

THE CANADIAN GOURDER

Spring - 2024



Snake Gourd
Flower



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CGS Report April 2024

Spring is here at last! Dare we put away all our winter gear and get out the lighter jackets? Go for it!

I made my yearly visit to Casa Grande, Arizona in February. What a nice change from snow to warm weather. I avoided going out walking in the snow this winter, and was so pleased to be able to take long walks with fewer layers on. I cannot convince my hubby that we should get a home for the winter in Arizona, so I guess I will continue to take short visits each year.

I took three gourd classes at the Wuertz Gourd Festival again this year, though before the classes were posted I had convinced myself that one would be enough. Oh well, I thoroughly enjoyed all three classes. I enjoy the challenge to learn something new, and also to learn more about something I already do but not to the degree that the class offered. That was a deep carving class, and the challenge was worth it. I hope to do more deep carving if I have any gourds thick enough.



Start of
Deep Carving

If you are going to grow your own gourds this year, go to <https://www.canadiangourdsociety.ca/all-about-gourds/> to find information about growing gourds. As well, you can go to <https://morningchores.com/growing-gourds/> to read more about growing gourds. You can use seeds from dried gourds, but they should not be more than a year or two old or they may not grow. As well, if more than one type of gourds were grown near each other, you may get a mix from the seeds! One more site for you to explore is <https://www.bluewhalearts.com/wbctz-video-types/gourd-growing-videos/>.

Now that you are educated about growing gourds, get those seeds started anytime and watch them grow!

Happy Gourding!
Barbara



Favourite Meal
In Casa Grande

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pinterest

MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest members: Carole Hall (Oro Medonte, ON); Denise Curtis-Power (Nepean, ON); and Ilse Boshoff (Sedley, SK).

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. 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.



ARTISANity....

The Artisans Centre Peterborough will be holding their **Spring ARTISANity Show and Sale**, Friday April 26 from noon to 6 pm. and Saturday April 27 from 9 am to 3 pm. in the atrium of Peterborough Square. It will feature Gourd Arts, Fibre Arts, Woodturning, Woodwork, Pottery, Quilting and Jewelry.

GOURDS FOR SALE....

If you are interested in buying gourds contact Barbara Bellchambers (bellcham75@gmail.com), and let her know what you need/want. The Kawartha Gourders recently purchased a large number of gourds. They are all sizes and there is an abundance of ornament sized gourds. Bought from an Ontario gourder/grower who is no longer able to use them, many of them have not been cleaned. If the Kawartha Gourders have what you need, she will arrange the delivery with you.



QUESTION:

A CGS member is looking for seed for basket gourds. Canadian sellers can be found on the Etsy website: (https://www.etsy.com/ca/search?q=bushel%20basket%20gourd%20seeds&ref=auto-1&as_prefix=bushel%20basket%20gourd). If anyone else has suggestions, please email and I will forward the suggestion to our member.

GOURDS...GOURDS...MORE GOURDS :

Sharon Devine lives in south-western Ontario. Her gourd crop was stored in 3 different places this year: inside in a heated garage; in a non-heated garage; and the third left hanging outside. The gourds in the heated garage dried down the fastest. The gourds in the non-heated garage had a fuzzy mold and didn't dry down as fast. The third batch, left hanging outside, have started to dry now and are the easiest to clean with practically no scrubbing.



The white chicken and snail, in the making, are two gourds that had collapsed so I used paper mâché and drywall paste to fix them. I won't throw any out.



WUERTZ FARM'S 2024 GOURD FESTIVAL :

Barbara made her annual trip to Casa Grande, Arizona again this year, and as usual, she took many photos of Wuertz Farm's wonderful display of gourds at the festival. If you have never been to this wonderful showing, it is well worth the trip to take one of the gourd classes, purchase supplies, meet fellow-gourders, and *indulge in a funnel-cake.*



*"Every artist was first an amateur." –
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

SPECIAL PROFILE:

Dorothy, a keen and talented Kawartha gourder, has successfully been selling her beautiful gourds in private gift stores over the past few years. Since Covid, she has been expanding her artistic skills. She began taking painting classes with a friend and this led to joining a Facebook group, "Watercolour for Real Beginners". Each week the administrator pulls a topic/idea from the *muse jar*. " This serves as a prompt to challenge us beginners."

Impressed with the paintings that Dorothy has completed in a difficult medium and in such a brief time, this writer wanted to showcase some of her recent work.



Testing out a gourd hat.



'Disney Villain' – Shekere Khan



'Famous Landmark' – Killimanjaro



'Reading Nook'



Paul Clark tutorial – 'Norway Chapel'



Paul Clark tutorial –
'Bamburgh Village, UK'



'Fun, colourful cat with an attitude.'



Gourds by Dorothy



"Dorothy is an inspiration for others to branch out, experiment and try new artistic avenues. There is a plethora of ideas on the internet and many groups and workshops to help one explore."

Don't limit your creativity! Explore and Have Fun!

The editor.

WORKSHOPS:

Completed Workshops

Beginner Gourd Art



Douglas

Pierrette



Stephanie



Christine

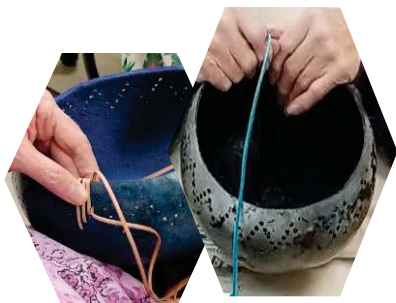


Jill



Mike

Laced Rim on Gourd



Anne
(instructor)



Filigree Technique



Barbara
(instructor)



Dorothy



Michelle

Upcoming Gourd Workshops

Beginner Gourd Art



Zipper Gourd



Gourd Doll



Fun with Alcohol Ink



Beginner gourd classes are taught bi-monthly.

DID YOU KNOW: In the early 1800s in Haiti, gourds were temporarily the nation's official currency. That history is present today—Haiti's standard coin is called a gourde.



HOT GLUE TREE ON GOURD

This tutorial is a variation of the original *Faux Metallic Tree* workshop taught by Betty Bloomfield at 2019 Pennsylvania Gourd Gathering

MATERIALS:

Gourd (Cleaned on outside) – If cut open, cleaned and sealed on inside as well as outside
Pencil
Hot Glue Gun and Glue Sticks (If you have a glue gun on which you can change tips, have a fine tip available)
Acrylic Paint (your choice of colours) or Memory Ink
Metallic Paint, Metallic Rubs, Micro Powders
Paint Brushes, Cosmetic Pads (for applying the memory ink), Sea Sponge (for applying paint)
Wax paper squares, water container
Toothpicks/popsicle sticks
Scissors
Varnish

DIRECTIONS:

Preparing Gourd:

- Clean outside of gourd. Condition with Formula 49 if necessary.
- If you wish, remove top of gourd, clean inside, sand smooth and paint/seal the inside with varnish.
- Draw a light, rough outline of a tree on outside of gourd with pencil. This will give you a guideline for the placement of the hot glue. If you wish you may transfer a tree of life design to the gourd using tracing paper.
- I like to put a light coat of memory ink on the gourd before applying the glue but this is optional.

Applying the Glue:

- Plug in the glue gun. Be sure to position it over a piece of paper so when the glue drips it does so on the paper, not the table.
- When the glue starts to drip, practice using the glue gun on a gourd shard or a piece of paper to make limbs and a little trunk. If using different tips, test the various sizes.
- When comfortable, start applying the glue to your tree trunk. Build it up in layers until you are happy with the thickness. Don't be afraid to have ridges and bumps – bark is not smooth. Bring the roots out the bottom making them a bit ragged and crooked. Then do the limbs.
- If you wish you can make grass, clouds, leaves, birds or whatever your imagination can come up with.

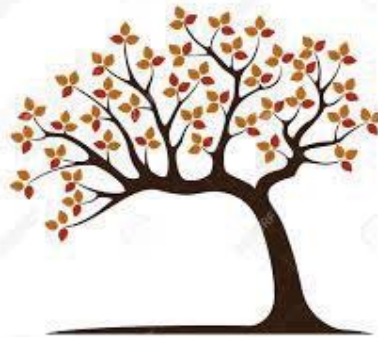
Adding Colour:

- When you are finished with the glue gun, paint the entire gourd in the colour(s) of your choice, including over the glue.
- Paint the trunks and limbs gold or colour of your choice (I like to use copper & highlight with gold). Paint the grass and other glued areas in colours of your choice. Metallic paint will result in a glow.
- If you want, rub micro powder around the tree to give it a shimmering effect.

Finishing:

- Spray varnish over the entire gourd.
- Leave to dry.

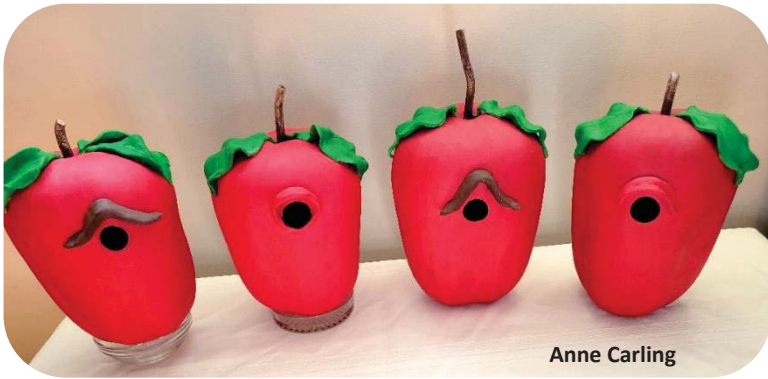
Page 2 of the tutorial has examples of *Trees of Life*. I would suggest looking on the internet if you require ideas for different trees.



**TREE OF
LIFE**



MEMBER GALLERY



Anne Carling



Eva Pasztor
'pyrography & pencil crayon'



Patti Blackburn



Barbara
Bellchambers
'mini baskets'



Sharon Devine

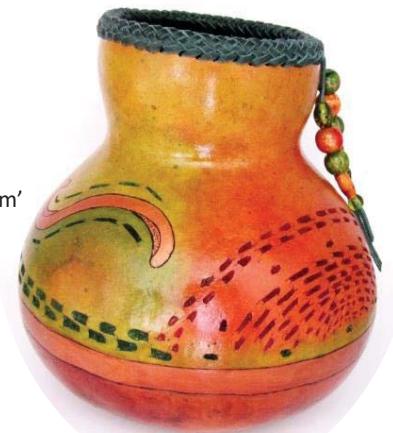


Patti Blackburn



Lois Shaw
'Ocean Drum'

Sharron Anstey
'chip-carving & braided rim'





Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers
'fun & sassy wall hanging'
Rosario Wilke class - Wuertz



Eva Pasztor
'carving on shard'
Robin Bryson class



Sharon Devine



Michelle Adams



Sharron Anstey



Barbara Bellchambers
'twisted copper tree vessel'
Sue Brogdon class - Wuertz



Sharon Devine



Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers



Sharon Devine



Sharon Devine



Julia
Sharon Devine's
granddaughter



Emily
Sharon Devine's
granddaughter



Sharon Devine



Sharon Devine



Sharon Devine



Barbara Bellchambers



Anne Carling



Sharron Anstey
'ornament –
pyrography & ink'



Barbara Bellchambers
'Enchanted Medallion'
Rosario Wilke class - Wuertz



Sharron Anstey
'ornament – pyrography
& pencil crayon'



Sharon Devine

GOURDS – ART & MUSIC

Gourd art involves creating works of art on gourd shells via carving, shaping, polishing, painting, etc. Records of gourd art first appeared in Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) history books, tracing it back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). *The key to gourd art is to use the techniques of carving or painting to decorate gourd shells without altering the original shape, which can not only increase the aesthetic beauty of the apparatus but also transform it into a work of a high artistic value.*



Reference: https://en.chinaculture.org/library/2008-01/22/content_46365.htm

Gourd decoration, including pyrography, is an ancient tradition in Africa and Asia as well as among the indigenous peoples of the Americas, notably the central highland people of Peru, the Navajo, Hopi and Pueblo nations of the American Southwest, and the Nuxálk and Haida nations of British Columbia.

Reference: <https://www.lmc.edu/about/news-center/all-news.htm>

Lees-MeRae College newsletter

A **Hulusi** is a traditional reed wind instrument originating from China and the Shan State, a province in Myanmar. The hulusi has a very smooth tone. Also known as the cucurbit flute, the hulusi has three pipes. The center pipe has finger holes and is used to sound the melody.

On either side of that pipe is a drone pipe. It's not uncommon that only one drone pipe works, leaving the other drone pipe as merely ornamental.

The middlemost extended bamboo pipe has seven holes. You play the hulusi by blowing the small end of the gourd and pressing the holes.

As the hulusi is a reed instrument, it contains a reed on the inside that vibrates to produce sound.

The word “hulusi” comes from two other Chinese words – “hulu”, meaning gourd, and “si” meaning “silk”, referring to the instrument’s smooth sound. Originally, it was confined to a small area of China and played by minority ethnic groups. Today, it is played all over China.

Reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hulusi>



Hulusi Traditional Chinese Classic Flute Gourd



Peyote Gourd Rattle
These instruments are used in the Native American Church peyote ceremony.



Gourd trompette or trumpet is made of two pieces, one from long dipper gourd and the other part being half of the dipper gourd’s bulbous end. It has been used in various cultures since ancient times especially Mexican, Mayan, and African).

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!

President

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