

# THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 22, Issue I

Spring Issue May 2019

## In Memory of Greg Leiser

By Jill Walker



Greg Leiser passed away on February 8, 2019. His passing brings great sadness to many in the California Gourd Society. With his wife, Mary, they made significant contributions to the CGS members and organization and will be remembered for their warmth and enthusiasm while catering to the gourd aficionados.

He met Mary in 1972 and they put down roots in Knights Landing, California, and pursued a life in the agriculture on Greg's family farm. In Yolo County ordinary crops would be rice, tomatoes, hay, sunflower seed and almonds but Greg was somewhat of a renegade when it came to farming. He was willing to try other crops as well. Meanwhile, his fellow farmers thought "that Leiser, what is he doing now?" For many years Greg grew pumpkins and the "craziest" crop of all, gourds! The gourd artists of Northern California couldn't have been happier with this 'crazy' idea as most of the gourds available came from Southern California at the time Greg started growing them.

We loved to shop for gourds at Leiser Farms. The gourds were nicely sorted and stored in bins in a shady tent. We could get them anytime of year, at a fair price and be assured of the quality of the product.



(Continued on Page 3)

**Inside this issue:*****President's Message***

President's Message *	2
Mission Statement	
In Memory of Greg Leiser (continued)	3-4
Amador Flower Farm Gourd and Fine Art Festival Poster	5
Poster - CGS NoCAL Gourd Competition	6
Member Spot Light - Toni Best	7
CGS Northern Regional Meet- ing Recap	8
Poster - CGS SoCal Gourd Art Competition and Show	9
El Gourdo's Ramblings * AmazonSmile	10- 11
2019 Gourd Events Calendar * Shout Out With Website Links To Enter All 3 CGS Gourd Art Competitions	12
Poster - CGS California Bay Area Gourd Competition	13
CGS SoCal Regional Meeting Recap	14- 15
Open Position Treasurer * AGS Membership Shout-out	16
CGS Fundraiser - Gourd Quilt or Mosaic Tiles	17
Classified Ads	18- 19
CGS January 5, 2019 Board Meeting Highlightd	20- 22
Editors Vine * Golden Gourd Ad Rates and Deadlines	23
Classified Ad	24

Greetings Fellow Gourders,

The flowers are blooming and the gourds are growing. I love watching the gourds grow because they grow so fast and it's always fun to see if the little gourds that pop out are what you expected. It will be harvest time before we know it. Many of my gourds from last year's harvest are not completely dry yet.

I'm so pleased that we are having three AGS judged competitions this year. Mary, our editor and webmistress, has sent "Shout Outs" for each one and they are also in this issue of the Golden Gourd with website links to all the details. So look over the categories and start creating gourd art for each category. Why not? I can hardly wait to see what you all will be entering. I am ever amazed at the talent that comes out in the competition pieces.

I am hoping that many of you have entered gourd art in the State Fair in Sacramento. It is a wonderful opportunity to introduce the public to the world of gourd art. I'm planning to make it to the fair at least for one day to present the winner with the \$100 award donated by CGS to the Best of Division in Gourd Art.

Do you know about the fund raiser raffle project that has been introduced to all the patch leaders for this year and next? We have a project every two years and this time it is a mosaic. The winners will be drawn at the banquet during the "Gourds and Baskets Containers of our Culture" in Visalia, CA on Saturday April 25, 2020. Mark your calendar to attend and get involved in your patch in helping to create a mosaic for the raffle.

If I don't see you at the State Fair, I will be at the gourd festivals and competitions in September and October so come by and say Hi.

Your President,

Olive Moore

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote the horticulture, art, crafting and appreciation of the hard-shelled gourds (*Lagenaria Siceraria*) by providing charitable and educational activities to members of the society, growers, artists, crafters, business people and the public through community support and education.

(Continued from Cover)

Mary Leiser and Betsy Roberts check out gourds ready for harvest.



In May of 2003 the first of Leiser Farms Gourd Festival was held and it was followed by many more. Greg and Mary made every effort to make gourders and visitors welcome. Vendors of crafted gourds, gourd tools and supplies attracted more and more gourd fans and teachers each year it continued.



Greg served on the CGS Board as a representative for the gourd growers. Here are some of the CGS Board Members at an annual meeting. L to R, Lisa Toth, Niki Escobedo-Zaragoza, Betsy Roberts, Jill Walker and Greg Leiser.

In 2009 the first California Gourd Society Northern Gourd Show was hosted by Leiser Farms. The format was changed so patches could have a display as well as individuals. Greg entered as an individual. He loved to work with gourds trying various arrangements of unusual gourds as well as making specialized tools and testing products .



The Leisers had a special relationship with one of our wonderful CGS artists, Larry MacClelland.



Through the years they acquired a large collection of Larry's work. When Mac, as he was known, passed away leaving most of his estate to CGS, we were able to store the considerable contents of Larry's gourd art and personal art collection at Leiser Farms until the society could gradually sell the items and earn money for the CGS treasury. It was only fitting that Greg and Mary were to end up with one of Larry's most coveted and humorous works of art, 'Queen Bee!'

I will best remember Greg Leiser for his creative and playful side. For several years at the CGS Asilomar Gourd College he was one of the 'Gourd Doctors' who offered hilarious solutions to perplexing 'problems' gourd artists were having with particular gourds.



He loved and appreciated old farm implements and kept many displayed at the farm though they were seldom used. He especially loved his old truck and took joy in driving people around the farm yard bouncing along to laughter and giggles.

(Continued on Page 4)

*(Continued from Page 3)*

Donations in Greg's memory can be made to the Knights Landing Community Methodist Church 'Building Fund.' (9493 Mill Street, Knights Landing, CA 95645)

Greg will be truly missed by all who knew him. We wish to convey our greatest sympathy to Mary Leiser and all the Leiser family.



## Memories

By Leigh Adams

I met Greg and Mary Leiser on their beautiful gourd farm. Introduced by our mutual friend Carol Rookstool, they welcomed me into the gracious comfort of their home and the Leisers quickly moved right into my heart. There was no "distance" between us as we began to chat and I was immediately made to feel right at home and ready to join into the community activities of the Gourd Fair.

Greg generously offered to tour the farm the day before the vendors arrived. Despite a "to do" list a mile long, Greg showed me the growing fields, what varieties of gourds they grew and how they ran their operations. He explained how the festival would be set up. Although his skill set was obvious, Greg listened to my observations and never even alluded to the years and years of farming experience he possessed.

I spent a wonderful few days on that first visit, meeting new people, seeing old friends, enjoying the camaraderie of gourds. Leiser relatives came, gourd family arrived and the usual amalgam of calabash carousing took place. We all enjoyed ourselves and vowed to return despite a goodly driving distance between us.

One of the things I had noticed in the Leiser home was Mary's decorating style, warm and cozy and dappled with all different kinds of sunflowers. On my next trip up, I went shopping for something special to take to Greg and Mary. I wanted something that meant something to me as well as something they might enjoy as well.

I went to my favorite nursery and poured over the seeds. I looked for different kinds of sunflowers besides the usual Russian Mammoths and found a handful of good selections. Then I saw my favorite, the Teddy Bear Sunflowers, luscious pom-poms of gleaming yellow. I got several packets of those as well, intending to keep some for myself, friendship flowers. I envisioned my garden growing with the same flowers that the Leisers would grow.....a joy to be shared together.

As I returned to Knight's Landing the next year (and the years after), I was always amused by the Global Position Device's warning: "Unmapped territory, proceed at your own risk." Such an ominous message, portending great doom when the exact opposite was true!

Arriving at Greg and Mary's doorstep with a handful of seed packets, bereft of any wrappings (as I'm fond of the "art of seed packets" and actually collect antique packets), I found Mary anticipating my arrival. I handed her the pleasing variety of sunflowers and put the Teddy Bear Sunflowers on top. Mary was delighted as I explained I'd brought an assortment of seeds and I'd planted the "sister seeds" at my home down south.

Mary looked down at the seeds and her face lit up. "How did you know that Greg developed these?" She was referring to the Teddy Bear Sunflowers. I'm guessing my mouth must have been hanging open! Maybe I just gaped wordlessly as Mary thanked me. But when I regained my composure and demanded more information, Mary shared that Greg had developed many varieties of plants ..... but of course, he never mentioned that.

Greg's gorgeous gourds, his unique horticultural contributions, his major production of pumpkins for multi state distribution.....Greg never mentioned those things, those great and wonderful things. Instead, he showed real interest in what others were doing and sharing only what he thought would delight them.

Greg Leiser contributed so much to so many people. His legacy will continue for generations to come. And each time I see a Teddy Bear Sunflower, I'll remember Greg's laconic smile, his easy grace and a man who made a difference.

RIP Greg Leiser.

*Amador Gourd Artists invite you to the*  
**Amador Flower Farm**  
**GOURD & FINE ART FESTIVAL**  
SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2019 • 9<sub>am</sub>-4<sub>pm</sub>



**FREE  
ADMISSION**



**3 Days of Classes Sept. 6-7-8 (pre-registration required)**  
**California Gourd Society Competition**  
**Gourmet Food Truck • Vendors • Demonstrations**

**More info: [AmadorGourdArtists.com](http://AmadorGourdArtists.com)**

*California Gourd Society*  
**Northern California Gourd Art  
Competition**

***Sept 7 and 8, 2019***

**Hosted by the Amador Gourd Artists**

Held at the  
**Amador Flower Farm**  
**22001 Shenandoah Rd, Plymouth CA**

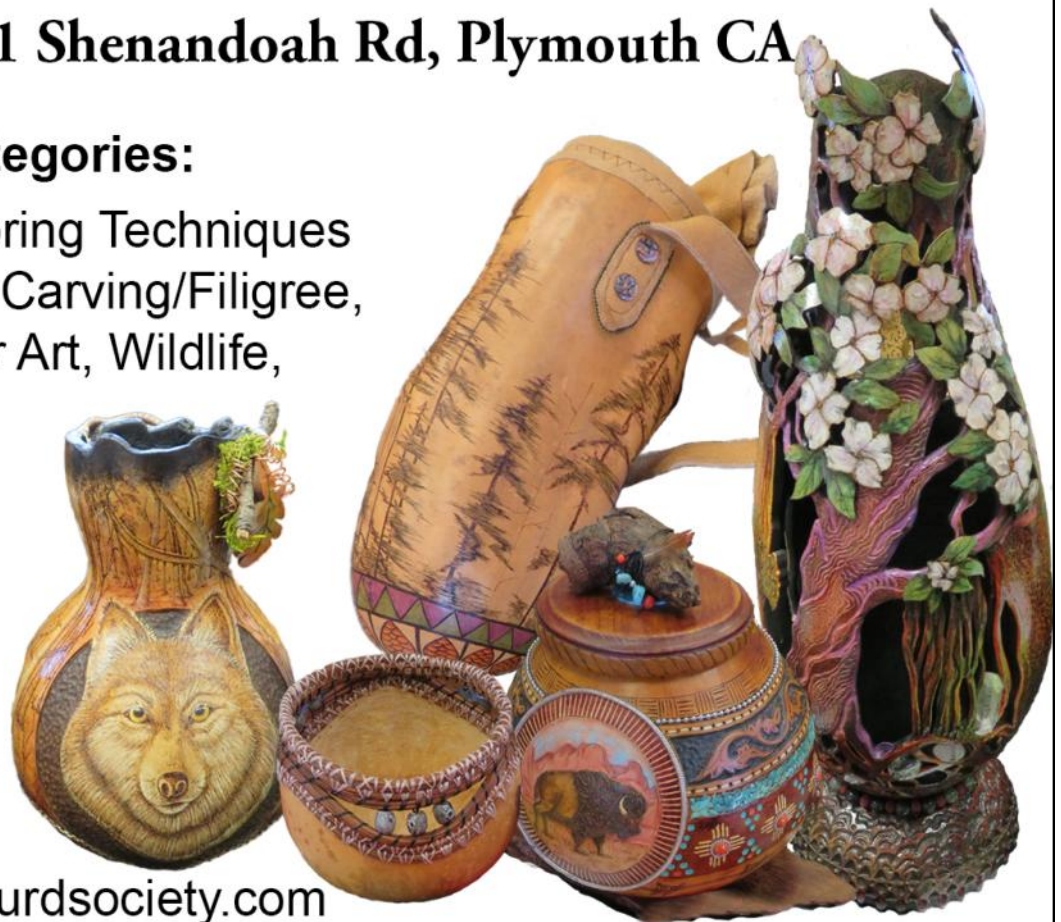
**Competition Categories:**

Pyrography, Coloring Techniques  
Embellishments, Carving/Filigree,  
Natural and Fiber Art, Wildlife,  
Distinctly Yours,  
No Limits



for more information:

[www.californiagourdsociety.com](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com)



member



## Toni Best was selected as 2018 Artist of the Year by the Art Consortium of Visalia.

By Debra Zimmerman



Toni Best is a well known artist and teacher to many of us. She has received a prestigious award from her community where she is very active. She was honored and had her art work highlighted in a show and in the Watermark Magazine. In CGS, she serves as the President of the Tulare/Sequoia Gourd Patch. She also developed the Containers of our Culture Conference which is a biennial event. Toni has chaired this event since 1997. This event brings artists from both ends of the state to weave baskets and gourds. Toni is very active in her arts community and continues to educate people about gourds and baskets. Kudos to Toni.



If a class with Toni Best is on your bucket list you're in luck!

### Sat. June 1 - Pine Needle Coiling on Manipulated Gourd

Toni will be teaching pine needle coiling on one of Cecile Garrison's wonderful manipulated gourds. Cost is \$55 for the class plus cost of class ready gourd provided by Cecile \$10 - \$45. All other materials provided. Potluck lunch based around lasagna lunch.

Contact Toni at: (559)627-5430 or

email at: [tonibestbaskets@gmail.com](mailto:tonibestbaskets@gmail.com)



Read more about Toni starting on page 8 thru page 13 in the **Watermark Magazine**  
<https://issuu.com/visaliaartsconsortium/docs/taste-thearts-mag-2018-proof-3>

**CGS 2019 NORTHERN REGIONAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 30, 2019 - Held at Raley's Event Center Granite Bay, CA**

**Submitted by Sue Gouig**

Welcome and meeting called to order by Susan Gouig, Director of Northern Programs

7 out of 8 patches were in attendance.

Theme for the day was "Working Together"

I thanked everyone for coming and appreciated all the work and hours put in as a Regional Leader. I encouraged everyone to reach out to other groups, work together, for Festivals, Competitions, classes, projects, ideas and to get to know each other better. Helping with housing for visiting judges and teachers.

Pam Argo, CGS Vice President, discussed the January 2019 Board Meeting. Went over running for Office, competition, festivals, and the budget.

We also discussed submitting to the Golden Gourd newsletter, Festivals, Competitions, fairs.

We had a long discussion on ethics. Taking techniques learned in class and using them to produce your own gourd. Doing your own original work for Competition and for sales. Asking permission from your teacher for you to share their technique with others.

We went over the Mosaic project for Visalia 2020 and sold tickets to the leaders to take back to their groups.

We had a wonderful lunch catered by Raley's.

Jody Dingivan then, after much prep work for us, taught us rock inlayed on a gourd (pictured below).

Good discussions, friendships made, new ideas, good food and fun was had by all.

It was a very successful meeting.







# California Gourd Society

## So. Cal. Gourd Art Competition

in collaboration with  
Orange County Woodcarvers

**October 19 and 20 2019**  
Saturday 9-4 Sunday 10-3

Laborers Local 652 Union Hall  
1532 E. Chestnut Ave Santa Ana, CA 92701

### Categories

Pyrography, Carved/Filigree, Painted,  
Dolls/Figures, Weaving, Anything Goes  
Special Category: Class Gourd

Hosted by

 **Orange County**  
**Gourd Society**

Entry information can be found at:  
[www.ocgourdsociety.com](http://www.ocgourdsociety.com) or  
[www.californiagourdsociety.com](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com)

## EL GOURDO'S RAMBLINGS

Greetings again my fellow gourd junkies. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun and the busy world seems to grasp at and claim the spare time we thought we had?

Just to refresh your memories I thought it would be nice to write an article that rambles on about our gourd world and hope to introduce our readers to amazing gourd folks scattered around our great state.

It appears since the *Golden Gourd* hasn't banned me from exposing the doings of various innocent members as in the first ramblings I'm free to go at it again. While I try to stay on the lighter fun side there are times when I must bring up sad times.

Such a time is now as the *Gourd* world mourns the loss of one of our great men who supported our art to the hilt. Being in the gourd world myself, only nine years, I met this man and his incredible wife when friends encouraged me to travel north and experience a quality *Gourd Festival*. Of course I'm talking about the wonderful *Greg Leiser* who has left an indelible mark that touched and benefited countless *Gourd* lovers. I have had the pleasure of meeting this good man and his amazing wife only a couple of times, not really enough to know him very well. Again like so many of the legends in our world I got to know him and about him through his many fans.

I met *Robert Rivera* for the first time at *Wuertz* a few years ago and when he found out I was from California his first question was: "Do you know *Greg Leiser* and if you do, how is he doing?" This was a very sincere and concerned *Robert* checking on a dear friend. Sadly I couldn't tell him too much but have noticed as I travel around and out of the state, people from all over knew and loved him. He and his wife, *Mary*, certainly deserve a place in the *Gourd World's Hall of Fame*; if we had such a thing. The good thing is we don't need such a venue as he and his *Mary* are already so honored by the many who have been touched by their kindness. Myself, I will always have warm memories of them both.

Moving on - those of you who subjected yourselves to my *Ramblings* in the last issue might remember the *Betty Finch* portion. She, being yet another *Gourd* legend. Well, I was able to sneak into and out of her amazing event at the *Tehachapi Art Gallery* without losing my secret *El Gourdo, EG*, identity. I even had the opportunity to meet and talk to *Betty* and her husband, *Ken*, while meeting many of her fans, none of whom knew me. And yes my car was a little more loaded coming home. The place was packed and she had a very successful show, or so it appeared. As a footnote, *Betty* is a huge *Leiser* fan.

It is time to give up one of my secret weaknesses and that is the consumption of that adult beverage known to many as wine. Yes, I use that affliction to travel everywhere that good wine might be produced. Aren't we lucky in California to have so many amazing wineries. Oops, back to gourds. Word just got to me that a new festival is happening in one of my favorite wine spots in California. A fellow wine aficionado and gourd artist told me of a new *Gourd Festival* breaking out in *Amador County* located smack dab in the middle of *Shenandoah Valley*, home of some of the most amazing wine in the state. Notice how sneaky I am. Never really left the wine thing, did I. Heh, heh. I know this area because every time I get up north that is one of my must stop places and not just for the wine. It is incredibly beautiful country, rich in history, fun things to do, places to stay, dining, the whole package. It is going to be September 6,7,8 with *CGS* competition (*AGS* judged), vendors, classes, quality food and located on one of the most beautiful *Flower Farms* in that part of the state. Oh and there will be an amazing raffle and I'm hoping some of the wineries will be offering some of their quality wines as prizes. I just can't seem to get off the wine. Hmm.

And now another highlight. *Silver State* will be having their amazing *Gourd and Art Festival* just a couple hour's drive over the hill in *Carson City* a week later. Double your pleasure, double your fun as the old gum commercial used to say. Oh yes, I'm sure *Carson City* has wine too. I often say, "Wherever you find four gourd artists you will usually find a "fifth". Okay enough of this wine stuff.

(Continued from Page 10)

Did any of you get up to Sacramento for the State Fair last summer? The gourd was put on the map even more due to the efforts of Barbara Rippetoe who coordinated and put on an exhibition featuring the gourd. She has worked with the State Fair for years and they provided a Gourd House where many gourders came and demonstrated everything from the History of gourds to its many uses and art forms. It was a tremendous success and they will be back again spreading the word of the gourd this summer. I'm thinking since this is a State Fair it might be nice if gourders from the north, south and the middle of the state offered their assistance. KUDOS Barbara and gang.

Of course the SOCAL events and Calabash will be rocking events as usual.

Since I intend to share as much of the gourd world and its people, your help will be needed to fill in the blanks. So since I know a lot of people and little about them and you may know more about them, please send me info and pictures. Help me share interesting stories and tell of our folks and their interesting journeys into the gourd world. Also, funny stories relating to our community would be welcome also.

My new email is [ELGourdoArt@gmail.com](mailto:ELGourdoArt@gmail.com) Hope you will use it to share interesting information.

My last little point of concern is the somewhat shrinking gourd competitions. There are fewer entries in some of the locations. I am not a big fan of ribbons, awards, etc. but am a huge fan of getting better in my art. Competition does several things. First, it supports the festivities which contribute to the gourd art community. Many new people have come to the gourd world through such competitions. Secondly, and the main reason I participate is that it makes me concentrate on improving my art by challenging me and giving the incentive to improve. For myself, improvement is the thing I seek most. No, I have won no major awards nor am an immediate threat to do so, but do enjoy the challenge of improvement. So I ask you to challenge yourself while supporting gourd art by entering and participating in events or at least encouraging others to do so.

Enough Rambles for this issue and as I have broken my promise from the last issue by rambling on more than I intended.

GOURD ON MY AMIGOS

EL GOURDO aka EG

*"Creativity is contagious. Pass it on." Albert Einstein*

## Support California Gourd Society

by shopping at AmazonSmile



When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to the California Gourd Society.

Please support us every time you shop.

Copy and paste into your browser:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-2054131>

## 2019 Gourd Events Calendar

- July 12-28 California State Fair - Sacramento, CA
- September 6-8 Amador Flower Farm Festival Classes - Plymouth, CA (Amador Gourd Artists)
- September 7 & 8 Amador Flower Farm Gourd and Fine Art Festival - Plymouth, CA (\*Host of CGS NoCAL Gourd Competition)
- September 7 & 8 \*NoCal Gourd Art Competition - Amador Flower Farm Gourd and Fine Art Festival - Plymouth, CA
- September 13-15 Silver State Art Festival - Carson City, NV
- October 10 & 11 Pre Calabash Festival Classes - San Martin, CA
- October 12 & 13 \*Bay Area Gourd Art Competition - San Martin, CA
- October 19 - 20 \*SoCal Gourd Art Competition - Santa Ana, CA

## Looking Ahead to 2020

- January 4 \*CGS Board Meeting - Visalia, CA
- April 24-26 Baskets and Gourds - Containers of Our Culture VIII (\*Host of CGS Fundraiser Raffle) - Visalia, CA
- April 25 \*CGS Fundraiser Raffle - BGCoOC VIII - Visalia, CA
- June 4-7 20/20 Vision of Gourds Festival - Rancho Cordova, CA (Hosted by Folsom Gourd Artists)
- \*Official CGS Event

## The California Gourd Society Gourd Art Competitions for 2019

**Three times the fun = three times the chance to WIN!**

Complete details for each of the competitions are at our website:

NoCal Gourd Art Competition - [http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/North\\_Gourd\\_Competition.html](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/North_Gourd_Competition.html)

Bay Area Gourd Art Competition - [http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/Bay\\_Area\\_Competition.html](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/Bay_Area_Competition.html)

SoCal Gourd Art Competition - [http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/South\\_Gourd\\_Competition.html](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/South_Gourd_Competition.html)

California Gourd Society

# CA Bay Area Gourd Art Competition

## October 12-13, 2019

Hosted by the Calabash Club of Silicon Valley

Held at Uesugi Farms

14485 Monterey Road, San Martin, CA 95046



For More Information:  
[www.californiagourdsociety.com](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com)

## CGS Southern California Patch Leaders Meeting Recap

**Submitted by Sherry Hunga-Moore**

Held March 30, 2019 at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 2850 Fairview, Costa Mesa and was hosted by Orange County Gourd Society.



Welcome Libbi Salvo our new Southern California Regional Coordinator

Meeting called to order and all 5 Southern California Patches were represented - 100% participation!

**CGS SO CA Regional Coordinator** Libbi Salvo, **San Diego County Gourd Artists** Sherry Hunga-Moore, Stacy Day, **Orange County Gourd Society** Debra Zimmerman, Susan Sullivan, Jan Fagner **Ventura County Gourd Artists** Kathleen Johnston, Debbie Zimmermann, **Tulare/Sequoia Gourd Patch and LAW** Cookie Hanson.

After our introductions and attendance was completed we got right down to business.

We reviewed our mission statement.

We discussed the CGS Board Meeting that was held at JoAnn Clark's Valley Center Home January 2019.

Some topics included our new Director at Large Jody Dingivan. Betty Finch has moved and Jody stepped up. Welcome Jody!

We covered Competitions which are: Calabash Oct 12-13, Orange County Oct 18-20 and just voted in Amador Festival Dates September 7 & 8.

Also covered was our exciting Fundraising project "Mosaic Quilts/Tiles" to be raffled off at the 2020 "Visalia Basket and Gourds Conference".

And did you know if you select CGS SMILES when you do Amazon orders, CGS gets a % of money and no cost to you? It is another way to help support our organization.

We are still seeking ideas for that perfect 2021 CGS state wide Retreat location. So if any of you have contacts like lodge, hotel or Farm that would host us PLEASE contact Sherry Hunga-Moore florashm@aol.com

We had an absolutely wonderful lunch catered in by Panera Bakery. While we ate and discussed all the fun and activities our patches were involved with the time just flew by.



Pictures Left:

Seated: Stacy Day, Susan Sullivan, Debbie Zimmermann, Kathleen Johnston, Jan Fagner, Cookie Hanson, and Debra Zimmerman.

Standing: Libbi Salvo

Not pictured is Sherry Hunga-Moore

*(Continued from Page 14)*

Pictured Right: Sherry Hunga-Moore and Jan Fagner discussing some of Cookie Hanson's class projects that she will be giving in the future.



Our project was just the Bees Knees as you can see by the finished desk gardens pictured below. Libbi had prepared all the materials and pinched off succulents from her own garden for this Mini gourd fairy house

**The finished projects were just adorable!**

**Here are some candid shots of us working on our darling projects!**



We look forward to the next Northern and Southern CA Patch Leaders Meeting in Visalia which is the day prior to the "Basket and Gourds Conference" in 2020!!

**PUT THIS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST!**



**Pictured**

Top Left: Susan Sullivan, Kathleen Johnston and Debbie Zimmermann

Center: Libbi and Cookie Hanson

Right: Kathleen Johnston

Center: Jan Fagner, Debra Zimmerman, Libbi Salvo

Right Bottom: Completed projects of "Desk Garden" as our project courtesy of Libbi.



## CGS Open Board Position - Treasurer

Members are encouraged to nominate someone or submit their own name to serve as a member of the California Gourd Society Board. This is a great opportunity to give back to the organization that does much to nurture its members and promote the appreciation of gourds to the general public. As a member of the Board, you'll play a role in the leadership of the organization and will gain a greater understanding of the depth and breadth of this great group. Along the way, you will meet members from all over California and share fun activities and experiences with your fellow officers. All positions are for 2 year terms, starting immediately.

*Note that most travel expenses (gas, lodging and meals) to attend the Annual Board meeting are covered by CGS (currently held in Visalia, CA).*

Please submit to Peggy Blessing at [secretary@californiagourdsociety.com](mailto:secretary@californiagourdsociety.com) or mail to:

CGS Secretary Peggy Blessing

3177 Mt. Tami Dr.

San Diego, CA 92111

### The Position of Treasurer, duties listed below:

- ◆ Serve as a member of the Board of Directors.
- ◆ Record deposits made by membership chair. Deposit funds from various events.
- ◆ Pay bills as presented by vendors and/or members for reimbursements.
- ◆ Record deposits and expenses.
- ◆ Maintain a monthly financial balance.
- ◆ Prepare annual reports for the Board meeting.
- ◆ Maintain PayPal and SquareUp accounts for accepting of credit card payments as well as approve CGS members as sales associates for the Square Account.
- ◆ Prepare and file Federal and State annual tax returns.
- ◆ File various reports with the Department of Justice, Secretary of State, Franchise Tax Board, etc.
- ◆ File sales tax returns annually.
- ◆ Respond to correspondence from Franchise Tax Board, Internal Revenue Service, and CA Board of Equalization.
- ◆ File forms 1099 yearly. Both state and federal yearly returns are required.
- ◆ Keep last seven years of tax and financial records.

## The American Gourd Society



The society publishes four issues a year of ***THE GOURD Magazine*** journal for members. This publication is a vehicle for news and information about people, events, state Chapters, books, seeds, crafting and other gourd related subjects both domestic and foreign. The AGS is the unifying body for all state Chapters and provides a network of contacts for people and organizations worldwide.

To join contact Dallas Lunsford: [agsmembership@comcast.net](mailto:agsmembership@comcast.net) or <http://www.americangourdsociety.org/join.html>



# California Gourd Society 2020 Fundraiser

## Gourd Quilt or Mosaic Tiles



Projects will be offered at the  
**"Gourds and Baskets Containers of our Culture"**  
 Visalia, California Saturday April 25, 2020

Proceeds benefit the statewide educational outreach of CGS and its members.

### Project criteria/guidelines for Regional Groups, (Patches)

1. Finished project should be quality construction and last for several years.
2. You are encouraged to make one or more gourd project.
3. Size/Dimension limitations: **NO larger than 24" X 30" (Flip Chart size)**  
 (Keep in mind we have to be able to display projects on tables or stands you provide)
4. Projects are due *on or prior* to start of event in Visalia, Friday 24, 2020.
5. Attach tag with name of patch and artist's names.
6. Mail or deliver to:
  - \*Susan Gouig P.O. Box 1186, Healdsburg, CA 95448 {Northern members}
  - \*Libby Salvo 2927 Sunset Hills, Escondido, CA 92028 {Southern members}



(Inspiration's from Pinterest)



*Silver State*  
**ART**  
**FESTIVAL**  
**September 13- 15, 2019**  
**Carson City, Nevada**

**Gourds, Basketry,  
Fine Art & Fine Crafts**

**3 days of Classes**  
Carving, beading and weaving are just a few techniques you can learn to create a beautiful piece of art. Classes are filling fast, sign up today!  
**Join us for a fun weekend!**

**[www.NevadaGourdSociety.org](http://www.NevadaGourdSociety.org)**  
**619-995-2475 or 775-301-8230**

Folsom Gourd Artists Present  
**20/20 Vision of Gourds Festival**  
June 4th – June 7th, 2020  
MACC Gallery 10191 Mills Station Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

**CALL FOR TEACHERS**

Class dates Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> & Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2020. Most classes will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the gallery, accessible by elevator or stairs. Some can be outside.

With your proposal, please include

- Your contact information, high resolution photo of your project on CD, Flash Drive, or email attachment.
- There will be a Friday night reception, for which we solicit examples of your art for exhibit.
- Also we would be grateful for a donation of your art for raffle.
- Fee: \$50.00 Per Class. State your space requirements.

**CALL FOR VENDORS AND ARTISTS**

- The gallery is located near freeway access and a Regional Transit Station. The Gallery has excellent lighting and security system, free admittance and free parking.
- Vendor Fees for Saturday June 6 & Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>:  
\$50.00 for 10'x10' space  
\$30.00 for 6' table space  
Table rental \$5.00 each.

For more information contact Janice at [2020visionofgourds@gmail.com](mailto:2020visionofgourds@gmail.com)  
Show Chairman: Barbara Cody, 530-795-2828, [Barbara.2020visionofgourds@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.2020visionofgourds@gmail.com)

# The *Caning* Shop

**Featuring the only power tools designed expressly for gourds!**



*Our Gourd Saw is quickly becoming the most popular jigsaw for cutting gourds*

**The Gourd Sander #70006**

*Extended warranties on all Caning Shop products!*



**The Gourd Drill #70002**

*Our miniature power tools fit comfortably in your hand*



We've been writing books about gourds, giving classes and selling supplies and tools for gourd crafters since 1989. We've also been listening to your comments about the problems with the existing tools and your wishes for the ultimate jigsaw for cutting gourds.

**The Gourd Saw #70001**

- Quiet
- High Speed
- Easy to maneuver
- Convenient on/off switch
- Light weight
- Fits a woman's hand comfortably
- Works with multiple power sources
- Adaptable to other gourd crafting accessories
- Rounded ball foot for line-of-sight access



All 3 Gourd Tools are also available as a complete kit with blades, sanding sponges, engraving bits and a NEW sturdy carrying case. A 15V power supply is necessary to operate the Gourd Tools. 15V power supply with speed control is included.

Order online with our secure shopping cart  
Check out our website for more gourd crafting tools, books and supplies  
[www.caning.com](http://www.caning.com)

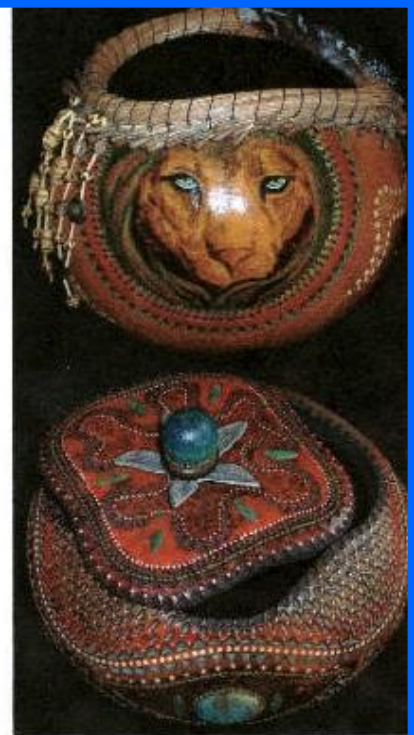
## The *Caning* Shop

926 Gilman St • Berkeley, CA 94710

**FREE CATALOG • 1-800-544-3373**



*Workshops include*  
*Personal instruction on*  
*our own project*  
*Power & specialty tools*  
*Gourd & pattern books*  
*Pigments and dyes*  
*Embellishments*  
*Art supplies*  
*Raw gourds available or*  
*bring your own to class*  
**\$35 10-4 pm**  
*25 yrs experience with gourds*



*google Joyce Campbell gourds for more information*  
*JoyceCampbellgourds@gmail.com 530-334-0964*

## CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY

### Board Meeting Highlights - January 5, 2019

**Board Members Present:** Olive Moore, President; Pamela Argo, Vice President; Peggy Blessing, Secretary; Christina Chrivia, Treasurer; JoAnn Clark, Director of Membership; Sue Gouig, Director of Northern Programs; Libbi Salvo, Director of Southern Programs.

**Others Present:** Mary Bliss, Webmaster and Editor; Jody Dingivan [*Director at Large elect*], Sherry Hunga-Moore, Creative Projects Chair; Sylvia Nelson, Competition Committee Chair (*via phone 2:50p.m.-3:25p.m.*); Debra Zimmerman, Orange County Gourd Society Patch Leader

**Board Members Absent:** Susan Sullivan, Director at Large

---

With a quorum present, President Olive Moore called the meeting to order at 9:30am at the home of JoAnn Clark in Valley Center, CA.

#### Secretary's Report

There being no changes, the Minutes of the January 6, 2018, meeting were accepted for filing. Motions that were approved electronically in 2018 were ratified by the Board: 1) on 1/23/18, approved allowing a full-page ad in the *Golden Gourd*; 2) on 2/1/18, approved the 2018 revised budget; 3) on 5/1/18, appointed Libbi Salvo as Director of Southern Programs; 4) on 7/16/18, approved resolution giving signature authority on the California Gourd Society's Bank of America account to Pamela Argo, Christina Chrivia, JoAnn Clark, Sherry Hunga-Moore, Olive Moore and Elizabeth B. Salvo.

Peggy Blessing reported that there were no names submitted following the electronic call for nominations sent on 12/9/18. Discussion followed regarding possible Director of Northern Programs nominees. It was noted that the focus of the vacant Director at Large position previously held by Betty Finch could vary according to interests/expertise of the individual. A motion was passed to appoint Jody Dingivan to serve as Director at Large. Everyone thanked Jody for her willingness to fill this vacancy. [*Note: When revised Bylaws approved, title will change to Ambassador at Large.*]

It was reported that we received a \$100 rebate from our liability insurance carrier in 2018. Discussion followed of events that would need insurance certificates in 2019.

#### Treasurer's Report

Christina Chrivia reviewed the Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/18. Cash totaled \$29,329, and she answered a variety of questions regarding this schedule. The \$1,690 generated from the raffle held during the 2018 retreat will be applied toward the next CGS retreat. Amazon Smile donations totaled \$49; and, since the program began, CGS has received \$140. Jody was thanked for hosting the pot luck at her house for the northern competition judges. Although some of the cost was supplemented by CGS, it saved CGS a lot of money. The contract labor expense was less than usual, because Mary was not able to get a fall *Golden Gourd* issue out. The Budget vs. Actual schedule showed \$25,893 revenue, \$23,186 expense and a net loss \$3,756. This was \$2,902 unfavorable to the budgeted loss of \$854. It was noted that the 2017 net revenue was \$13,006 favorable to budget due to the timing of retreat deposits received during that year, thus distorting 2018 actual vs. budget.

#### Vice President's Report

CGS 2018 Retreat: Pam Argo reviewed a detailed schedule of the August 2018 retreat. She noted that the retreat fund had \$2,100 from the prior retreat, plus CGS allocated \$500 in 2018, and each registration fee included \$40 for the retreat fund (\$2,600). Everyone agreed that the raffle donations were great, and income was \$1,382. There were approximately 12 cancellations due to air quality concerns, and these were handled as best as possible, some receiving partial refunds. She thanked Christina for her efforts in getting a full refund on the canceled Yosemite bus trip. After expenses, net revenue from the 2018 retreat was \$1,690. There was good feedback on the facility and the food, and the hat parade was a great success. The outstanding efforts of Pam and her team were acknowledged, and Olive expressed her special thanks to Mary Huff and Sue Gouig for their work on the raffle and Gail Zimmerman and Marilyn Phelps for creating the table centerpieces. It was noted that last year the Board agreed to donate the 15 remaining retreat coffee mugs to firefighters during last year's Northern California firestorms. [Sherry Hunga-Moore arrived.]

Competitions, Ribbons and Pins: A report on the cost of ribbons and pins for the Northern and Southern 2018 competitions was distributed. Discussion followed regarding competition tablecloths, and it was agreed to allow \$100 in the budget to get fitted tablecloths.

(Continued from Page 20)

### **Director of Membership Report**

JoAnn Clark reported there were 390 members at the end of 2018 (365 individual, plus 25 family). She reported 156 members in 2019 to date (142 individual, plus 14 family). The draft new member welcome letter was reviewed and new Members Only password identified. Discussion followed regarding the problem with some members not receiving Constant Contact emails and ways to identify who is experiencing this problem in hopes of solving it. JoAnn reviewed some issues with member's patch identification, some paying her directly and not letting the patch leader know, some are in 3 or 4 patches, and some tag a patch but don't attend meetings. It was noted that the Temecula Valley regional group has been dissolved.

JoAnn reported six regional groups were awarded a free membership for 100% compliance in 2018 with the policy that all of their members are members of CGS.

### **Director of Northern Programs Report**

Sue Gouig reviewed a report of the 2018 northern and southern regional group leaders' meeting in Visalia on April 27, 2018, at which 28 people attended. It was noted that fundraising raffle revenue was \$1,419. She hoped we could replace Betty Finch as the *Golden Gourd* tips and tricks contributor, because the regional leaders said this was a favorite column. The 2019 northern patch leader meeting is being planned. There are currently eight patches in the north; and, during the year, she attended patch meetings taking place on Saturdays. We need to remind leaders to use only the membership application forms posted on the website when printing copies to be sure the current regional groups were listed. Olive will verify information discussed today and update the brochure and application form and let Mary know what changes are needed on the website.

### **Director of Southern Programs Report**

Libbi Salvo will be planning visits to patch meetings throughout the year. She would like to put a quarterly southern patch update in the *Golden Gourd*. It was suggested the community outreach activities done by the regional groups be reported and that they be submitted to the AGS magazine. Sue will see that an article on the Folsom activities are published in the *Golden Gourd*.

### **Director at Large Report**

Olive reported that the title of Director at Large will change to Ambassador at Large when the Bylaws are officially updated. Although we have begun using it, the Director of Membership title will be official at that time as well. Discussion followed regarding planning for the recruitment of ambassadors.

### **Golden Gourd Editor Report**

Mary Bliss reviewed Constant Contact expenses and advertising revenue reports. She distributed the 2019 newsletter outline and gourd-related events calendar, and several ideas were discussed. The group discussed a proposed column entitled El Gourdo's Ramblings written by a mystery author. All agreed it was a wonderful idea and the first one will be published in the winter issue. Sue said she would submit a report on the State Fair, Jody volunteered to do a safety-related article.

### **Website/Facebook Report**

Mary said that she decided to stay with the same website platform because we would have lost the uploads, and it would have been difficult to replicate. She reported the CGS Facebook page has 629 followers.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:30pm. The meeting reconvened at 1:30.

### **Creative Project Chairperson Report**

Fund Raising Project: Sherry Hunga-Moore described the next CGS fundraising project which will be groupings of gourd tiles. She envisioned them being assembled into shadow boxes, and the group discussed ways to display them at the Visalia conference (April 2020). She said we will need to collect the tiles by February 2020. Sherry was thanked for coordinating the Board's tile decoration project last evening.

Future CGS Retreat: Sherry distributed a proposal and described the amenities of Whispering Winds in Julian, CA, at which the San Diego County Gourd Artists recently had a "play-days" event. To test the feasibility, the San Diego group will hold a retreat in September 2019. It was agreed that the CGS retreat not take place the year of the Visalia conference and to hold one in 2021. Sherry noted that reservations at the Julian facility can only be made one year in advance. Discussion followed regarding preparations that will be needed as well as options for demos, pre-registered, half-day classes, on-campus transport, and potential field trips. The seed money for the retreat is the net proceeds from the 2018 retreat, and Pam recommended that \$40 be added to the registration fee to feed the retreat fund. Mary reported there were 76 participants in the 2018 retreat, after cancellations; and it was agreed to shoot for 80 participants at the future retreat.

(Continued on Page 22)

(Continued from Page 21)

### **Old Business**

CGS Competitions: Debra Zimmerman reviewed a report of the Southern California competition, which was the third year of working with the woodcarvers. She mentioned a few items that will be tweaked for future competitions. The class project category was very successful with 19 entries, and there were a total of 85 entries. We received the o.k. to do another joint competition with the woodcarvers in 2019.

It was mentioned that the Northern California competition had several categories with no entries. This sparked a conversation about the need to decide on and publicize categories well in advance and to choose ones that have high probability of entries. Lots of ideas were suggested and discussed. Jody Dingivan reviewed a report on the Northern California competition. The competition was a success with a total of 54 entries. She said the promotion of pre-registration allowed the entry check-in to be very quick. Before continuing the discussion, Sylvia Nelson was called. The pros and cons of creating divisions within the class gourd category were discussed. The difficulty of wording the distinctions as to how and when someone moved up to the next division was noted. Olive will send the Southern competition definitions to Sylvia. Sylvia and Debbie will work together to develop a consistent, clear way of communicating divisions. Due to the need to publish competition information in the near future, it was noted that this project may not be completed for this year's competitions.

Sylvia reported that Aaron Bullock wants to do a festival including a competition, and it was possible that Amador will sponsor the event that would also include classes. He does not expect CGS to fund it, but she hoped ribbons could be provided.

It was noted that judges need to be educated when a new technique is used. It was suggested a technique description be added to entries, and perhaps allowing a 3x5 card visible to the public. Sylvia will work with Debbie to draft a new judging form. She said the novice division has become an issue, because there are so few new members, and it was suggested that division be applied to only the basic categories. She will also examine the possibility of cutting down on the masters division. The call with Sylvia ended.

Olive reviewed a list of the CGS and Calabash Club competitions responsibilities and thanked Jody for all the work that Calabash has done with the Northern competitions. She said that it's CGS's responsibility to be involved, with a minimum of two CGS representatives present at all times. She acknowledged the many people who helped in 2018, including some spouses and family members. It was agreed that we need to organize volunteers into festival time slots, plus someone there during check-in time. It was highly recommended that Northern and Southern judges cross over to each other's competition.

Bylaws: Olive acknowledged that Sylvia and Pam put a lot of work into the revised CGS Bylaws, which were distributed at the 2018 Board meeting; and there were no objections to the proposed restatement. Since that time, a few changes were made, such as title changes for the Director of Membership and Ambassador at Large, and punctuation corrections. Before they can be officially voted upon by the Board, the proposed document needs to be published in the *Golden Gourd*; and, after 30 days, Olive will call for a motion to approve them via email.

### **New Business**

Welcome Table at Misti Washington Conference: Olive would like CGS to provide complimentary coffee at the 2019 MWGBG Weekend in the Garden conference. There will be information about CGS at the table. Last year, she and Debbie paid for this on behalf of CGS, and it was very well received. It was agreed to include some funds in the budget for this.

2020 Board Meeting: Olive said the next Board meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2020, in Visalia. The meeting recessed at 4:15p.m.

Following a budget meeting, the meeting reconvened at 5:10p.m. A motion carried to approve the 2019 budget [*Total income: \$8,827; Total expenses: \$10,323; Net income/loss: <\$1,496>*]. The meeting adjourned at 5:12p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Blessing, Secretary

## The Editors Vine

Hello,

The newsletter is very much a group effort so I would like to thank everyone that helps with the copy, pictures and ad support of the Golden Gourd Newsletter. Without your support we could not have this wonderful newsletter. I would like to give a very special thank you to our President Olive Moore for doing the proof reading for me and keeping us all on task.

For the most current information please visit the California Gourd Society website at:  
**[www.californiagourdsociety.com](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com)**.

If you are interested in volunteering, being a teacher or vendor please contact the host patch or festival host directly.

Remember this is “YOUR” newsletter. If you have anything you would like to have in the next issue please forward to me. Maybe you attended a recent festival, won an award, made something new or tried a new product? The deadline information is below.

Members are encouraged to use the “Members Only” section at our website. Don’t be afraid to poke around. For those of you that like a more INTERACTIVE social network you can LIKE us on our **Face Book page** we just hit a new high of over **669 followers**. **Facebook** is a perfect place to let our members and the general public know where they can find you and your gourds for sale or on display throughout the year. Our Facebook page link is at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/californiagourdsociety/>

If you do find an error please send me an email and I will correct the archive copy and if needed print a correction in the next issue. Please add to your address book: [editorgoldengourd@californiagourdsociety.com](mailto:editorgoldengourd@californiagourdsociety.com)

Thank you for your continuing support!

Mary Bliss - Editor Golden Gourd 05/20/19

The editor reserves the right to edit any submissions for content and consistency.

All contents copyright © **California Gourd Society** 1997— 2019.



**Article/Ad Deadlines 2019**

Note: The newsletter is emailed to our members approximately 30 days after the deadline for content.

**Summer .....July 15, 2019**  
**Fall .....October 15, 2019**  
**Winter 19/20.....January 31, 2020**  
**Spring.....April 15, 2020**

**Ad Rates - 2019**

**Half Page \$25**  
**1/4 Page \$15**  
**Business Card (members only) \$5**

Golden Gourd Newsletter Annual Cost \$2,400.00



## Get Fast Shipping and A One-Stop Shop for Thick-Shelled Gourds, Tools and Supplies!

[www.WelburnGourdFarm.com](http://www.WelburnGourdFarm.com)

For all of your gourd crafting needs, Welburn Gourd Farm has you covered! Visit our web site for organic thick-shelled gourds, FREE video tutorials, FREE Beginner's Guide to Gourd Crafting, DVD's, special offers, tools, supplies, and so much more!



Take a Look at These Customer Favorites Below!

### Get High Quality Organic Gourds!



"Your gourds are by far the best available, and your customer service is outstanding. I would not buy from anyone else. The high quality of your gourds makes them a joy to work with, and each of my customers has been thrilled! Thanks so much!!" - Cathy Whitehead, RI

Pictured left: Founder Doug Welburn, inspecting gourds for shipment in 1997.

Known for their **thick shells** and beautiful, natural markings, the Welburn Gourd is the gourd of choice for artists, crafters, and musicians who want quality above all else. See the **entire selection** of Welburn Gourds on the website below!



Pictured right: Happy customers at the farm. We are open to the public!



### Easily Clean the Insides of Gourds in Minutes with the GourdMaster Easy Cleaner Ball!

"I LOVE THE GOURDMASTER EASY CLEANER BALL - yes I'm yelling, must let the world know. What an incredible time saver and great finish. I have tried so many tools, and none compare." -Mari E.

The GourdMaster™ Easy Cleaner Ball has a durable, gravel-like surface that removes even the most stubborn dried gourd pulp in **seconds flat!** You'll LOVE how much time and energy you'll save when using the GourdMaster™ Easy Cleaner Ball to clean the inside of your gourds!

With 10 different sizes to choose from, you're able to clean the inside of most **any size gourd!**



Before



After

40635 De Luz Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm PST  
Call 760-728-4271 or visit [www.WelburnGourdFarm.com](http://www.WelburnGourdFarm.com)

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Pinterest