

THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

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FALL 1999

FEATURED ARTIST...Dana Richardson



Dana Richardson with a couple of her prize winning gourds.

I guess you could say I was going through the 40's blues. I needed something to be passionate about beside my wonderful husband, yet I had never done anything artistic in my life. I had always loved gardening. I would put plants in almost anything. When I finally saw a raw gourd turned into something beautiful, I knew I had to have one. So why not try and craft one myself.

Off I went to Home Depot to buy a small wood burning tool. With that small tool and my Complete Gourd Book in hand, I was off to a flying start. By trial and error, I finally began to make progress. Then I found myself not being able to stop! Gourds were soon everywhere!

My husband suggested I start selling them, yet being ever so shy since childhood, I was very hesitant. With his encouragement, I entered shows, craft fairs, and events. I saw my life turn around with this new found passion. I fell in love with this wonderful new art form more than I ever imagined. I find myself in my 'studio' (actually my garage) every morning at 9 am until my husband tells me he is starving and could I stop for some dinner!

I have now graduated to a wonderful new wood burning tool and over the past year have been adding more tools. I then had just enough courage to enter a couple of my pieces into the Welburns Gourd Art Festival. I was absolutely shocked to find out I won 1st place in two categories! Can you imagine how excited and inspired I am now??? So, my friends, I would only like to say, take a small dream, work hard on it, and Gourd On!!!

FEATURED ARTIST...Liza Hunter Muhly

My experience with gourds starts off as a "Jack and the Bean Stalk" type story. A friend had given me this moldy old gourd and told me to do something with it. Another six months went by before I decided to cut open this rotten old vessel and see what was still shaking. Aha...seeds!! What better thing to do with seeds than to throw them into the ground. Maybe then they would go away and I could get back to my painting. (I am a fabric painter-designer.) No such luck. Out of the six seeds I hastily planted, came 100 gourds. Help!! Now what do I do?

Weeks later I was out running by the sea and ran into a woman sitting in her yard working on her gourds. This woman was Kris Thoeni who became my first gourd guru and mentor. Little did I know she was about to change my world forever, and launch me into a severe case of gourd fever.

It's now been about four years and I have been steadily designing on gourds from my garden, instead of fabric from Thailand. I teach children and adults, grow gourds for sale to other gourders (Happy Valley Gourd Farm, Santa Cruz, CA), lecture, show, take more classes, meet more crazy gourders...basically live and breathe gourds and their fabulous "gourdous" shapes. I think it's the uniqueness of each gourd that has me addicted. I proudly proclaim I am a "gourder" for life!! I can't help myself!!



Liza in her gourd patch in Santa Cruz County

President's Message

Carol Rookstool

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Time to start thinking about fall! Let's make plans.

September 11-12: The Baal Gourd Festival will be held from 9 to 5 in Palmdale. There will be lots to see for the kids and for the young at heart. Gourds on arbors, gourds in bins, gourds by some of California's finest artists, make-and-take gourd classes with Kathy Riker, discussions about gourds, refreshments, and more gourds! Free admission and wagon rides. Look for the CGS booth and for the booth of the local gourd patch led by Marguerite and Paul Smith. For information call (661) 947-7121.

September 25 – 26: A not-to-be missed event is the Zittel Farms West Coast Gourd Festival in Folsom. This festival is a treat for the eyes as they "decorate" with sunflowers, green grass, orange pumpkins and GOURDS! The CGS board will be meeting on the evening of September 25 and everyone is welcome to attend. Get more information at the "Z-Gourders" booth, meet CGS officers and say hello to the local gourd patch leader. To find out more details about this festival, call (916) 801-1275.

October 1 – 3: Several members of CGS will be attending the Ohio Gourd Festival in Mt. Gilead, Ohio. The California contingent will attend the annual meeting of our parent organization, the American Gourd Society, that is held during the Ohio show. If you are interested in networking with these California travelers, contact me at (213) 629-5689 (our CGS voice-mail number).

October 16 – 17: The Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild will again present their fun-filled 4th annual gourd and basketry weave-in at Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas. For information call (760) 431-1646.

March 17 – 19, 2000: Y2GOURD The annual meeting (and social get together) of CGS will be held at the Asilomar Conference Ground in Pacific Grove. The theme is **Y2Gourd**. On Friday evening we will have social and business mini-meetings. On Saturday, March 18, there will be a "gourd college" which is our way of saying that there will be a variety of learning experiences throughout the day and evening. Since it is the beginning of a new century, your CGS board thought it would be fun to focus on mini-gourds and small art projects. We also thought that the conference ground managers might be overwhelmed if we brought in some of our really BIG projects.

Ardith Willner is just beginning to put together a list of classes and teachers for the "gourd college." She welcomes your ideas. A Saturday

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Lynne Bunt	415-459-3088	ladyg@gourdland.com
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Ardith Willner	831-427-3833	ardithk@aol.com

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(bold type denotes a new Gourd Patch of GP leader)

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Sue Erb & Toni Best	209-562-4177
<u>Walnut/Diamond Bar</u>	
Mark Workman	909-598-1230

(President's Message continued from page 2)

night social will be held in the beautiful Merrill Hall on the conference grounds. On Sunday morning, there will be special break-out sessions for our 22 regional coordinators who provide leadership for the CGS gourd patches.

Lynne Bunt, our talented Regional Coordinator from the North Bay area will coordinate conference registration and housing for

GOURDS ALIVE...What a GREAT week-end!

The Gourd Festival at Doug and Sue Welburns' was tremendous! There were classes, competitions, great food, dancers, drummers, vendors, lots of people. Over 150 contestants entered in to the 2nd Annual Gourd Art Competition. The competition added a breathtaking dimension to the already exciting weekend. Winners were:

Pyrography 1st place – Betty Finch; 2nd place– Kathy Riker; 3rd place – Theodore Roybal.

Carving / Cutting: 1st place – “Kimo” Trueman; 2nd place Valerie Martinell; 3rd place – Theodore Roybal

Painting / Stained: 1st place – Donald Hubbert; 2nd place – Kathy Riker; 3rd place – Deborah Easley

Multiple Embellishment Container: 1st place – Dana Richardson; 2nd place – Carole Walker; 3rd place – Larry McClelland

Functional Items: 1st place – Toni Best; 2nd place – Carol Robertson; 3rd place – Kathy Riker

Dolls and Figures: 1st place – Dana Richardson; 2nd place – Carol Robertson; 3rd place – Kathy Riker

Masks: 1st place – Jill Walker; 2nd place – Kathy Riker; 3rd place – Carole Walker

GOURD KUDOS TO OUR VENDERS...THANK YOU!!!

Welburns Silent Auction a Success by Kathy Riker

I would like to thank Doug, Sue, and Phoebe Welburn for the idea of the silent auction and all the help they gave me on it. The auction was a huge success and raised \$1,100.00. So many members of CGS and associates donated their art work. Each item was bid upon and found a wonderful new home. A special thanks goes to the companies that also supported this auction with generous donations. They are:

Gourd Central Feather Co.

The Tree Mover Tree & Gourd Farm

Cheap Joe's Art Supplies

Leisure Time Products, Inc.

Micro-Mark, the Small Tool Specialists

Royalwood LTD. Dremel

Ardith Willner – Detail Master

Betty Finch was wonderful with all the help she gave on

Y2Gourd. She prefers to receive e-mail at ladyg@gourland.com. Her phone number is (415) 459-3088. The state of California has not yet published the price for housing, meals and admission to the conference grounds – so we await their decision and will mail registration information to our CGS members in early October.

Container with Lid: 1st place – Carol St. Pierre; 2nd place – Dalen Anderson; 3rd place – Valerie Martinell

Whimsy: 1st place – Marguerite Smith; 2nd place – Theodore Roybal; 3rd place – Larry McClelland

Weaving / Coiling: 1st place – Dianne Connely; 2nd place – Mary Prior; 3rd place – Valerie Martinell

Judges Award: Donald Herbert, Carol St. Pierre and Dalen Anderson for multiple embellishment containers; Jim Foster for a Gourd Figure; Dalen Anderson and Dianne Connely for their unusual gourds in the Whimsy category.

An outstanding event at this year's Welburn gourd Festival, was the Kids Korral. Staffed by local volunteers and led by teacher Leigh Adams, a charter member of CGS.

Unfortunately, we have a lot to learn about photography. If any of our winners would be so kind as to send us a photo of your gourd art, with your name, category, and what prize you won on the back of it, we would be delighted to print it in our next newsletter. Don't you just hate it when you mess up that 'special' roll of film?

how to run an auction, AND especially all the energy that she put in on trying to get people to bid. I would like to also thank Valerie and her husband Bud, Debra and Darlene for all their help on setting up and running the auction. I would like to say a very special thank you to my husband Robert, for supporting me in everything I do with and for CGS, especially for putting up with all the boxes and transportation of them, the many phone calls, and setup and running the auction and helping me whenever I needed it.

Thank you so much to EVERYONE who helped for making the auction such a great success!





Gourd Patch Happenin's

Bakersfield / Kern County Gourd Patch

June 18 the Kern County patch got together for a crafting day at the Finch residence. A highlight of the day was the display of pine needle baskets by Native American Artist Nells Johnson. The members were also pleasantly surprised when the mail carrier arrived with a package of the latest issue of "The Golden Gourd" in which the featured artist on the cover was their own Betty Finch.

Several Bakersfield members attended the Wellburn festival in June. Kern County member's donated crafted gourds, pine needles and CGS T-shirts to the silent auction fund raiser. We want to publicly thank Kathy Riker for all the work she put into making the silent auction such a success.

The July 17 gourd crafting in the park event in Visalia was attended by several Kern County members. We enjoyed the crafting, food and camaraderie. Four new Bakersfield area gourd crafters were discovered in attendance and added to the Kern County Patch mailing list. On the way home the group stopped at the Thomas Farm where Noi was kind enough to open the studio for them.

The next planned event is a workshop led by Joye Benson on how to apply metallic foil to gourds. The workshop is scheduled for August 28.

Redding Patch

Hello from Redding! We had a wonderful meeting held in the pines of Shingletown as the Shingletown ladies were our host for the July meeting of the Pacific Northwest Gour-dites. Joyce Bell, a gourd artist that came all the way from Weaverville shared her talent of gourd artistry at this fun and informative meeting. Joyce showed us all how she creates her works of art by woodburning, gold foil, cutting, embossing and general crafting of the gourd. Thank you Joyce for sharing with us, especially the cute little quail you have crafted. Thanks also to those wonderful ladies at the Log Cabin gift shop for being such gracious hosts!

The August meeting was held at The Double "W" ranch. The special guest for the meeting was Ardith Willner, who was teaching us the craft of woodburning.

The September meeting will be a fun one! We will be car pooling for those interested in going to the Zittel Festival in Folsom. This is a must see for any gourd lover, and we will surely have a fun trip. Plan on a full day. Anyone interested in coming to our meetings or would like more information on the Redding Patch, please contact Coleen Wogoman at (530) 357-3477 or e-mail to: doublewranch@juno.com.

San Bernardino County

Things have been very busy here, with all of our efforts going toward the Silent Auction. After we got over the 'jet lag' we were delighted to see our efforts contribute to CGS!

The next meeting will be held at Kathy Riker's house in October. At this time we will have loads of photos to share about the Gourd Festival. We will also go over new and old business, along with a few new techniques to add to your gourds. Please call (909)797-4591 for date, time and directions to the meeting. We look forward to having everyone join us.

Walnut / Diamond Bar

The next meeting will be held Sept. 18 at 11:00 AM at the Workman home. The address is 20176 Portside Drive, Walnut, CA 91789. Call (909) 598-1230 for directions. You are encouraged to bring your previous work and/or a piece in progress to share. Please also bring something to drink, as brunch will be provided. RSVP at the phone number above, so we know how many steaks and lobsters to cook!

Orange County

We will meet on October 21 at 6:30 pm at the University Community Association Room at 4530 Sandburg Way in Irvine. Prospective new members are welcome! We will be hearing about our experiences doing demonstrations and distributing seeds and information at the Orange County Fair. Come see also the grand prize winning "Greyhounds Gourd" entered by JaVae Ferrier. Be sure to also bring gourds and other items of interest for the "Show and Tell" table. We want to see everyone's Wellburn Gourd Fest photos!

Thanks to new member Diane Day, who helped arrange for us to have the opportunity to have a booth at the San Clemente Art Fair on September 18-19. We are looking for a few good local CGS gourdheads to help staff it, distribute information, do simple gourd demos, and provide items for exhibit/sale. Interested persons can call Susan Sullivan (714) 997-4482 evenings, or 834-8309 at work.

Sonoma County Gourd Patch

Our Marin/Sonoma Gourd Patch picnic was attended by 12 members. The array of gourd creations was awesome and the varied selection of delicious food kept us going back for more. As usual, not a silent moment was experienced the

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Gourd Patch Happenin's continued...



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entire day!

At our August meeting, we invited a bead importer, Judy Tomsky of Natural Touch, to share her knowledge and wonderful assortment of embellishments from Indonesia.

In September members of our Gourd Patch will be sharing a table at the Zittel Gourd Festival. We are looking forward to seeing other CGS members there.

Our Fall is shaping up with a knotless netting class, creating festive gourd containers for Thanksgiving and making ornaments for our ornament exchange and holiday party in December.

Palo Alto – Silicone Valley

Summer of '99 will be one to remember! At our April meeting we made drums. We came with gourds already decorated and Barbara Johnson taught us how to attach the drumhead. Our August meeting was held at Ginger Summit's home where she displayed musical instruments, which will be in her new book. We also displayed gourds, both real and virtual, in honor of our special guests Tom and Sheryl Ball from The Tree and Gourd Farm.

We have also participated in three juried shows as a group. The Stanford Spring Faire, the Burlingame Art in the Park, and the Menlo Park Connoisseur's Marketplace. We had a great time, and truly enjoyed seeing so many people buy our pieces.

Our next meeting will be October 3 at the home of Judy and Larry Cunningham. All are welcome. Please call Carol Morrison at (650) 493-2998 or Judy Manaco at (650) 941-4060 and let us know if you will be coming.

Stockton

We have been keeping busy with new members. Our next meeting will be October 2 at 10:00 AM at the Gourd Factory. Please bring beads and cording as we will be learning the art of beading. We are also starting to put together our activities for Zittels Gourd Festival. Come join the fun... be sure to bring your own lunch and drink. Call Karen Makal at (209) 887-3694 and let her know how many are coming in your group.

Santa Cruz Gourd Patch

It has been a busy summer getting ready for the many events coming up this fall. A number of members have been busy tending their own gourd patches, many with the help of seeds supplied by Ginger Summit. Although Mother

Nature has not been fully supportive, everyone is seeing gourds in their infancy or adolescence. On a sadder note I have to report that some 4th of July revelers sent a bottle rocket into my gourd patch which resulted in 13 hills going up in flames! The straw mulch provided great fuel and the local fire department got in on the action while I was out of town. However, gourds must be very hardy as several plants are making a come back after being roasted and then cut back to the main stem.

Several members attended the Welburn Gourd Festival, both giving and taking classes, and also showed in the California Gourd Society Show. The food and entertainment was great. The true gourders also enjoyed buying raw gourds and perusing booths for materials to use in making gourds.

In July we sponsored a class on knotless netting on gourds. Lynne Everett was a great teacher and Ardith Willner's yard provided the perfect setting for students to sit about in small groups and make their mini-gourd necklaces.

Coming events include a trip to Novato to take a class on making a gourd fountain with Lady Gourdiva herself, Lynne Bunt. Other meetings during the fall will include: Oct. 17, potluck and show & tell; Nov. 21, silent auction with donations and bidding by members and their guests; Dec. 19, potluck and gourd ornament exchange. Contact Jill Walker at (831) 728-4427 or gourdwalkr@aol.com if you have any questions.



A few of this quarter's featured artist
Liza Hunter Muhly's artwork.

Visalia / Tulare County

We were so pleased to have 35 "Gourd Enthusiasts" at our picnic July 17 in Visalia. Carol Rookstool taught pine needle weaving on gourds, and many were very happy to see Noi Thomas from Thomas Farms so they could stock up on more supplies and tools. Members of the area Handweavers Guild attended our picnic and we are looking forward to attending their show October 16 in Exeter CA.

We are setting up an information booth at the Tulare County Fair in September and are looking for CGS members to volunteer a couple of hours to share their interest in gourds with the public and to also show off their work. We would like to encourage you to enter your work in the competition at the Fair. Please contact us for more information.

We will be participating in the Three Rivers Senior Bazaar, November 20. Any member of CGS is welcome to put in their pieces for sale, on the condition that they also volunteer to help!

Our next Gourdpatch fun get together will be Novem-

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Gourd Patch Happenin's continued...

(Continued from page 5)

ber 21, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at Thomas Farms in Lindsay CA, (559) 562-9640. It is a BYOG (bring your own gourd...or buy one from Noi) to work on. Please bring samples of your work, along with your lunch. Drinks will be provided.

We would like to invite you to call us if you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to register for a class. Looking forward to seeing you!

Toni Best and Sue Erb (209) 562-4177

Mendocino – Yolo County

The June meeting was held at Jackie and John Pometto's home in Oakville. We enjoyed a wonderful BBQ/pot luck in the Pometto's garden

Our August meeting was held at Arline and Monty Montgomery's home in Lakeport. Arline taught an excellent class in pine needle trim on a gourd. Members' entries for the County Fair and the Pear Festival booth set up were also discussed at this meeting. The Fair opens in Lakeport September 2 and closes the 5th.

Our gourd artists have been accepted by the Kelseyville Pear Festival which will be held September 25 in Kelseyville. This will be our second joint effort at a crafts fair. We are also being considered for the Steele Winery Festival to be held October 9 – 10 in Kelseyville.

The Mendocino Art Center's annual juried craft fair was held July 17 – 18. Our member Gretchen Ceteras was accepted and spent a successful weekend selling her art gourds. Member Diane McNamara's art and garden gourds may be purchased at the Bush Street Cottage gift shop, 21065 Bush Street, in Middletown. The Main Street Gallery in Lakeport has also accepted JoAnnis Mohrman's art gourds which will be on exhibit and for sale from October 1 through December 30. An artists reception will be held at the gallery 6:30 pm on October 8. Everyone is welcome to attend and view JoAnnis' latest work.

The September 18 meeting will be at Ernie & Darline Velarde's home. Harvesting techniques for growers and photographing art work will be discussed, as well as preparing our booth for upcoming fairs. The October 30 meeting will be held at Al & Betty Silveira's home. Use of miscellaneous tools, paint, dye, etc. on gourd scraps for experimentation will provide members the opportunity of sharing their favorite tools, paints, dye, and techniques. The November meeting will be held at the home of Judy Wilwand. Gourds and plants will be for sale. Judy will discuss her growing methods and show us her 24' X 40' greenhouse. In December we will have a Christmas lunch. Anyone interested in joining in our group's activities may contact JoAnnis Mohman, (707) 274-8874, for further information.

Hesperia

Our gourd patch is really going well!!! This month we had a pot luck/bbq at the home of Lynn Trasko. We dis-

cussed the many different growing problems each one in the group was having with their gourds. It was a great sharing idea. We are all tracking soil preparations, watering methods, bug deterrents, etc. so that next year we will hopefully get a better crop.

Our patch is meeting once a month, the 3rd Thursday of each month. We are also trying to fit in a Saturday every once in a while. All of us are looking forward to The Tree Movers festival next month. Call (760) 956-2087 for time and place of our next meeting.

Antelope Valley

We have been lucky with the nice weather that was perfect for Festivals and shows this summer. We are looking forward to the Baal's Gourd Festival. They have been working very hard to make their 40 acres of gourds and trees bigger and better. Recently they built a 400' gourd arbor to grow bigger and more variety of gourds, making our gourd world better. We certainly appreciate all the help they give to our Patch!

We would like to announce that the Lombardi Ranch in Santa Clarita Valley is hosting a festival on October 9th and 10th. They have been in business over 30 years, and this year would like to add gourd booths into their annual pumpkin festival. Please call (661) 296-8697 or lombardi@c-s.net for more information.

Many members of our patch have been in shows and festivals to sell gourds. Our next meeting will be Sunday November 7th at the Baals Tree and Gourd Farm. Bring one of your favorite gourds or works in progress. We will be talking about new techniques for Halloween gourds. We will meet at 11:00 am.

El Dorado

We will have a booth at the El Dorado Harvest Festival on September 18th and 19th at the Placerville Fairgrounds. Our goal is to introduce and educate the public to the wonder of gourds. Our display starts with a mini garden, gourds inside, then cleaning and embellishing. CGS members will exhibit their art for display and sale.

Our next Gourd Patch meeting will be on September 20th at 10:30 at the Age. Building in Placerville. We are having a Halloween theme and will discuss new techniques.

November 15th is the scheduled date for our Christmas Holiday Ornament class. We will meet at 9:30 at the Age.

MEMBERS ON-LINE GALLERY
<http://www//calgourd.com>

Members featured this quarter are:
Liza Hunter Muhly Lynn Bunt
Dana Richardson Deborah Easley



Gourd Patch Happenin's

Building in Placerville. Please bring anything special you would like to see on your ornaments.

Please check the up-coming class schedule for classes in Coloma. For more information, please call Carol Cherry at (530) 622-6755.

Santa Monica

This has been a busy summer for us, with so many very exciting shows and exhibits. Artist Lillian Hopkins has a piece in the Frog Hollow Exhibition in Middlebury Vermont, and will also be in the Contemporary Craft Market at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on November 5th - 7th. Probably the most exciting bit of news is that she is also going to be shown Internationally at the Millennium Doll Art Show in Tokyo.

The Santa Monica gourd patch continues to have a lot of fun with members exchanging ideas, and us working on various projects together. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 30th at 7:30 pm at Lillian Hopkin's home. Please bring something to work on, or love, and learn some new techniques. For more information call Lillian Hopkins at (310) 396-3266.

South Bay - Long Beach

Lorene Coleman from our patch will be busy in October demonstrating at the Gardena Valley Heritage Festival on October 2nd. Her efforts are targeted toward children, sharing creations. She has written and illustrated children's books depicting the legend of gourds and their historical presence in cultures all over the world.

Our next meeting will be November 13th. Please call (310) 769-0271 for directions. We will be going over dyeing techniques and presentations.

Vallejo - Fairfield

Our next gathering will be on Sunday October 24 at 1:00 pm at the Sage Mansion in Benicia. For directions prior to the meeting, call Kemper at (707) 557-0462. Please bring a finished gourd, a work in progress, or a favorite tool for "Show and Tell". In anticipation of Halloween, examples of gourd masks will be on hand, and we'll present a quickie gourd mask-making workshop.

We will have ample time to discuss, learn, and practice. There is a lot to discover from other Patch members. No experience is necessary! Tell a friend. And remember worn-out play clothes is the recommended attire.

Sacramento - Folsom

We are looking forward to the Big Festival that is going to be held at the Zittels Gourd Farm on September 25th and 26th. Roger Zittel has given our patch a great spot for our booth, GOURDMINE, and has entrusted us with primary responsibility for information and hospitality at the festival.

This year we have the good fortune to have all 5 board members of CGS coming to the festival. President Carol Rookstool has graciously made available the resources of CGS to help us in our booth demonstrating, talking to people and greeting new members.

Our next scheduled meeting after the festival will be on Saturday, October 9 at Zittel's at 10:00 am. We will be recapping the gourd festival and classes. Bring your gourds along, and work with us for the day.

We are planning to have a "no host dinner" at YEAGERS TAP HOUSE AND GRILL in Folsom on Saturday night September 25 after the doors to the festival close. We will be at 727 Trader Lane, Folsom. Try and join us for the fun and more conversations about, what else...GOURDS! See you at 6:30 pm.

Marin County - San Francisco

The North Bay Gourd Patch includes San Francisco, Marin and Alameda counties. Our group has accomplished gourd artist / crafters, as well as beginners. We are a sharing crowd and welcome those of you that have not been attending patch gatherings as well as our regulars. You can come and meet us at the CGS table at the Zittel Gourd Festival on September 25th and 26th.

On October 9th we will have a meeting at the home of Linda Rieschel, 488 Fairway, in Novato. This will be a joint meeting with the Sonoma group. We are planning a knotless netting demonstration as well as other techniques for making gourd dishes. Please bring a "show and tell" item to share. For directions and RSVP, call Linda @ 382-6088.

Nancy Miller's gourds can be seen at the prestigious Sausalito Art Festival on Labor Day weekend. Last year Nancy won second prize in her category. Stefan Schneider and Lynne Bunt will have their work at The Lafayette Art & Wine festival September 18th and 19th. You can also see their work on the web site at www.gourland.com. Take a look at the blue ribbon gourd they won at the Waterfront Festival in Sacramento.



Gourders from the Marin/Sonoma Patches at a recent joint meeting of the two patches.



*In Remembrance Of Edna Heer
1920-1999*



It is with a tear in our hearts that we share with you the news of the passing of one of our most loved members, Edna Heer.

She was born Edna Langenwalters, daughter of Freda and Phillip, in Madera, CA in 1920. When she was eight her family moved to Paso Robles where she had an adventurous childhood. She graduated from Paso Robles High in 1939. She then attended Biola College in Los Angeles before marrying her beloved husband Alfred on October 31, 1942.

During the first half of their marriage, they farmed in the Paso Robles area. In 1969 Al started planting pumpkins, and their residence on Creston Road soon became known as the "Pumpkin Farm". Gourd seeds sprouted soon after that and it became the Pumpkin and Gourd Farm. With all of those wonderfully shaped gourds around, Edna started to design and paint the many gourds, selling them at craft shows and in the gift shop. Business grew as more and more people became interested in gourds.

Edna and Al raised three sons and one daughter. Two of their sons and daughters-in law, Walt and Donna, and Henry and Leslie, live in Paso Robles, while their son Chris and his wife Debbie, live in Cuyama. Their daughter Mary, with her husband John Blaauw, live in Monrovia. Edna and Al were also blessed

with six grandchildren and two-great grandchildren.

When Al died in 1988, Edna Heer truly became the heart of the Pumpkin and Gourd Farm. She shipped gourds all over the USA and enjoyed talking to people about the crafting of their gourds.

Edna loved playing the piano and organ all her life. She played for years at The First Mennonite Church. She loved spending time with her family, always with her shining faith in God all around her.

Edna was the person who inspired CGS founding president, Carol Rookstool, to start a California chapter of the American Gourd Society. She lent her efforts and know-how in those first few years. Her sense of humor, joy of life, and goodness will stay with all of us who knew her.

There may be tears in our hearts, but there is also a smile on our lips for having known you.

With love and our condolences to the Family,

Ardith Willner – California Gourd Society



 **New Appointments 1999**

We are pleased to announce that the positions of Secretary and V. P. of Membership have recently been filled on our Board of Directors.

Lynne Bunt, Regional Coordinator of San Francisco & East Bay Area has enthusiastically accepted the position of Recording Secretary. Lynne has been a member of CGS since 1997. She has great organizational skills, and a desire to help us archive photos, information, and record our meetings.

Rebecca Cileo, co-leader of the Redding Patch, has accepted the position of V.P. of Membership. Rebecca has been a member of CGS since February 1999. She has wonder-

ful computer skills, a sunny personality, and a desire to see CGS grow even bigger. As you will note by the membership application attached to the golden Gourd, you are now sending all new membership applications to her in Redding. Regional Coordinators will be receiving labels for mailing and updates of new members in their region at regular intervals.

As you know all board positions are on a volunteer basis. We will be posting a ballot in this newsletter so that you may vote upon all members of the Board of Directors. We encourage you to vote, and confirm us in these volunteer roles.

Please join us in welcoming both Lynne and Rebecca to this hard working team.

Y2Gourd - March 17th – 19th, 2000

4th Annual Board of Directors Meeting & "Gourd College"

Open to all members – Room reservations limited ACT NOW!

Asilomar Conference Center, Monterey CA



**CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ELECTION 2000**



The following people have been nominated for the slate of officers of the California Gourd Society, a California non-profit corporation, by the Nominating Committee of said society. All terms are for a two year period. However, for this initial corporate election, the terms of office are being staggered in order to build a group of experienced officers. Officers are eligible for re-election at the end of the period for which they hold office. Should there be a resignation during the term of an officer, the board is empowered to appoint a replacement for the remainder of the unfilled term.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

- Carol Rookstool – President (two year term)**
- Ardith Willner – VP Programs (two year term)**
- Rebecca Cileo – VP Membership (one year term)**
- Rita Tomlinson – Treasurer (two year term)**
- Lynne Bunt – Recording Secretary (one year term)**
- Leigh Adams – Representative at Large (two year term)**
- Doug Welburn – Representative at Large (two year term)**
- Kathy Riker – Representative at Large (one year term)**

PLEASE VOTE TODAY!



BALLOT AND INTEREST SURVEY

I vote for the slate of officers submitted by the CGS Nominating Committee.

_____ **YES** _____ **NO**

I would be interested in participating in CGS in the following way (OPTIONAL)

Name and address (OPTIONAL)

MAIL BALLOT TO: CGS Nominating Committee, 950 South Flower #216,
Los Angeles, CA 90015 by **November 30, 1999**

Tips, Tools & Techniques

Creating One-Time-Use Design Templates for Pyrography

By David Blackwell, Associate Editor *THE GOURD*, Stanley NC

My experimentation with Celtic designs, particularly key patterns, for woodburning on gourds created numerous difficulties in transferring the designs to the slightly rounded gourd surface. Eventually, a method evolved which solved some of my problems with design layout transfer. However, the method is best suited to small, complex designs and bands up to a moderate width.

Larger designs and wider bands present additional problems. The larger the design area, the more the curvature of the gourd affects the design area and these additional distortions limit the usefulness of this technique. That is, a 2" band around the gourd or a 3" circular design simply may not be practical.

Start with masking tape (3" maximum width) and waxed paper. Place a strip of tape the size of your design on the waxed paper and secure or clamp this to a smooth flat surface. Lay down the design on the tape by tracing or drawing freehand. Cut away as much tape as possible to minimize design distortion when the tape-design is placed on the gourd. Proceed to woodburn, pulling off the tape when the burned design is complete. Congratulations. You have now created a one-time design template.

The brand of masking tape is important. I experimented initially with 1" Manco brand tape. Buoyed by this success, I switched to 2" Scotch brand masking tape and immediately encountered irritating, frustrating difficulties. The Scotch brand tape 'pulled' while burning and distorted the design. Temperature adjustments had no effect. Had I used this brand originally, I would have written off the idea entirely. Switching back to Manco brand tape (3" this time) this method was again successful. Note: You might try other brands, but be prepared for differing results.

An alternative to hand drawing the design onto the tape-waxed papers is to use this basic method with a light table for the design transfer process. If I had an artistic background and/ or a light table, inter alia, these ideas and solutions might have been obvious. Possessing neither, here is my 4 a.m. improvisation.

Go immediately to the kitchen, remove the window, and take it to the worktable. Secure the design to the glass and place masking tape-waxed paper template on top. Put a worklight under the window and aim upward. Turn on the light and 'trace' onto this one-time template. (Sorry artists, but some of us need to use "patterns".) Caution: When you use printed materials as your design source, first consider potential copy-

right implications because it could be expensive if you do not.

If you have access to a photocopier with enlarging/reducing capabilities, custom-size your design to your gourd the easy way. Let the machine do it.

As another alternative for the design transfer, affix masking tape to a sheet of whichever transparency film is designed to run through the type of copier you will be using. Position your design carefully and copy onto the taped area of the transparency. Handle your new template carefully because the print typically smudges much more easily than the non-tape surfaces. You can spray the tape--not the transparency--with artist's fixative available in art supply stores to "fix" the print onto the tape. Remove the tape, trim closely, apply to the gourd, woodburn and remove the tape. Transparency film is more expensive, but each sheet can be used several times and if you plan ahead, you can create several templates at one time on each sheet.

Note: Be sure that the copier can run the type of transparency film you are using, and more importantly, that it can safely run the masking tape on the transparency. Not all copiers can do this.

I enjoy the ease and results of these template methods for pyrography. Lacking the true artistic talent needed for free-hand drawing, I need all the nips and tucks available, so I welcome any and all comments, suggestions, and refinements.

Here's to better and easier gourdng!



Betty Finch 1999 gourd crop experiment.

This horse was scratched onto the gourd 2 weeks before this photo was taken.

Anyone else out there in Gourdland have any tips on how you can make sure the image is visible after the skin is washed off, please send your ideas to Betty Finch at: Finch@kerncounty.com

WORDS OF WISDOM

- ☞ A mind stretched by a new idea, never goes back to its original dimension.
- ☞ Originality and a feeling of one's own dignity are achieved by choice.

Learning Together: Gourds and Computers

By Jeanne Dixon, member from Pasco Washing-

Four years ago, I had my first dried gourd crop, and my 10 year old daughter and I signed up for painting classes. We also had just purchased a new computer, and signed up with a local Internet Service Provider (ISP). I was ready to search (surf) for gourds on the World Wide Web (WWW).

Three years ago, a young pumpkin grower created my first web page. I met Rachel on a pumpkin e-mail list, and she wanted to know about gourds. I mailed (Snail mail) photos of my birdhouses, and Rachel added pictures of my gourds on the web page. It was exciting to see my art on the web. I was famous!

Human nature being what it is, I became bored with seeing the same photos, so I set out to teach myself how to make my own web page. With a few subtle hints to hubby, Santa gave me a scanner for Christmas. Now I could really change those pictures as much as I wanted.

Learning is one of the neatest assets of the Internet. I have included not only my painted gourd art on my web site, but also information on how to grow gourds. This idea stemmed from e-mail messages I had received requesting information. Cucumber Beetle anyone? How about a gourd arbor?

There are a lot of wonderful gourd sites on the Internet. One of the best, in my book, is The Gourd Artist Guild, which is owned by John Stacy. John has done a fantastic job of bringing together gourd artists, farmers, crafters, suppliers, etc. Whatever one can imagine relating to gourds can be found at The Gourd Artist Guild. It is truly a site to visit, so plan to have lunch date with your computer. The web address is: <http://www/jstacydesigns.com/>

Debbie Norton of Feather River Baskets has a wonderful web site. She not only has her art on display but also explains how to dye pine needles. Her web address is: <http://www/angefire.com/ca/pineneedlebasket/>

Using most Internet search engines (Yahoo, Web Crawler, Hot Bot) one can find web sites full of information about gourds. John Stacy is also owner of the Gourd Patch E-mail list. E-mail lists are created as a forum with a mutual topic of discussion. If you sign up on the Gourd Patch List, you will find lots of gourd information sharing.

I would like to mention netiquette. This is a term for etiquette on the Network (Internet). You cannot see your "audience". It is important how you write a message. In my busy schedule, it is frustrating to receive a message from someone who does not state who they are (no signature), where they are from (a state is adequate) and how they became interested in gourds. A term I like to borrow from the

Tolenet E-mail list is "Sharing is Carin". Manners are important, even on the Internet. Here is a web site, which addresses this subject:

[Http://www.albion.com/netiquette/index.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/index.html)

Hopefully I have provided you with some useful information. Gourds on the Internet is a powerful tool. We can all spread the word and learn more about gourds. I can't help but think that the Internet has substantially contributed to the popularity of gourds. It is so much faster than the weeks it takes to get information about our favorite subject.

Internet Locations to Enjoy

Gourd Societies:

California: <http://www.calgourd.com>

Indiana: <http://www.kiva.net/~jokaro/kathy.html>

Arizona: <http://www.ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/html/clubs/gourd.htm>

Georgia: <http://www/angefire.com/la/gagourds>

Other interesting sites:

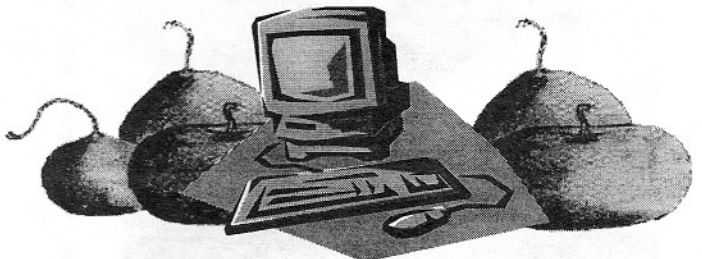
<http://www.ashland.edu/~lbraun/baskets.html>

[Http://www.owt.com/users/jdixon/index.htm](http://www.owt.com/users/jdixon/index.htm)

Gourd Artist Guild

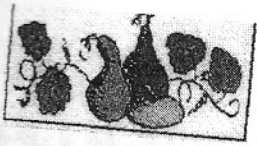
<http://jkstacydesigns.com/stsociety.html>

If you have a site that would be of interest please send it to Ardith Willner at: ardithnk@aol.com

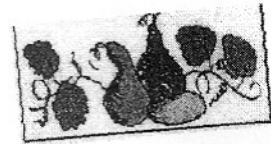


Don't forget to visit our site

www.calgourd.com



CGS: FYI News



GOURD PATCH MEMBERS!

CGS is an organization that depends on member volunteers for its very existence. At the heart of this group are the regional coordinators who dedicate a great deal of their time and energy to you, the gourd enthusiast.

Coordinators are required to have a minimum of quarterly meetings with CGS members in their area. We are all grateful that many of these fine people go beyond this requirement.

We need your help to keep their motivation and enthusiasm going by:

- ◆ Letting them know if you will be attending any announced meetings;

- ◆ Being diligent to arrange your schedule so that you arrive on time;
- ◆ Sharing your time and ideas with your local patch members.

All too often we are told by coordinators that they don't know whether there will be one or twenty members attending a patch meeting. Recently we had two separate regional meetings scheduled that no one attended...even those who had RSVP.

CAN YOU HELP?? I hope you can.
Ardith Willner – CGS VP of Programs

E-MAIL MEMBERSHIP!!

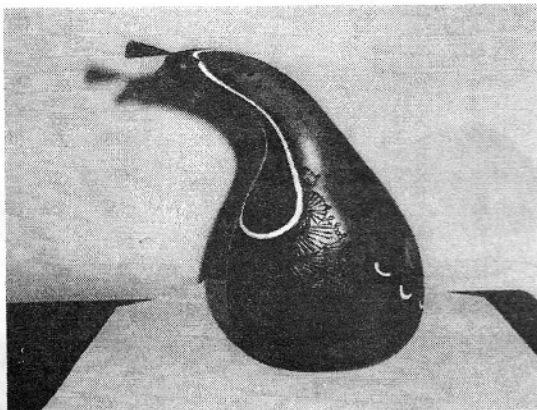
Be sure to send your "e" address to our Membership V.P. Rebecca Cileo at: Luv2rideDi@aol.com We are going 'online' with updates...

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

At the first official non-profit public benefit corporation board meeting, \$6,025.59 was transferred into the account of CGS from the previous four years we were known as California Gourd Society Club.

ALL MEMBERS!!

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Rebecca Cileo at: Luv2rideDi@aol.com



Quail by Joyce L. Bell
Weaverville, CA
Woodburning, Leather dye and feather

Looking for the RIGHT person !!!!

Your Board of Directors is looking to fill the V.P. of Communications with a member of CGS who wants to get involved and see us grow.

Our candidate will have fun with communication skills and will be comfortable overseeing the contents of the Golden Gourd.

Our 'official' guidelines are:

1. Oversee publication of Golden Gourd on a quarterly basis. Establish and communicate publishing deadlines for newsletter, and work with set-up person to meet deadline.
2. Write and submit a "state-Report" for publication in The Gourd (AGS Newsletter) on a quarterly basis.
3. Oversee contents of web site, working with web manager.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Carol Rookstool at (213) 629-5689, or Ardith Willner at (831) 427-3833

Q UOTES, Q UIPS, & Q UERIES

I think judges of competitions should be members of another State Chapter, who have been invited in and hosted by the home chapter. This way judges would not know who the artist is and may judge more fairly. Or, at a minimum, judges should have a degree in art and mixed medium. The judging should be based on imagination, creativity, and quality of the work. . .Kathy Riker

Amateur gourd grower shares words of wisdom:

- Don't count your gourds before they harden
- Gourd vines get really, really big!
- Gourds get progressively harder to grow each year. Whatever bugs and diseases you have this year you will have next year along with a couple of new ones.
- When you buy gourds from growers you know what size and shape you are getting.
- Squash bugs, aphids, gophers, spider mites, moths, mildew, worms, leaf hoppers, beetles, and ants love gourds too.
 - To learn to tie a growing gourd in a knot you must be willing to break some in half.

Betty Finch

Where Do I go From Here?

Have information on classes, shows or materials you would like to see on our web site?? Send it all to Carol Rookstool at: crookstool@aol.com or 45493 South fork, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

Any information you would like to see in the newsletter should be sent to Ardith Willner at 24 Clubhouse Rd., Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Be sure to add your name, phone #, e-mail address and any links to CALGOURD

UP-COMING EVENTS

BAAL GOURD FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 11 - 12

THE TREE MOVER
TREE AND GOURD FARM
5014 E. AVE. N. PALMDALE, CA
805-947-7121

ZITTEL GOURD FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 25-26

ZITTEL FARMS
6781 OAK AVE.
FOLSOM, CA
(916) 989-2633

MISTI WASHINGTON GOURD & BASKETRY

OCTOBER 16 - 17

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS
230 QUAIL GARDENS DRIVE
ENCINITAS, CA

SLIDE LIBRARY BEING FORMED

We are in the midst of creating a slide library for all CGS members to be able to use if they are giving a talk or demonstration.

You can help by taking slide photographs of your work, your garden with gourds, or progressive shots of a piece in progress. It is much cheaper to take 2 photos at a time rather than have more slides made from an original.

Our goal is to have a CGS slide lending library for presentation material.

Please write the artist name, and town on the slide so that we can give credit where credit is due.

Thanks so much for helping to create our Library. Send all slides to Ardith Willner, 24 Clubhouse Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Special point of interest:

Connie Mygatt will have her gourd art in the Southwest Art in the Wine Country show, October 2 & 3, at the Vigil Winery in Calistoga, CA.

UP-COMING GOURD CLASSES

- September 11**
Gourd Crafting
Duane Teeter
 The Caning Shop
 926 Gilman Street
 Berkely
 (510) 527-5010
 ♦
- September 11**
Gourd Fountains
Lynne Bunt
 321 School Road
 Novato
 (415) 459-3088
 ♦
- September 11 & 12**
Make & Take Class
Kathy Reiker
 The Tree Mover
 & Gourd Farm
 5014 El Ave. N
 Palmdale
 (661) 947-7121
 ♦
- September 12**
Gourd Masks
Mary Simmons
 Custom Handweavers
 2239 Old Middlefield Way #H
 Mountain View
 (650) 967-0832
 Or
 Barbara Johnson
 (408) 735-7229
 ♦
- September 18**
Pine Needle Basket
Toni Best
 Thomas Farms
 Lindsay, CA
 (559) 562-9640
 (559) 627-5430
 ♦
- September 25**
Learn to Use Your
Power Tools, Dremel Bits &
Mini Jig Saw
Kathy Reiker
 The Tree Mover
 &
 Gourd Farm
 5014 El Ave. N
 Palmdale
 (661) 947-7121
- October 9**
Gourd Spirit Vessels
Tammy Flores
 The Caning Shop
 926 Gilman Street
 Berkely
 (510) 527-5010
 ♦
- October 9 - 10**
Gourd Drum
Guillermo Martinez
 Rookstool Ranch
 Three Rivers, CA
 (559) 561-4087
 ♦
- October 9 & 10**
Gourd Crafting
Demonstrations
 Live Oak Canyon
 Pumpkin Patch
 ♦
- October 16**
Gourd Drum
Darrell Devore
 The Caning Shop
 926 Gilman Street
 Berkely
 (510) 527-5010
 ♦
- October 23**
Painting on Gourds
Sue Sweet
 The Caning Shop
 926 Gilman Street
 Berkely
 (510) 527-5010
 ♦
- October 23**
Beginning Gourd Crafting
Mary Segreto
 Welburn Gourd Farm
 40787 De Luz Murrieta
 Falbrook
 (760) 728-4271
 ♦
- October 23**
Musical Gourds
Guillermo Martinez
 Welburn Gourd Farm
 40787 De Luz Murrieta
 Falbrook
 (760) 728-4271
- October 23**
Gourd Rattles
Kathy Riker
 Welburn Gourd Farm
 40787 De Luz Murrieta
 Falbrook
 (760) 728-4271
 ♦
- October 23**
Woodburning & Design
Jan Roll
 Welburn Gourd Farm
 40787 De Luz Murrieta
 Falbrook
 (760) 728-4271
 ♦
- October 23**
Gourds in the Classroom
Leigh Adams
 Welburn Gourd Farm
 40787 De Luz Murrieta
 Falbrook
 (760) 728-4271
 ♦
- October 23**
Gourd Basketry
Don Weeke
 Welburn Gourd Farm
 40787 De Luz Murrieta
 Falbrook
 (760) 728-4271
 ♦
- October 23 & November 7**
Gourd Birdhouses
Ann Mitchell
 Zittels Gourd Farm
 Oak Ave. & Folsom-Auburn
 Rd
 Folsom
 (916) 989-2633
 ♦
- October 30**
Gourd Shekere
Orlando Hernandez
 The Caning Shop
 926 Gilman Street
 Berkely
 (510) 527-5010
 ♦
- October 30**
Quick Gourds for
Gift Giving &
Home Decorating
Carol Rookstool
 Rookstool Ranch
 Three Rivers, CA
 (559) 561-4087
- November 7**
Beginning Gourd
Technique
Carol Cherry
 Gold Discovery Park
 831 Highway 49
 Coloma, CA
 (530) 622-6755
 ♦
- November 13**
Gourd Jewelry
Tammy Flores
 The Caning Shop
 926 Gilman Street
 Berkely
 (510) 527-5010
 ♦
- November 20**
Gourd Ornaments
Ardith Willner
 24 Clubhouse
 Santa Cruz
 (831) 427-3833
 ♦
- November 20**
Knotless Netted Gourds
Lynne Everett
 The Caning Shop
 926 Gilman Street
 Berkely
 (510) 527-5010
 ♦
- November 20**
Mayan Gourd Drum
"Kayum"
Guillermo Martinez
 The Caning Shop
 926 Gilman Street
 Berkely
 (510) 527-5010
 ♦
- November 21**
Huichol Beaded Gourds
Guillermo Martinez
 The Caning Shop
 926 Gilman Street
 Berkely
 (510) 527-5010
 ♦
- December 4**
Knotless Netting
Toni Best & Sue Erb
 Thomas Farms
 Lindsay, CA
 (559) 562-9640

**HOT
BURNING
TOOL**

Detail Master

If you are looking for the best hot burning tool on the market, your search is over! I am currently stocking the Detail Master Sabre IV which is used by most of the gourd artist across America today. You will be able to do fine lines, shading, parallel borders and more. Your creativity will blossom, AND it makes woodburning fun! Catalogues available for \$1.00

*Ardith Willner
24 Clubhouse Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 457-0612*

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WELBURN GOURD FARM

www.welburngourdfarm.com

e-mail: info@welburngourdfarm.com

Ph/Fax: (760) 728-4271

40787 De Luz Murrieta Rd.
Fallbrook, CA 92028



**PRE-FESTIVAL
SALE!!**

September 20 – 25
Zittel Gourd Farm
Oak Avenue & Folsom Auburn Rd
Folsom, CA
(916) 989-2633

****33 gal. bag (approx. 30 gourds) - \$25.00**
Many other items on sale. Shop early for best selections!

**AND DON'T FORGET THE FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 25 – 26
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
AT THE FARM**



THOMAS FARMS

(559) 562-9640 – VOICE & FAX
20947-B AVE 245
LINDSAY, CA 93247

Gourds & Gourd Classes
Gourd Supplies including
Mini-Jigsaws, Waxed Linen, Dye
Books & More
Water Plants

PUMPKIN AND GOURD FARM

**Paso Robles
Calabaza Gallery**

Gourds of all kinds, sizes and shapes

Gourd arts & crafts
See Gourds growing

Visa and Mastercard accepted
We ship anywhere

Check out our special location
101 Creston Road, Paso Robles
(805) 238-0624

Annual dues for CGS are \$10.00. Membership in the American Gourd Society is \$15.00 annually and can be paid directly to them: AGS c/o Dallas Lunford, 317 Maple Ct. Kokomo IN 46902

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY
REBECCA CILEO
P.O. BOX 762
ANDERSON, CA 96007

TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, just send the mailing label to the right along with any corrections and your \$10.00 dues to:

Name: _____ please print
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ Telephone: _____
E-Mail: _____

FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP complete the following information and send your \$10.00 annual dues to the address listed below:

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Golden Gourd
California Gourd Society
PO Box 762
Anderson, CA 96007



**MISTI WASHINGTON
GOURD & BASKETRY
WEEKEND**

OCTOBER 16-17

- Featuring workshops, exhibits, demonstrations, gourds
- Gourd classes by Lynn Bunt and Kathy Riker

Quail Botanical Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Drive
Encinitas CA
(760) 436-3036

**ZITTEL FARMS
5TH ANNUAL
WEST COAST GOURD
FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 25-26**

A regional gathering of gourd enthusiasts desiring to share ideas & sell their creating to the public.

- 50 Vendor
- Food • Demonstrations • Dancers
- Free Admission

Zittel Farms
Oak Avenue &
Folsom-Auburn Road
Folsom CA 95630
(916) 989-2633

**BAAL'S GOURD
FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 11-12**

*Artisans displaying and selling
Gourd art*

*Large variety of gourds and
Supplies for sale*

Gourd classes

Entertainment

Food and drink

*The Tree Mover
Tree & Gourd Farm
5014 E. Ave. N*

