

THE CANADIAN GOURDER

Summer - 2022



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Fellow Canadian Gourders,

I cannot help but wonder how many of you are growing gourds, and how they are doing. I have 2 small kettle gourd plants that are still growing but much too slowly for me. I also have one surviving Jewellery gourd plant; the other one died as did a spinner plant. Fingers crossed all three of my remaining plants prosper and produce gourds, and that all yours do as well. Hopefully our daily attention to their growth and our hearty encouragement will be successful.

The Kawartha Gourders are back working in the Artisans Centre in Peterborough, and along with the other groups are trying to build up classes for the rest of the year. Two long years of covid dramatically cut into our progress with teaching and learning. Many are happy to be able to safely return to the centre. We have two objectives for the next few months: one is working with a local Art Group to produce Sunflower oriented items to sell late August to raise money for the Ukrainian people; the other will be a display of all the techniques we have done on gourds for the end of September during Culture Days in Peterborough. We will also be doing demonstrations and have a 'Make and Take' activity for all ages that day. Our hope is to both educate the public on what can be done with gourds, and also to create more interest in gourding.

Last Monday a group of 5 gourders were steadily working away when another sparkling member we had not seen for a long time arrived, putting smiles on all our faces with her enthusiasm as she caught us up on what she has been up to and her plans for her next project. I cannot overstate how much joy there is working with other gourders regularly. If anyone was listening in during our session, they would hear the laughter, offerings of chocolate - milk or dark - though everyone knows that dark is the best there is, questions of "Does this look right?" or "What colour should I use?" or similar questions. Requests for help receive a variety of answers as each person often gives their very knowledgeable opinion. Often a couple of woodturners arrive during the day to work in the power room or to sit and chat with us. Fibre people sometimes similarly drop by. What great discussions we have and sharing of ideas! I sure wish you could all be part of a group of gourders like ours.

We are still hoping to buckle down to recording some of our classes come the fall. We tried to record a couple over the past year, but soon found out that it did not work well to record during a class. Too much background noise and interference. We will look for a quiet spot to do our recording without students. I almost said "if" but realize that I need to say "when" we get classes recorded, we will be able to share them with you by computer. Something to look forward to!

Enjoy your summer, absorb the warmth of sunny days, and be on the lookout for what you can add or use on your gourd projects.

Smiles
Barbara,



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest members: Mary Hatcher who lives in Nova Scotia; Eva Pasztor from Alberta; and Pamela Davy who lives in the Peterborough area.

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 or contact by Phone: 705-775-1797 or at canadiangourders@gmail.com. If you are in the area, drop in and visit. Gourd workshops are posted on www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders, the Kawartha Gourder Facebook page and on the ACP website (www.acp35.wildapricot.org).



Editor's Blurp:

This is a complementary e-copy to all members, former members and individuals who have expressed an interest in gourding. We hope you have enjoyed looking at the fun craft of gourding. If you know anyone who would like to receive an e-mail copy of the CGS newsletter and might have an interest in gourding, please send me their contact information. It would be great to get more Canadian interest in this artistic craft. As a painter in acrylics and watercolour, I can vouch for gourding as an artistic challenge. The gourd is a canvas like no other. Not only is it smooth, achieving perspective on a round surface is no easy task. Unlike a canvas or piece of watercolour paper, it can be carved, chipped, burned, coloured and provide functional items. Take the opportunity to log onto both the Canadian Gourd Society and American Gourd Society websites to see for yourself what can be accomplished with a gourd. Canadian membership has declined over the past few years while the United States has many gourding groups in multiple states. It would be exciting to see it grow again in our country. There are no membership fees but if you have let your membership lapse prior to 2020 and would like to be reinstated on our member list, e-mail me at sharron.anstey19@gmail.com and your information will be updated.

Sharron Anstey

CGS WEBSITE.....

The CGS website has been updated and 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.....

Don't forget to 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT'D

GOURDS FOR SALE.....

If you are interested in buying gourds contact Barbara Bellchambers (bellcham@nexicom.net), and let her know what you need/want.



FALL ARTISANITY.....

ARTISANity, our fall sale, is being held again. This year it will run from November 10th to the 12th. It was a great success last December and we hope to get everyone started on making gourd items early and spur on early holiday shopping. Again, there will be a wide selection of beautiful gourds, fibre work, pottery and wood turned items. If you are in the Kawartha area, come and see what you might buy for yourself or that special other. More information will follow in the September issue of *The Canadian Gourder*.

SPRING ARTISANITY

"Creativity takes courage."

--Henri Matisse

April Artisanity, held in the mall corridor outside the Artisans Centre, went off without a hitch. Everyone pitched in to get it set up and put away each evening. Although sales could have been better it was an excellent opportunity to display our wonderful, artistic gourds that we work so hard to create.



PATCH REPORT

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

*"The principles of true art is
not to portray, but to evoke."*

--Jerzy Kosinski

There has been a fair amount of activity with the group over the past three months. We have had several workshops and been challenged in a number of different ways. Although we have been adhering to all of the Covid-19 requirements, it hasn't stopped five regular attendees (and a few occasionals) from enjoying the camaraderie and friendly bantering behind the masks. We welcomed Pamela, a new member, to the group. Pam at one time owned a craft shop and brings a wealth of new ideas, techniques and possibilities.

Sad to say, no one across the country or in this particular patch met Barbara's challenge in the last newsletter to make a 'totem' pole out of gourd shards/pieces. Our latest undertaking comes from Art-2 Peterborough who are hosting a fundraiser for the people of Ukraine on August 20th in Peterborough Square. They have asked if we would be interested in contributing items to sell. The theme is Sunflowers or anything of a Ukrainian nature. We are having a Sunflower gourd work day at ACP Monday, July 11th and a Decorated Egg (wooden/gourd) on Monday, July 25th. This editor challenges all the Kawartha gourders to come out, join us in contributing to a very worthwhile cause, and have fun reconnecting with fellow-gourders. If you can't join us, think about making something at home and dropping it off at the centre.



Sunflower pin
by Barbara B.

A few of the patch members have been adding to our in-house project from time to time. The eight+ foot long gourd leans in a corner for anyone to add to it.



Over the last three months there have been 5 workshops/classes scheduled. Dorothy's wonderful ammonite gourds and birdhouse classes are always exciting. Anne's beginner's gourding brought Pamela to us and Sharron challenged the group with a sea turtle and carved bark with a nesting creature. Patti took her birdhouse class to Belleville and from the looks of her participants, it was a great success.



A few of our members grow (or try to) their own gourds.

Dorothy is the most fruitful in her back yard; Marilyn has a huge garden; Anne has one wee plant; Michelle has produced quite a few; and as Barbara mentioned, she has three that she is crossing her fingers for.



Anne



Michelle



Michelle's crop



Dorothy – x-lg tomato cages support 8 plants
14 plants in this year. 3 different kinds

November harvest left out all winter on palettes
Lost 1 plant to the wind storm



WORKSHOPS

COMPLETED



Ammonite Gourd
Gourd Birdhouse Workshop
Gourd Sea Turtle Workshop
Beginner Gourd Art
Gourd Tree Bark with Nesting Animal/Bird



Again
Dorothy!



FUTURE WORKSHOPS

If you wish to stay up-to-date on current workshops and gourdng activities in the Peterborough area, check out the Artisans Centre website at www.acp35.wildapricot.org or www.artisanscentre.ca.

SPECIAL

In a recent internet search for various cultural histories of gourds, I came across the following photos of gourd canteens. I hope you enjoy them as much as I have.

Sharron



African Calabash gourd water milk canteen



African gourd canteen



African gourd canteen



Rare African milk gourd canteen



American Indian gourd canteen



Japanese double gourd canteen



Early American gourd canteen & cup



Cameroon calabash canteen



Corsican gourd canteen



Apache gourd canteen



Medieval gourd canteen



Southwest style painted gourd canteen



Native-American gourd canteen



Suitou-Smarai gourd-canteen

HOW TO MAKE GOURD CANTEENS

BY: CYNTHIA MYERS

REFERENCE: WWW.EHOW.COM/HOW_5372154_MAKE-GOURD-CANTEEN

Things You'll Need

Gourd	Small drill or Dremel tool
Bleach	Sandpaper
Cork	Beeswax
String or leather thong	

To make your canteen, choose gourds with thick shells such as Chinese Bottle Gourds or Mexican Water Bottle Gourds.

Step 1

Clean the outside of your dried gourd with a solution of three tbsp. bleach to one quart water. Soak the gourd in this solution for 15 minutes, then scrub with a nylon pad. Let dry.

Step 2

Position the cork near the top of the gourd--but not at the stem--and trace around the bottom of the cork. With the drill or Dremel tool, make small holes along the edges of the circle you traced, until you can push out a round section of gourd. Wrap the cork in a bit of sandpaper and use it to smooth the opening.

Step 3

Remove all the seeds and other material from inside the gourd. Use a metal skewer or bent coat hanger to rake out this material. Make the inside of the gourd as clean as you can.

Step 4

Melt the beeswax and pour it into the gourd. Swirl it around until all of the inside of the gourd is covered.

Step 5

Knot one end of your string or leather thong around the narrowest part of the canteen. Fasten the other end around the stem to form a carrying loop. Fill the canteen and insert the cork.

Tip

Pour 1/2 cup of gravel into the gourd and shake vigorously to help loosen the fibrous material that may remain in the dry gourd.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Don't forget to decorate the outside of your gourd canteen.

For more how-to gourd ideas and projects, check out the www.ehow.com website.

MEMBER GALLERY



Michelle Adams



Barbara Bellchambers
'Sunflower Bowl'



Dorothy Hawkins
'Sea Turtle'

*"Great art picks up where
nature ends."*

--Marc Chagall



Mary Hatcher
'Decorative Birdhouse'



Barbara Bellchambers
'Gourd Pins'

*"Design originated
by France Benoit.*

*As France no
longer works in
gourds, she passed
a request for the
pins on for me to
complete the
order". BB*



Lorraine Hodges

*"...a little thunder drum for a
baby girl. Special order by
her grandma."*



Pamela Davy
'Bowl from Beginner Workshop'

"To be an artist is to believe in life."
--Henry Moore



Anne Carling's
'Special gift'



Dale Adamson
'Thunder Drum'

"I used a mystisa 2 brushless power drill to carve out the design and I covered the bottom with mylar plastic. I usually use the goat hides but Turtle Feathers were out at that time so I bought the mylar from Ron Swank. He also sells the springs. I also finish my gourds with a 2-part epoxy resin that I buy from Kidder in Toronto."
DA



Julia Hayes



Michelle Adams



Eva Pasztor

"I was happy to be able to take this gourd class from Gloria Crane at the Weurtz Gourd Festival. ... a lesson in relief carving, and I was happy with the outcome. The leaves were painted with acrylic paint and floating medium. I believe the possibilities are endless with this maple leaf."
EP



Michelle Adams
'Ammonite'



Sharron Anstey
'Stubby the Turtle'



Barb Powell

"I won these gourds at a Festival in Washington several years ago. I had no idea what to do with them. When Barbara sent out the totem challenge, I thought maybe they could be a totem pole...that was not to be as you can see.

I believe these are acorn gourds. I painted them with transparent acrylics and acrylic paint. They looked rather bland so I added the dots with a small stylus which gave them a lot more character. I added wire and beads and mounted them in a piece of driftwood I had found on the beach.

This was a fun project, thanks for getting me gourding again Barbara."

BP



Pamela Davy
'Beaded Salamander'



Dorothy Hawkins
'Nautilus'



Michelle Adams



Barbara Bellchambers
'Sunflower pin'



Julia Hayes

BIRD HOUSES



Dorothy Hawkins



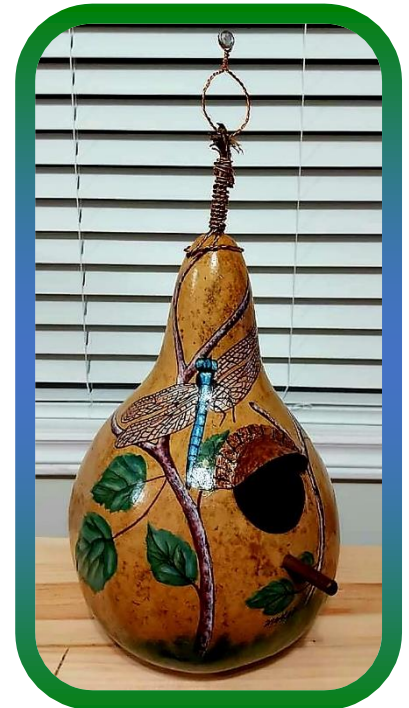
Mary Hatcher



Dorothy Hawkins



Mary Hatcher



Mary Hatcher



Dorothy Hawkins



Mary Hatcher



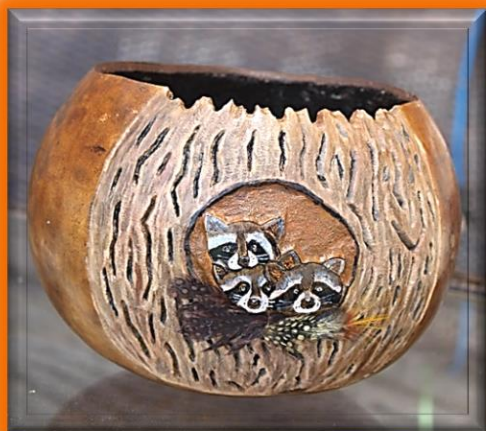
Dorothy Hawkins



Dorothy Hawkins
'Bark and Owlets'



Barbara Bellchambers
'Bark and Owlet'



Michelle Adams
'Bark and Racoons'



Eva Pasztor



"This gourd is a commission, a gift for a 50th Wedding Anniversary.

The family has three brands, two cattle and one horse. All three fit lovely on the gourd. As the groom is a team roper I added some rope too.

I initially burnt the design on the gourd, including the stitching holes. After I removed the background skin around the brands, I created a leather look finish with a small ball burr. I used a transparent acrylic to color the gourd, using the same for the background and gourd. The stitched portion and rope were left the original color.

Since we raised cattle I enjoy creating "Western" gourds." EP

"Every good painter paints what he is."

--Jackson Pollock

Pamela, a 'newbie and non-carver' creatively decoupaged her bark using brown paper, acrylic paint and then adorning it with natural dried plant material. She then glued her hand-made beaded dragonfly and salamander to the gourd.

A unique and inspiring finished piece!



Pamela Davy
'Decoupage Bark'



Dorothy Hawkins
'Thunder Drums'



"Painting is easy when you don't know how, but very difficult when you do."

--Edgar Degas

"The great artist is the simplifier."

--Vincent Van Gogh



Julia Hayes



Pamela Davy
'Beaded Salamander'



Julia Hayes





Barbara Bellchambers
'Sunflower Pins'



Patti Blackburn



Dale Adamson

"Here is a canteen gourd that I beaded on. I first covered the gourd with gesso to make the gourd all the same colour. Then I used alcohol inks to colour it and then when you put on the epoxy it continues to blend the inks more. Then I designed the beading pattern and used berkley fishing line 8 lb test to sew the beads on with a beading needle. I used a darning needle to make the hole in the bottom of the row so every row is made to fit by using the correct amount of beads since these are cheap beads and not exactly the same size. Then I added a bit of cord to cover the holes."

DA



Patti Blackburn

"A work of art which did not begin in emotion is not art."

--Paul Cezanne



Sharron Anstey
'Plato the Armadillo'



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.
STAY SAFE! STAY HEALTHY! KEEP ON GOURDING!

Sharron Anstey

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