a stylus and dip it in your choice of colour and put a drop or line on top of the gourd. Make as many marks as you like with that colour.
- Wipe your stylus and continue to use a couple more colours until you are pleased with what you have.
- If you want narrow lines, use the hobby knife. First warm it up, then dip it in the melted crayon and you can make lines in the crayon.

PLEASE NOTE: your design will move around when you heat it, so do not try to make a specific shape or design or you will be disappointed!

- Use the heat gun to move your colours around, starting from the outside, and not getting too close. If you are not satisfied with what you do, just wipe off the crayon after reheating and try again. Or you can add more colour to what you have. Trial and error!

MELTED CRAYON GOURD NECKLACES – cont'd

FINISHING YOUR PIECE:

- To keep the crayon from melting in the sun add a layer of Varnish, Triple Thick, or another finish.
- o Let dry completely. You can add more layers to be sure it is sealed well.
- You can use a piece of ribbon, lace, or leather to cover the edge of the gourd.
- Varnish or paint the back of the gourd to seal it.
- You can either add a jewellery bail to hang your gourd on, or screw in a tiny screw.
- You can use a chain, or whatever you want to complete the necklace.



MORE INFORMATION:

When you are comfortable with applying the crayon and finishing it, you can try using the same method on a full-size gourd. Note that gourds are round and not flat, so you need to be aware that if you do a large area it can spread over the skin of the gourd.

Editor's added note:

Barbara uses several heating pots and adds little metal containers on top of the main colour to heat more colours.

She has also experimented finishing the back with heated powders and granules before doing the crayons on the front.

"A beautiful finishing technique."



Check the newsletter gallery to see Barbara's wonderful cannon ball gourd decorated with the melted crayons and zippers.

OTHER CRAFTS



Barbara Bellchambers
Paper Strip sculpture



"Last fall, with some urging from a friend, I taught myself how to Tat. It is a dying art form. I watched a few videos and have a couple of pattern books. Once you have the technique down, it is pretty easy. You just don't want to make a mistake, as it is very hard to rip out."

Julie-Anne Wallewein



Barb Powell
"Fabric Painting"



Barb Powell
"Alcohol ink on container top. I'm looking forward to learning more and putting it on gourds."



"I am also crocheting these stackable toys for new babies in our extended family and for friends. They are fun to make."

Julie-Anne Wallewein

MEMBER GALLERY

SEASON GOURDS



Marilyn Van Gerven



Sharon Devine



Michelle Adams



Michelle Adams



Michelle Adams



Dorothy Hawkins



Marilyn Van Gerven



Ann Carling



Ann Carling



Barbara Bellchambers

MEMBER GALLERY

Julie-Anne Wallewein



The pink flower has a poppy seed pod and pink wire stamens. It is attached to a slice of rock.

The flowers are made up of gourd pieces, which have been painted with acrylic paint. The yellow flower centre is a poppy seed bulb with wire stamens and is on a gourd base.

The red flower centre is dyed Crayola Model Magic with purple stamens and a gold bead in the middle. It is attached to a gourd cutout.



Lois Shaw

Distressed gourd pot



Dorothy Hawkins



Dorothy Hawkins



Marilyn Van Gerven



Suzanne Erickson

GUIROS

WALK TO THE BEAT



Ann Carling



Hand Etched
Andean Guiro
Mission Del Rey



Marilyn Van Gerven



Barbara Bellchambers



Michelle Adams



Native American
(Puerto Rico)
Metropolitan Museum
of Art



Diana King



Sharon Devine



Ann Carling
"Octopus"



NIGHT LIGHTS

GET OUT OF THE DARK



Barbara Bellchambers



Pinterest



Michelle Adams



WiseWomenArt



WiseWomenArt



Dorothy Hawkins



Marilyn
Van Gerven



"Mini gourd
topss"

Barb Powell



Sharron Anstey

Suzanne Erickson





Suzanne Erickson



Barbara Bellchambers



Barb Powell
"Daisy gourd with alcohol ink and resin coating"



Anne Carling



Diana King
"Zipper gourd"



Dorothy Hawkins
"Bunny ornament"



Sharron Anstey



Julie-Anne Wallewein

"Emerald Isle evolved from a tall gourd to this. The outside is dyed with alcohol ink and I used crackle paint on the inside with gold as the first coat and black as the second."

ANIMAL FARM



Anne Carling
'Bobble Head'



Pinterest



Marilyn Van Gerven



Pinterest



Sharron Anstey



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Michelle Adams



Dorothy Hawkins
'Bunny ornament'



Sharron Anstey



Pinterest



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven
"Live your Dream"



Sharron Anstey



"Mini gourd bottoms for mini baskets, with pine needle, leather, and some beads"

Barb Powell

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." C.S. Lewis



Anne Carling



Dorothy Hawkins

Painted gesso background on a black canvas board with two gourd shards with dog portraits, quikwood bone and toys glued on.



Julie-Anne Wellewein

"'Wrapped' is a small gourd with ribbon that is pyrographed wrapping the gourd. Black Ink fills in the negative space with sparkly dots and gold accents."



Barbara Bellchambers
Inlaid different textured materials



Barbara Bellchambers
Melted crayon and zippers



Sharon Devine



Dorothy Hawkins
Stained glass effect using
lead tape



Marilyn Van Gerven



Barbara Bellchambers



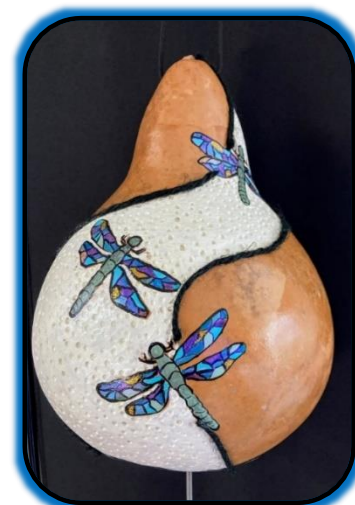
Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven

"I am working on expanding my skill set and went to Florida this past week to take in some workshops. Carving the leaf, I learned about petrified wood and a knife-like drill bit that cuts through gourds like butter."



WIRE TREES



Anne Carling



Barbara Bellchambers



Sharron Anstey



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven
With a light



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven
With a light ➡



Marilyn Van Gerven



China & Gourds

Did You Know...

Gourds in China have a deeper meaning than they have in western cultures, where we have fun drying and painting them. In history, gourds were used for keeping or transporting water, wine, medicines and magic potions. However, in Chinese beliefs, gourds also mean protection and blessing and were often used as charms for scaring away malefic spirits and diseases.

In Asia, gourds are often tied with rope to manipulate them into a figure eight, a lucky number in China. This is the same technique our American pioneer in gourd manipulation, Jim Storey, used.

Chinese parents believed that hanging a gourd near a child would keep chicken pox and measles spirits away. The spirits would travel inside the gourds. If the child still got sick, they believed it wasn't as severe because of the hanging gourd. Elderly people often carried gourds on their backs, as they were associated with old age and longevity.

In some areas of China, during the Mid-autumn festival, it is believed that gourds should be stolen out of the field and kept at home. This will give hope for the bearing of more children.

In Daoism, the shape of the gourd represents a magical world, or an entry into another world, among other things. Old Chinese stories describe people accidentally taking small and narrow paths, entering a magical world, and enjoying peace and long life. In some Chinese parks and gardens, gourd shaped gates are common.

Sime, Ivona, *The History of Gourds in China*, *The Chairmans Bao*, <https://www.thechairmansbao.com/>

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Y



Jenna Bellchambers

S
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G



Barbara Bellchambers

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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