

#### THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 23, Issue II Summer Issue August 2019

# Weaving on Manipulated Gourds

By Cecile Garrison

So, what to do with all those gourds I manipulated into weird and unusual shapes? It Just so happens a very talented Weaver, Toni Best lives just over the river and down the street from me!

Toni and I put our heads together and produced a fun class attended by students eager to learn weaving, "floating" and winding around all those curves!

Some of this year's crop of manipulated gourds will be used in a class Toni will be teaching at the bi-annual conference held in Visalia next April.

I hope many artists will give weaving on manipulating gourds a try!



Above: Toni Best Creation!

Below Right: Cecile's Labor of Love in Toni's Class







Mary Lou and fellow class attendee with their masterpieces.

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### President's Message

It is definitely fair season. Some fairs are over already, some are going on now and others haven't started yet. I've heard so many good reports of gourd categories in the county fairs. Keep up the good work in supporting your local fair so they continue to have a gourd division. Efforts are being made to get county fairs to include gourds in their fine arts division. Many of our CGS members' art work is fine art quality.

I didn't make it to the California State Fair this year but I was told that there were many wonderful gourd entries. Special recognition goes to Marilyn Carrico, a CGS member of the Folsom Gourd Artists, who won "Best of Division" and received the \$100 Special Award from the California Gourd Society.

A big thank you to Barbara Rippetoe and her helpers for their presence in the farm area throughout the duration of the fair. The fair again welcomed gourds being planted in the Spring so there were gourd plants in several areas with many gourds on the vines from babies to well matured gourds. So many visitors were introduced to gourds and gourd art.

Our CGS gourd competitions are soon to be here. Heads up for a new festival and CGS gourd competition at the Amador Flower Farm in September. Then in October the Calabash Club of Silicon Valley is sponsoring a Festival at the Uesugi Farms in San Martin. The following weekend there's a gourd competition in Southern California in conjunction with the woodcarvers in Santa Ana. More details are on our website and elsewhere in this newsletter. I will be at all three events so come by and visit.

I'm excited about the Baskets and Gourds of Our Culture event in April of 2020. There will be many wonderful classes offered as well as a great program. Our CGS raffle of mosaics will be held at the banquet. Hopefully your patch has already discussed and chosen a theme for your mosaic. Many patches have indicated that they are making more than one. I can hardly wait to see them all.

Well, keep those creative juices flowing and remember any gourd that you entered in a county or the state fair can also be entered in one of the CGS competitions as long as it hasn't already been entered in a CGS competition in a previous year.

Come out to the competitions and festivals. Support the patches that have worked so hard to put these events on. I'll see you there!

Your president,

Olive Moore

#### **Northern Regional Groups Summer Highlights by Sue Gouig**

# Folsom Gourd Artists Fundraiser for 20/20 Vision of Gourds Festival







All the critters you see here were made by our members for a fund raiser for the groups festival next June.

The two dolls were made by Colleen Ballard.

They were also busy at the California State Fair manning the gourd booth, talking and demoing for the attendees, teaching them all about gourds before the fair ended the 28th of July.

The Amador Artists are busy getting ready for their Gourd and Fine Art Festival on Sept 6-8th. Local groups are helping with that.



# Amador Flower Farm Gourd and Fine Art Festival Gourd Art Classes Friday - Saturday - Sunday

Instructor: Brenda Blackwelder



Friday - Dragonfly Vase Gourd



Saturday - For Love of Giraffes



Sunday - Here Kitty Kitty!

Friday - Cut Leaves Vase

Instructor: Joyce Campbell



Saturday - In the Distance



Sunday - Carved Vase

Instructor: Rosario Wilke



Friday - Contemporary Spirit Doll

Saturday - Four Seasons



Sunday - Primavera Gourd

Amador Gourd Artists invite you to the

# Amador Flower Farm GOURD & FCTIVAL FINE ART FLOTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2019 • 9am-4pm



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

More info: AmadorGourdArtists.com

## EL GOURDO'S RAMBLINGS

Hello! Hello! Wake up! Paging EG, paging EG. My how time flies. It is time for another "Rambling" already. OMG! Time to pull myself off the couch and get to writing. Okay, okay, I'm awake now.

This is beginning to be a very exciting time for me. You fellow Gourdaholics will sympathize with me I'm sure. YESSS! FESTIVAL TIME! The time when we rejuvenate our inner souls by immersing into the great gourd culture through gourd festivities, learning, sharing and working to make our creations all they can be. AAAH! Bear with me a minute while these fun thoughts swirl and dance about my head. Yes; visions of celebration, camaraderie, immersing in and sharing our fun culture with old friends, new friends and those soon to be fellow gourdies and even newer new friends. It is a time where our relationships with both people and gourds grow and our wonderful art too in many ways. Yep its GOURD time! ARE YOU READY TO GOURD ON?

This month I hope to not only share good things about some of our members around the state but to perhaps provoke a little different take on our culture—look at our wonderful gourd world; perhaps venture a little deeper into another area. More on that later.

Back to Gourd time and fun. Yay!

That Barbara Rippetoe is back at it. She dazzled the gourd world with her great team and with her amazing history of gourds. This was displayed at a special location dedicated to gourds for all 17 days of the STATE FAIR. By the time this comes to print the big show will be over and many new fans will have been touched by the gourd bug. Some of my friends up North report back that it is another successful event. Kudos you all.

Calabash is gearing up big time with their steadily growing event. Great location and lots of fans participating. Their October event just a week apart from the SOCAL event where the Orange County Gourd patch teams up with the Woodcarvers in Santa Ana. Competition, vendors and fun galore. Can't wait – might try to do them both.

Of course another one I'm keeping my eye on as I mentioned last issue is the NORCAL event at the Amador Flower Farm. It is held in partnership with the Amador Gourd Artists and will be known as the **Amador Flower Farm Gourd and Fine Art Festival.** My dear friend and her husband are very involved in it and that is my main information source. Of course she doesn't know my secret Identity is "El Gourdo". As I told you before I am particularly excited about this event. It is one of my favorite spots in NORCAL with that amazing farm, beautiful valley, great activities, and of course some of the finest wine in the state. There will be tram rides winding back and forth through these phenomenal gardens from venue to venue. Look it up on the new website; AmadorGourdArtists.com

And Silver State will be right over the hill in Carson NV a week later. A must do. There are many events I'm missing here so go to our CGS site to get updated.

I have noticed the one biggest factor in making events a success lies not necessarily in the leadership, or even the team that plans these events. Those good folks are critical to the success of any event but all their great efforts are compromised if they don't have volunteers. Smiling, happy, team spirited and excited volunteers are the ones we can best measure success by. And guess what? Since there are few if any paid positions we are all volunteers in some form or fashion. Volunteers make our world rock.

I am still very eager to learn of some of our silent heroes in the California gourd world and am soliciting your help always. We all know somebody who does so much to promote gourds in so many ways. These good folks I titled "Heroes" by being involved and whose efforts are selfless with intent to better the gourd world they live in. Yes; the same ones who are the first to VOLUNTEER. While most of them are too modest and shy it is our job to identify them and give them a pat on the back and thanks for what they do. Of course we can start right off with the amazing Patch leaders and their teams who support their efforts.

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Good idea; but I don't know enough about any of them to do justice to their efforts. BUT YOU DO! Send me info at my email address <u>ElGourdoArt@gmail.com</u>. There are so many.

For instance, Susan Sullivan in nearby Orange County who was the founder of that patch as I understand. She is one I see everywhere: North, South, Casa Grande, right in the middle of the gourd world. Don't know her well enough to write a comprehensive story deserving of all she has meant to our world. Help!! Another one in the SOCAL neighborhood, Jack Thorpe; I've seen him everywhere and know only just a few of his many contributions including being a Senior and highly regarded AGS Judge. He and his great buddy Bill Duncan are Judge Instructors, both great guys, Master artists—and they are MEN!

And another I hear great things about is Mary Lou Linton who is in the South, in the San Diego area. She and her amazing family do classes, fund raisers and are involved with the Native American community sharing our art. Again, an amazing person, doing amazing works—you guessed it. I know too little to do her justice.

Early in this article I mentioned looking at our gourd world with different colored glasses. First of all, there's not much I would want to see changed but one of the things that might bear constant revisiting and minor updates is Judging. For one thing I really agree with the three judge and point system. Another thing I really like and have seen at a couple of other venues around the country is the first impression or WOW! Factor. I think that should weigh significantly on the judging and probably does in most cases. Do we sometimes get too caught up in the fine point of the guidelines? For example, on a couple of occasions I've seen gourds basically disqualified because they were too covered with embellishments, clays, etc. not allowing enough gourd to be seen. Question: If a gourd is open and you can see inside, is not the outside 50% and the inside 50%? Just wondering. I guess my point here is it appears competitions are having difficulty getting the number of entries we have enjoyed in past events.

Some of that at times may be that our guidelines are restrictive to the point that folks who would normally enter just throw their hands up and not go to the trouble. Frankly folks I am getting bored with same-o, same-o. I'm seeing more and more competitions that have no/zero entries in certain categories. These are in many cases some of the old-time honored categories that have served us so well in the past. The most loaded categories I'm seeing are the ones that say "other", or "Surprise us" indicating that it's wide open to use any medium or combination of mediums you so desire. I'm wondering if we could do that and have multi medium categories that might call for "Wildlife" which could be any plant, animal, bird, etc. Could we go further and have a "Cultural category which could be all inclusive, like Native American, African, Amish, Farm Culture, break dancers, okay I might be getting a little wild now but my point is, open it up a little to encourage originality and creativity.

Oh I have many ideas, some of which may have a little merit and others which may be hung up to pin a donkey tail on. My fear is if something is not working then analyze it and fix it if we can. Or we can continue over and over with the same results. As a side note both Sylvia Nelson from up North and Betty Finch now residing in Tennessee have gone to my EG website and brought up suggestions that maybe I could start some discussion regarding our competitions.

First I ran intro Sylvia up north on one of my wine excursions and hearing she is both a AGS Judge and Judge instructor we began discussing competitions and my take is that in some casesthey seem to be getting stagnant. She agreed and being the progressive person she is wants to make some positive changes to improve this. And further, when I went to Betty Finch's gallery event in Tehachapi a few short months ago we had a discussion regarding competitions and Betty thought we should see what categories fill up or have significant participation and if a category goes unfilled for two years, replace it. She also suggested that a crafted manipulated gourd category would force creativity to a new level. There are manipulated gourds out there for sale she says, just waiting to become something spectacular. And she says the majority of participants are men. (Editorial note: Calabash competition has a manipulated gourd category this year.) Hmmm. Well it looks like I now have to give both Betty and Sylvia my secret clues as to my identity. If they read this, I think my cover will be broken so I must swear them to secrecy.

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Understand this: I have no position or authority to make any changes and would never want to without the efforts and support of the masses. We are not in dire trouble methinks but warning signs are appearing that might indicate some positive changes are needed on the not too distant horizon.

I would love to hear your thinking on this. You all have my El Gourdo email above and I welcome any input regarding anything I write or what you feel can help maintain the health of our gourd world.

As an added initiative (yuk, yuk) I will give major clues as to my real identity to the first three people who respond in any way to my website. And in the next EG Rambling I will try to post a picture of myself thus risking the exposure of my true identity.

I welcome all comments, even: "EG I know you were indulging in that adult grape enhanced beverage while writing this article. What were you thinking?"

Until next time my dears—GOURD ON!!

Last issue I had a quote from the famous Einstein about "Creativity"

This issue will end the same with a quote from a lesser known celebrity

"If you are on the couch, put down your beer, get off your r—- and create something that will make you cheer, then go out and VOLUNTEER".

EG









# 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 - <a href="http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/North\_Gourd\_Competition.html">http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/North\_Gourd\_Competition.html</a>

Bay Area Gourd Art Competition - http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/Bay\_Area\_Competition.html

SoCal Gourd Art Competition - http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/South\_Gourd\_Competition.html

#### 2019 Gourd Events Calendar

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		

(Continued from Cover Page)



Toni Best at her BEST!



Manipulated, cut, cleaned, holes drilled, stained and ready for Toni's Class



Pictured Left:

Having fun in Toni's Class

Pictured Right:

Betty and Kathy had a weaving good time!





Pictured Left:

Dale



Alice had too much fun at Toni's class.





# September 13, 14, & 15 • Carson City, Nevada Gourds, Basketry, Fine Art & Fine Crafts

· Stunning artwork for sale · Raffles to benefit Boys & Girls Club



# **Gourd Classes**

Filling fast, Sign up today! www.nevadagourdsociety.org/classes-2019

Clint Appelt - NV
Toni Best - CA
Brenda Blackwelder - NM
Connie Brady - CO
Robyn Bryson - CA

Jelena Clay - HI Lynne East-Itkin - AZ Vickie Echols - CA Cookie Hanson - CA Gail Kalt - AZ Bettie Lake - AZ Patti Jo Newsom - NV Janice Reich - CO Pam Rothermund - NV Andrew Rothwell - NV





















#### **Folsom Gourd Artists Present**

# 20/20 Vision of Gourds Festiva

June 4th - June 7th, 2020

MACC Gallery 10191 Mills Station Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

#### **CALL FOR TEACHERS**

Class dates Thursday, Friday, Saturday June 4, 5, 6,2020. Most classes will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the gallery, accessible by elevator or stairs. Some will be outside under a roof.

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 gratefulfor a donation of your art for raffle.

#### 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.
- VendorFees for Saturday June 6 & Sunday June 7: \$50.00 for 10'x10' space

\$30.00 for 6' table space Table rental \$5.00 each.



For more information contactJanice.2020vi<u>2020visionofgourds@gmail.com</u>
Show Chairman: Barbara Cody, 530-795-2828, Barbara.2020visionsofgourds@gmail.com

# Support California Gourd Society

by shopping at AmazonSmile



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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

# 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.
- 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)





# The American Gourd Society



The society publishes four issues a year of <u>THE GOURD Magazine</u> 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: <a href="mailto:agsmembership@comcast.net">agsmembership@comcast.net</a> or http://www.americangourdsociety.org/join.html

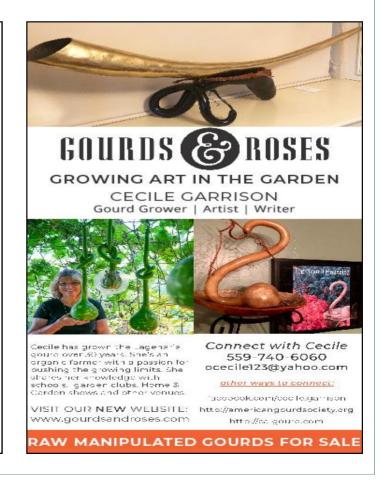


Marsha's Giant Gourds will be on sale at the 8th Annual Calabash Gourd Festival,

October 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th 2019.

Marsha has over 30 giant gourds averaging 22" in height, 46" in circumference, most with stems and cleaned on the outside.

Sign up for one of the Calabash Gourd Club's fantastic classes and be the first to pick out a beautiful giant gourd on Thursday, Oct.10th or Friday Oct. 11th. Prices vary from \$20.00 to \$55.00, depending on size and condition of the selected gourd.



The **Caning** Shop



# Featuring the only power tools designed expressly for gourds!



The Gourd Sander #70006

Extended warranties on all Caning Shop products!



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

 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.

#### The Gourd Saw #70001

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Fits a woman's hand comfortably
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Adaptable to other gourd crafting accessories
Rounded ball foot for line-of-sight access

Order online with our secure shopping cart
Check out our website for more gourd
crafting tools, books and supplies
www.caning.com

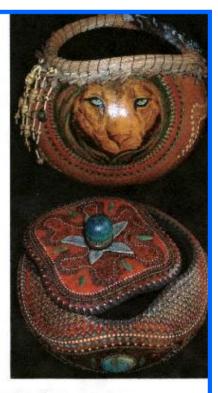
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\$35 10-4 pm
25 yrs experience with gourds



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

# **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 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.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote the horticulture, art, crafting and appreciation of the hardshelled 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 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.

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 can LIKE us on our Face Book page. We just hit a new high <u>685 followers</u>. *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

Thank you for your continuing support!

Mary Bliss - Editor Golden Gourd 08/20/19

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

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

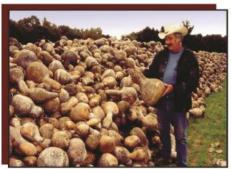
www.WelburnGourdFarm.com

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!

# Get Free "Gourd Basics" Videos!

## Take a Look at These Customer Favorites Below!

## **Get High Quality Organic Gourds!**

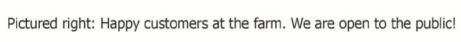


"Your gourds are by far the best available, and your customer service is outstanding. I would not buy from anyone else. The high quality of your gourds makes them a joy to work with, and each of my customers has been thrilled! Thanks so much!!"- **Cathy Whitehead, RI** 

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!







# 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!** 







After

40635 De Luz Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Tues-Sat, 10am-4pm PST Call 760-728-4271 or visit www.WelbumGourdFarm.com

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