

THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 10, Issue 3

Fall 2008

Inside this issue:

Remembering Mr. Guojun Zhang and Mr. Gen De Quan By Jill Walker	1
President's Message	2
County Fair Reports & Pictures From Around the State	3
Call to Artist—NEW C.G.S. Northern Section Gourd Show	4
The 7th Annual Greg Leiser Farms Gourd Art Festival & Gourd Sale	5
Classifieds * The Original Galax— Sea Gourds Cruise	6
Classifieds	7
New C.G.S Store at Cafe Press! * Classifieds	8
Inspiration by Kay Van Hoesen	9
CA Festival Pictures * C.G.S. Mission Statement	10
The Gourd Gallery Opening by Linda Kelly * A.G.S. Judges Train- ing and Certification by Jill Walker	11
Coyote Gourd Boo Bags Tutorial by Niki Escobedo	12
Editor's Vine * CGS Board of Directors * Golden Gourd Ad Rate and Info	13
ORGANIZE YOUR TOOLS By Darlene Propp	14
Turtle Feathers Announces the Opening of the Turtle Feathers Gourd Art Museum * Membership Form * Classifieds	15
Application Northern Section Gourd Show * Living the California Gourd Life 2009	16

Sad News for the Gourd World

In September we received sad news from our friend and fellow gourd lover in China, Mr. Guojun Zhang, who reported the death of Mr. Zhang Cairi. Mr. Zhang Cairi was responsible for tenaciously experimenting for over ten years and re-discovering the process of molding gourds. This folk art had been eliminated during the years of the Cultural Revolution and examples could only be found in museums. Thanks to his persistence and love of gourds Mr. Zhang has been responsible for the rebirth of this gourd art form.

A number of CGS members traveled to China at various times in order to learn more about molding gourds. Leigh Adams, Carol Rookstool, Jim Widess, Betty Finch and I visited Mr. Zhang Cairi. Betty Finch went on to collaborate with Guojun Zhang to document Mr. Zhang Cairi's life work by writing *The Immortal Molded Gourds of Mr. Zhang Cairi*.



We were also stunned to learn that the famous Chinese master hulu-si musician and hulu-si maker, Mr. Gen De Quan, died in September of a heart attack at 50 years old. Betty Finch and I had the privilege to visit Mr. Gen in China with Mr. Guojun Zhang. He was truly gifted with a great talent

for playing this unique instrument which has existed among the Dai (Yunnanese Thai), De'ang and Achang peoples of Dehong, Baoshan and Lincang Prefectures in Yunnan Province. Mr. Gen's passing is an especially great loss for all these minority people's of southwestern China.

I know you and all gourd lovers send their condolences to our Chinese gourd friends in the loss of these revered gourd artists. They both leave a great legacy and I will think of them both each time I hear the Chinese hulu-si playing its beautiful, haunting melody.

The Immortal Molded Gourds of Mr. Zhang Cairi can be purchased at: www.finchgourd.com, The Canning Shop, Welburn Gourd or the A.G.S.

Jill Walker

top picture: Betty Finch with Mr. Zhang Cairi lower: Mr. Gen De Quan w Mr. Guojun Zhang n Mr. Gen's Hulu-si

President's Message

Dear Fellow Gourd Members,

There has been so much activity among you in the past month or so that I can almost hear those gourd saws buzzing. Fall festivals and craft shows have been taking much of our time and attention both in California and in neighboring states. I hope you have had the opportunity to participate and /or attend some of these events. Artists can always use an infusion of enthusiasm that we get from seeing each other's latest endeavors.

Fall is the once-a-year opportunity to obtain those just harvested, still green mature gourds that are needed for using the Hawaiian Ni'ihau method of decorating gourds. This is really an interesting process to try if you grow your own gourds or can obtain the newly harvested ones from a grower. The basic process is to make a design by peeling off the outer layer of the gourd skin in the negative space. e.g. the green skin that is left on the gourd will be your design. Make a small hole, no bigger than a half-inch, in the top of the gourd and fill the gourd with strong coffee that has been cooled to room temperature. Continue refilling the gourd for 4-6 weeks. The gourd will "pull" the liquid coffee through the gourd skin where it is still covered. When you think the design has been colored dark enough empty the gourd of liquid, gently clean off the rest of the skin and allow it to dry out. You can then cut the top opening larger and finish cleaning out the inside. The gourd will retain a distinctive odor until the inside is sealed. This is the basic procedure but there are many factors that will influence your success including the maturity of the gourd and the weather. For more information visit the web site of the Hawaii Gourd Society www.hawaiigourdsociety.com or attend their annual festival to be held January 16—18, 2009 and take a class to learn all about the process.



California, as you know, is a huge state and not all C.G.S. members can travel to the far south to participate in our annual Gourd Show and Competition. In order to give members in the northern part of the state a chance to show their gourd art we will be sponsoring a Northern Section Gourd Show. In cooperation with Greg Leiser Farms we invite patches and individuals to display their art at their Seventh Annual Gourd Art Festival and Gourd Sale, May 16th and 17th, 2009. You will find full details in this issue of the Golden Gourd.

We are still searching for a member who can serve as treasurer of our organization. We have approached a number of people who we thought might be able to serve in this important position but all have declined. Won't you please volunteer some of your time to help out in this capacity? We all enjoy the work of others but perhaps you could take a turn. We are also searching for a new CGS secretary. Please offer your help, you can find a complete listing of the duties in the last issue of the Golden Gourd. We will hold the Annual C.G.S. Board Meeting the week-end of January 17-18th, 2009 at my home in Watsonville. As you know there have been a number of changes of officers in the past year and we all need time to work together to keep the society running smoothly. If you have any issues or suggestions that you would like to put before the CGS Board please forward them to me. We welcome input from our members. The annual patch leaders' meeting will be held on February 14th and 15th at the "Clark Farm," the home of JoAnn Clark, CGS VP of Membership. JoAnn lives in Valley Center which is ± 20 miles from Temecula. She has lots of space and has graciously invited gourd patch representatives and coordinators to stay at her home. Please save the date. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to February.

Are you ready for a "Gourd Cruise"? In the past several unsuccessful attempts have been made to put together a cruise that is especially tailored to the interest of gourd folks. Now the opportunity lies open and ready with excitement growing. See the full information and advertisement in this issue of the GG and make plans to join us for a wonderful adventure which has the bonus of offering a side trip to visit the Huichole Indians!

Best wishes for a great fall harvest and much success in pre-holiday sales of your art work. 2009 is just around the corner and I know we'll have another interesting and exciting gourd year.

Jill Walker
President



County Fair Reports & Pictures From Around the State

Bakersfield / Kern County Gourd Patch Reports:

Our Patch was very involved with the Kern County Fair. For several hours most days of the fair our members had a Demonstration / Information booth set up in the area where the Gourds were displayed we gave out pamphlets and answer questions on gourdng. We also had a nice entry in the Gourd Division and our Patch members placed first or second with their entries. The Patch entered a scarecrow in the Scarecrow Competition with a gourd head and gourd boots and won second place out of 10 creative entries.



O.C. Gourd Patch Reports: Olive Moore took second place at the Los Angeles County Fair with her mushrooms. They look almost real with the beautiful carved gourd butterfly Olive used a gourd stem for the body. Great detail on the underside.

Pictured at the left and right.



Darlene Propp Reports: I submitted 7 gourds in the Los Angeles County Fair and took 1 third, 2 seconds, 4 fourths and Best of Show. I think more people should get involved in submitting entries to their local fairs. It's a lot of fun, easy to do, and a great boost to the ego to have your gourds on display for so many people.

Jill Walker Reports: I took 3 entries to the 2008 Santa Cruz County Fair and got one 1st - \$75.00, so I was happy.

Fallbrook Patch Reports: JoAnn Clark took a 1st place, 2nd place and an honorable mention at the San Diego County Fair

CHANNEL ISLANDS GOURD SOCIETY Reports: We had 90 entries in the Ventura County Fair and won 83 ribbons. Also at the fair we always have a booth in the AG building to further the education of gourds, their history, growing process and artistic possibilities.

GREAT JOB TO EVERYONE THAT HAD ENTRIES IN THEIR LOCAL COUNTY FAIR!



Call to Artist!

NEW California Gourd Society Northern Section Gourd Show

In cooperation with Greg Leiser Farms CGS will sponsor a gourd display at the Seventh Annual Gourd Art Festival and Gourd Sale May 16 and 17, 2009. This is an opportunity for CGS members to present patch or individual displays of their gourd art.

Display guidelines:

1. The table area for each display will be defined by and limited to a space 30" wide x 24" deep x 36" high. Each individual entry space will be backed with a black foam core background which will be provided by C.G.S.
2. Tables will be draped in black. All display aides, risers, stands and additional draping should also be in black. This will bring continuity to our display and focus viewers' attention on your art.
3. Within your display a minimum of 3 and maximum of 7 items should be arranged in a tasteful and interesting manner.
4. There will be two divisions, Patch and Individual. (No names or identification should be visible during judging.) A 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award will be given in each division. Judging will be based on - 1. *Craftsmanship and execution*; 2. *Originality of the work*, 3. *Complexity of the work*, 4. *Respect for and enhancement of the gourds*, and 5. *The overall artistic expression of the work and the impact of the display on the viewer*.
5. In accordance with the amount of available space entries will be limited to a total of 20. Priority will be given to CGS patches and members who live in the northern section of the state (e.g. from Santa Cruz Patch north.)
6. There will be an entry fee of \$10.00 per display. (Make checks payable to C.G.S.) Displays can be set up on Friday, May 15, 2009, after 3 p.m. or between 8-9 a.m. on Saturday, May 16. Judging will take place on Saturday from 9-10 a.m. All items must remain in the exhibit until 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 17th. After judging you may add your name and contact information to the display.

For answers to your questions call Jill at (831)728-4427 or e-mail me at prezwalker@hotmail.com

The APPLICATION for the 2009 C.G.S. Northern Section Gourd Show can be found on the back cover of this issue and at our website www.calgourd.com

No refunds will be made after April 30, 2009.

**THE 7TH ANNUAL GREG LEISER FARMS
GOURD ART FESTIVAL
AND
GOURD SALE**



**MAY 16TH & 17TH, 2009
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9 TO 5
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Gourd Art, Of Course!

Gourd artists from all over California
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Free Live Demonstrations

Learn new tips and techniques from expert gourd artists!

Gourd Art Classes

Pre-festival gourd classes being offered from May 13 - May 15.
Check website for upcoming prices & details.

Children's Gourd Crafting Corner

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Over two dozen dried gourd varieties for sale.

Final festival details will be posted on our website as they become available.
Please contact us if you would like to be a vendor!

We sell gourds ALL YEAR ROUND at our farm and by mail.

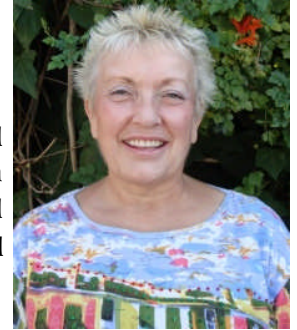
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Visit our website for future festival details, directions, and updates at:

www.GourdFarmer.com

Email: gleiser@afes.com ~ Phone: (530) 735-6677

The Original Galax - Sea Gourds Cruise Sunday, April 05, 2009



Please come join me, GourDPrincess Betsy on a wonderful cruise aboard the brand new Carnival Splendor (doesn't that sound like something a Princess would travel on with friends???) for a magical sea voyage and Gourdgeous trip beneath the shimmering Pacific waters to the enchanted world of mermaids, mermen and merbabies to the Mexican Riviera.

Explore the undersea world in 4 fabulous classes:

Project 1: Create your own legendary half human/ half fish being to be your travel companion on our voyage.

Project 2: You'll make the perfect environment for your merperson. Will it be a place to explore undersea wonders or perhaps a place to soak up the sun's warmth and tantalize passing fishermen?

Project 3: Using personally designed paper and a gourd shard you'll create an incredible pendant which is embellished with a broad array of stunning adornments and sea treasures.

Project 4: Memorialize this wondrous voyage by creating a splendid "Trip Box" filled with photos and mementos of our gourdgeous days together. Take it home and recall over and over the fabulous time you had cruising and creating!

Everything will be provided for the classes. The package of classes is \$240 per student. We will also be treated to a very special excursion to see the Huichol Indians craft their intricate beaded gourd bowls outside of Puerto Vallarta. This excursion is limited to 24 students/guests at the rate of \$85 per person.



This voyage promises to be full of fun, gourds, great food, gourds, beaches, gourds, and magnificent scenery. Did we mention the opportunity to talk about your favorite pastime...gourds? Plus you will meet two of my MerFriends - Marcell and Jilliane

A deposit of \$300 per person will be due at the time of booking, plus a \$100 class registration fee per student. If you are bringing a non-student, not to worry. The Splendor provides a myriad of activities or the opportunity to do nothing at all except enjoy the sea and sky.

Sign up quickly as cabins are limited, packages start at \$880. Classes will not be sold on board or to passengers that book on their own. All passengers must have proof of US citizenship. A current passport is strongly recommended.

7 day Exotic Mexican Riviera cruises from Los Angeles, CA featuring 3 fabulous ports! Puerto Vallarta will dazzle you with its gorgeous beaches and exciting nightlife. Mazatlan welcomes you with the energizing fun of horseback riding, fishing, sailing and great shopping. Cabo San Lucas, known for its rugged rock formations, offers white-sand beaches and unforgettable underwater scenery.

To book your cruise on this unique Mega "Fun Ship" contact: Debbie Marshall - Travel Diva Productions at 702 656 8609 or online at: www.TravelDivaProductions.com

The GourDPrincess and her wonderful mermaid friends will sea you soon!!

HAVE YOU HEARD? The Best-Selling GourdMaster™ Ink Dyes Are Now Available In 30 Fabulous Colors!!



"Greetings Folks! Wanted to tell you just how happy I am with the amazing new colors offered in your new gourd dyes! The colors are bright & crisp, easy to use. Many Thanks!"
-Cynthia B, www.picturerocks.net

Pictured below, new Ink Dye colors are used in the wildly popular "Faux Turquoise Inlay" class, taught by Carrie Dearing.



Gourd Art by
Carrie Dearing

"Wow! I love the new Ink Dye colors! My favorites include Eggplant (so gorgeous) and also Blue Denim. The Rich Mahogany I use in almost every one of my gourd pieces." -Carrie Dearing, www.CreativeGourdArt.com

SPECIAL OFFER: Purchase an Ink Dye Value Pack of 10 colors (Basic, Cool, or Warm colors) and **save \$10.00!** Regularly \$63.00, **Just \$53.00!** Use coupon code ADGG. Order online at www.WelburnGourdFarm.com or call toll free 1-877-420-2613 expires 7/1/08

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Handcrafted and light weight, these wrought iron stands come complete with rubber tips.

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The Gourd Gallery

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"My husband and I ABSOLUTELY love your gourds!! We'd purchased gourds from other gourd farms before ordering a Welburn gourd... and the difference... WOW!! Each time we open a Welburn gourd we are amazed at how thick they are!!"

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New California Gourd Society Store at Cafe Press!

You can now order direct from Café Press the New California Gourd Society tote bag. The natural canvas fabric is ready for your personal embellishments. Show off in your own style.

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2 sided State Logo Tote Bag

Cost: \$13.99 plus tax & shipping

Our 100% cotton canvas tote bags have plenty of room to carry all your favorite gourd tools when you are on the go.

10 oz heavyweight natural canvas fabric

Full side and bottom gusset

Extra long 22" reinforced fabric handles for easy carrying

Machine washable

Measures 15" x 18" x 6"

side one: CA State

side two: CGS Gourd Emblem

Designs are by C.G.S. Gourd Artist Daniel Montano.



Betsy's #1 Rule of Gourding: Get out of your box!

Find all the tools, supplies and embellishments you need to let your inspiration soar.

Power Carving and Woodburning Tools:

MasterCarver
Burnmaster
Microlux Gourd Saw
Microlux Sander



Embellishments:

Handmade Papers
Leafing
Feathers - dyed pelts, loose, strung and natural
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Beads

Accessories & Supplies:

Tungsten Carbide Burrs
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Betsy's Famous Glue Bottles
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Bead Bowls

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www.galaxygourds.com

If you don't see it — ask!
Contact Betsy Roberts at
gourdprincessb@yahoo.com

INSPIRATION

What inspires me? More than anything else NATURE inspires me. I love to work with natural materials on gourds.

Pine needles are my favorites. I find it very therapeutic to coil and couch on a gourd or make pine needle lids for my gourds. It is something I can do while riding in the car on long trips or sitting around the pool on vacation. Toni Best is the best in this field. Date palm is fun to use also. I learned to use this material from Don Weeke.

Philodendron sheaths make lovely rims. While damp they can be worked into many attractive shapes and combined with other natural materials such as pods, cones, nuts, etc. When we were vacationing in Mexico last year, I was sitting by the pool admiring the lovely landscaping when a large philodendron plant caught my eye. I walked over to investigate. Sure enough between the stem and leaf there was a brown "tail". I gave it a tug and out came a perfect sheath. I harvested an armful, washed them in the bathtub, dried them on the patio and brought them home. I discovered some mini sheaths from smaller plants but they are very fragile.

Nut slices combined with pine needles produce an interesting effect. I haven't tried slicing my own nuts yet. It's easier to just buy a package.

Wherever I go I always have my eyes open for interesting natural objects - shells, small

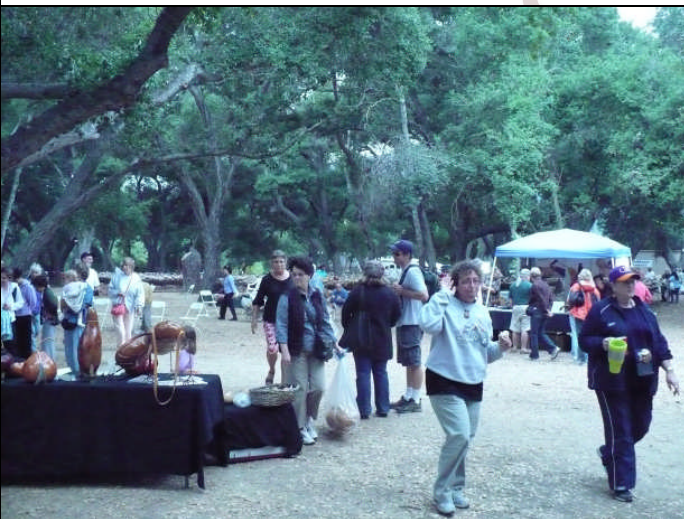


driftwood pieces, pods, cones, etc that might make an interesting embellishment for a gourd. So at home, traveling, walking down the street be aware of all the wonderful natural objects that might look great on your gourds. Experiment and above all have fun, That's what it's all about.

*Kay Van Hoesen
East Bay Gourd Patch*



Top Left: New CGS Tote Embellished by Darlene Propp * *Top Right:* Sue Gannon and Kay Van Hoesen at Folsom Festival * *Center Left:* Fallbrook Patch Display at the 2nd Annual Mini Gourd Festival at the Clark Gourd Farm * *Center Right:* East Bay Gourd Patch Booth at the Folsom Festival * *Bottom Left:* Welburn Fall Festival * *Bottom Right:* Niki Escobedo giving a demo at the Fall Festival.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the horticulture, 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.

The Gourd Gallery Opening

The Gourd Gallery opened its doors in Lucerne on July 2, 2008. Having a place to display gourds and showing the public what a unique art form decorative gourds can be has been an exciting adventure for its three partners: Marilyn Crayton, Sandie Coelho-Davis and Linda Kelly. Finding a place to display our gourds had been discussed on several occasions and as part of the Bachelor Valley Gourd Club, we have shown our gourds in craft fairs, festivals and even in some of the local shops, but we wanted a place just for gourds. That opportunity happened when the Lake County Re-development Agency offered us one of the four buildings built as an art center in the Harbor Village Artist complex.

After discussion, we decided our new gallery should represent the gourd community and its many talented artists. Each month we offer a space for a Guest Artist in the gallery and special locations to artists who have been published in gourd books.

For October we have guest artists, Diane Pavey-Bentley and Beverly Lockwood; for November, Rebecca Stark and Maria Carroll and for December, the Bachelor Valley Gourd Club. Our published artist for October, November and December are Matt Barna, Kathy Riker and Jill Walker and until recently the work of Cindy Lee.

We have also had the privilege of showing the work of gourd artists: June Goodfellow, Jeri Lyn Nager, Sandy Wilson, Sylvia Nelson and Sondra Taber.

Visitors also have an opportunity to have their favorite dog or cat painted on a gourd by Carol Krause or their horse painted by Charlotte Vincent. Over 400 people have visited the gallery and have been amazed by the gourds, the talent and the beauty of this unique form of art. Many of our visitors didn't know what a gourd was and left the gallery with a new appreciation of gourds. Some knew, but were amazed at what could be done. We feel the gallery has been a success and plan to continue selling gourds to an audience who have discovered this new collectible art form. We want to continue to provide the public with the variety of talent we know is in our gourd community and would like to hear from you. Call or email and we can discuss how you can be a guest artist.

Linda Kelly

The Gourd Gallery
P.O. Box 608
6197 E. Hwy 20
Lucerne CA 95458
707-274-2346
Email: thegourdgallery@live.com

American Gourd Society Judges Training and Certification



There is always much discussion about the subject of judging, especially when we hold our annual competition. I hope many of you will take the opportunity to become trained judges.

The American Gourd Society is moving forward with plans to hold "AGS Judges Training and Certification" for those of us who live in the western part of the country. There will be a session held in February in conjunction with the Wuertz Farm Gourd Festival in Casa Grande, AZ.

This training will also serve to qualify trainers who will be able to teach others the procedures for judging gourds and gourd art competitions.

Class will be Friday evening, February 6, at 6 pm. Students may register by emailing Bonnie Gibson at: bonniegibson@qwest.net. She will send you a registration form which you will return to her or Kathy James with your \$10 fee.

You can also find the registration form at: www.webgourds.com/az-master-judge-application.pdf

You can get all the details at the American Gourd Society website.
<http://www.americangourdsociety.org/>

Jill Walker



Coyote Gourd Boo Bags

Tutorial by Niki Escobedo

Supply List:

- Small Coyote Gourd
- 8 inch pie tin or paper plate
- Holiday themed fabric (with just a few changes they can become Santa's, Leprechauns, elves or bunnies)
- Black and orange felt
- Needle and thread
- Orange Leather dye
- Sharpie pen
- Scissors
- Glue gun or fabric glue
- Small pebbles (I usually get mine when I visit the beach in Cambria, CA just the right size and weight)

1. Clean and dry your coyote gourd.
2. Dye your gourd.
3. Cut themed fabric into 8 inch circles, using your pie tin or paper plate as a guide.
4. Using needle and thread about 1/4 inch from the outer edge of the fabric start a gathering stitch continue around the circle, next start pulling the thread in one direction while holding the other end of the thread until you have gathered it into a round sack leaving a small opening to use as a fill hole. Do not cut the thread yet
5. Add the pebbles through the opening, continue to gather until the opening is closed then secure with a knot and trim.
6. Next return to your coyote gourd using a Sharpie add your face design, let this dry completely before sealing.
7. Felt arms, legs and collar —cut black felt into two 3/4 inch wide strips, four inches long for the arms, eight inches long for the legs and for the collar you will need 3/4 inch wide strips of orange and black long enough to go around the neck, cut the fringe by cutting into it stopping about a 1/4 inch from the outer edge.
8. Assembly of felt arms, legs and collar—Position the legs on the bottom of the bag, secure in place with hot glue. Next position the arms on the top of the bag, secure in place with hot glue.
9. Adding gourd head —Position the head on the top of your bag, be sure the face is facing the correct direction glue in place.
10. Hands and feet are made by tying a knot in the felt about 1 inch in from the end of the arm and leg.
11. Adding the collar—Using the glue gun make a ring of glue around the base where the gourd head and fabric bag meet. Fan the collar around the base on top of the glue. Repeat if using two colors.



↳ Barbara McDermott did a great job coordinating the C.G.S. booth at the Welburn
 ↳ October Festival.
 ↳ Much thanks to everyone that donated to the C. G. S. raffle and to everyone that pur-
 ↳ chased tickets with your support we raised \$95.
 ↳ Members of the Fallbrook and L.A.W. patches were also on hand to answer questions
 ↳ for the crowd. Thank you all!
 ↳ A special thanks to Niki Escobedo and Kellie Delp for sharing their demos/make and
 ↳ takes with us. In addition to the Boo Bags featured in the tutorial by Niki, Kellie had
 ↳ real cool gourd pendant kits that the crowd enjoyed making using Puff paints that
 ↳ gives a real bead look. →



Editor's Vine

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Golden Gourd as always it is the collective effort of myself and our members.

The wonderful assortment of articles and great pictures you see and read about throughout this issue were written or taken by our members: Darlene Propp, Jill Walker, Susan Sullivan, Carol Walter, Sue Gannon, Linda Kelly, Sherry Hunga-Moore, Kay Van Hoesen, Ronna Wuttke, Niki Escobedo and myself. For their contributions each of them will be entered into the drawing for the Fall's issue *Golden Gourdy Award*.

You can find all the latest Patch News at our website <http://www.calgourd.com>

Thank you all for your continued support!
Mary Bliss
Editor Golden Gourd

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CGS On-Line

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THE GOLDEN GOURD

The Golden Gourd is published quarterly by the California Gourd Society, NU Chapter of the American Gourd Society.

Editor/Graphic Design/Advertising

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ORGANIZE YOUR TOOLS (or Happiness Means Not Having to Say, “Where Is It!!!!???)

By Darlene Propp

The other day while I was looking in one of my toolboxes for a small hacksaw, I found something I had forgotten I owned: a bone awl. I remembered looking for it for quite some time several months ago and wondering where it had gotten to. Aha! I thought to myself – so THAT is where it has been all this time!

Does this sound familiar? I realize that not everyone is as compulsive as I, buying tools and supplies willy-nilly just to bring them home and put them away, never to see them again. I've collected tools for years, finding great bargains and intriguing items at such places as Harbor Freight, Home Depot, and local swap meets, even dollar stores. I bring them home and store them away for future use. Unfortunately, many tend to move from one container to another or languish in a toolbox I seldom get into. Sadly, some go unused just because I've forgotten they existed.

Most artisans I know have a multitude of tools, some of which are used regularly and others only once in a while, and I'm sure you, dear reader, can at least partially relate to my conundrum.

It's fair to say that not all my tools and equipment will fit in one box. So I store them in various tool boxes, tubs, cardboard boxes, etc. But what a hassle to have to search through all these places for just that one screwdriver, saw blade or pair of pliers I want.

So, it occurred to me that I'd best organize my things to make retrieval much easier. I intend to do this right away, and thought I'd share my ideas with you. Here's how I think we should start:

1. Get out all your tools and identify what they are used for. If you have items that might be used in a variety of ways, make a note of it and place them in the area you would use them most often.
2. Make a list so you know what you have and where it is/will be stored. A good way to keep your list, outside of the computer, is on a Rolodex file. It doesn't take up much space, and it is really easy to add, delete, replace or renew cards and place them in order at will.
3. Along with the location and use, note on your card the price you paid for the item, if you can remember. This information might help if you choose to insure your tools or want to sell them in the future.
4. If you're worried your tools might “walk off” one day, either burn your name into the handle, etch them with an engraver, or paint your name on them. You might want to code them for use with a little dot of color. So if you have, say, a clay tool that would also be good for cleaning gourds, you could dot red for clay and blue for gourd cleaners on the same tool. Put those same dots on your file card. Maybe that's just too obsessive for most of you, but it works for me.
5. While you're handling all these tools, make sure they are clean and in good repair. Check cords for fraying and blades for sharpness. I also make cardboard sleeves for blades so I don't cut myself while I'm searching for my tool. Just fold lightweight cardboard to the length and size, and tape with Duct Tape. The pointed ends of small round tools like riffer files and awls can be covered with a length of rubber or aquarium tubing, or something similar, that will fit without falling off. Just cut to the length needed. Keep honing stones and oils with the tools that need them.
6. I tend to buy duplicates of some tools. For instance I have round-nosed pliers for my beading and also for my wire working – so I have one for each area. Also, I like to have needles in my project kit, my beading supplies, with my waxed linen, etc. I keep a full supply in each place so I don't have to rummage around trying to remember where I used them last. Make a note of this, too, on your cards.

A little time spent organizing will save hours spent looking for that item you know you have but just can't put your finger on. The next time you need something, just look in your card file and you can go right to it! Oh, I'm so excited – I'm going out to my workshop right now to get started!!!

**Turtle Feathers
Announces the Opening of the
Turtle Feathers Smokey Mountain
Gourd Art Museum**

The museum has nearly 500 pieces of gourd art from all over the world.

Thelma Kushe was a gourd artist from southern California and her pieces date back to the 1930's.

Much of the collection belonged to Opal Lilly, a Floridian, who was great friends with the likes of Minnie Black, Jim Story, Dr. Miller (Lynn Rehms father), and Eugene Deardorf to name a few. They met at the Ohio gourd show and swapped many of their pieces with each other.

The collection includes 50 of Minnie Blacks, the famed Kentucky folk artist, who was well known for her whimsical folk art pieces, including 2 self-replica dolls and some of her original band instruments. It is truly an outstanding collection that will spark the imagination of many gourd artists and offer a unique experience for all.

The museum is located at 140 Frye St., Bryson City, NC and is only 10 miles from the Cherokee Indian Reservation. It is housed in 'Sleepy Hollow Farm and Friends', an arts and crafts gift shop owned by Mike and Joan Glover. It is one block from the Great Smokey Mountain Railroad.

Classes are also being offered, group or private. For more information contact Ronna Wuttke (Turtle Feathers) at 828-246-3788 or Joan Glover (Sleepy Hollow Farm) at:

www.sleepyhollowfarm.biz

Pictures from the Opal Lilly collection can be viewed at:

<http://community.webshots.com/user/turtlefeathers>



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Annual dues: \$ 20 (1 year from the date you join):

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Annual membership dues for our national organization, the American Gourd Society, are pro rated and paid directly to: AGS Membership Secretary,

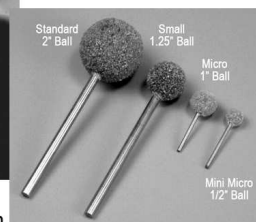
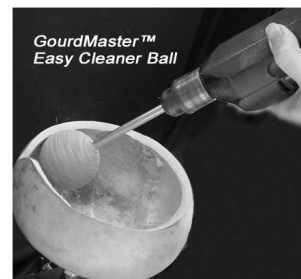
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APPLICATION

2009 C.G.S. Northern Section Gourd Show

Name: _____

Individual _____ Patch _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail or Phone# _____

Fee: \$10.00 Final Date to Apply: April 30, 2009

Today's date _____

Send completed application and \$10.00 check payable to C.G.S. to:

Jill Walker
905 W. Linden Road
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Living the California Gourd Life—2009

April 5 - 12 - The Original Galax-Sea Gourds Cruise with Betsy Roberts - Visit 3 fabulous ports in one exciting 7 day cruise! The 7 day Exotic Mexican Riviera cruises from Los Angeles, CA
<http://www.traveldivaproductions.com/destinations/gourdcruise.html>

May 2 & 3—Misti Washington Gourd & Basket Guild presents a Weekend in the Gardens - Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas, CA. Classes will be at their site in November.

May 16 & 17 - The 7th Annual Leiser Gourd Festival - Plus the NEW C.G.S. Northern Section Gourd Show - Greg Leiser Gourd Farm, Knights Landing , CA

June 20 & 21—The 13th Annual Gourd Art Festival— C.G.S. Gourd Art Competition and Display - Welburn Gourd Farm, Fallbrook, CA

