

THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

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Winter 2010/2011

Gourd Friends are Good Friends!

A few of Russ Conley's many gourd friends share their memories.

By Susan Sullivan, President, Orange County Area CGS Patch

The worldwide community of gourd artists lost a dear friend and ardent ambassador in January with the passing of long time CGS member Russ Conley. As many who knew him were aware, our friend Russ had struggled with ALS (aka Lou Gehrig's Disease) for the past several years, and became a tireless supporter of ALS research. Russ was not only a fantastic artist and long time CGS member he was also the founder and original moderator of the popular Forgourdnesssake Yahoo online group. Russ was very proud of his role in connecting hundreds of gourd artists in the friendly Forgourdnesssake circle of sharing.



A smiling Russ Conley, is seen here in an earlier family photo with his grandson, Joey.

Russ was an active and beloved member of the Orange County Gourd Society for many years. Members knew Russ as an active participant and positive influence during the years the Orange County patch focused on community outreach events at the OC Fair, the Santa Ana Zoo, and the Fullerton Arboretum. Long time OC Patch member Sylvia Marson states "Russ was a kind person and a great mentor. He shared tips, techniques and supplies without hesitation. He was always willing to talk "gourding" and his talents were amazing. I will remember him for his excellent woodburning skills, his warm smile and soft-spoken words. I will miss him greatly."

Russ came to gourding with expertise and skills from years of woodcarving that were quickly adapted to gourds. The resulting gourd projects he created and shared for years at the OC Patch Show-and-Tell Table each month were exemplary, and always amazed his fellow patch members. Susan Sullivan, Coordinator of the Orange County group recalls "Russ was an active contributor as a patch member, always willing to help with tool and technique demonstrations at the OC Fair.

His wide smile and gregarious ways would attract a crowd of visitors to the Orange County Gourd Society demo booths where he would display several of his beautifully crafted gourd rainsticks and allow visitors to handle them to hear their tinkling rainforest-like sounds. This was always a thrill, especially for the children in the crowd"

(Continued on page 6)

Inside this issue:

Gourd Friends are Good Friends! A few of Russ Conley's many gourd friends share their memories.	1
President's Patch * Mission Statement	2 –3
9th Annual Greg Leiser Gourd Festival	4
Pre Festival Gourd Classes at the Greg Leiser Gourd Farm	5
Gourd Friends are Good Friends! (Continued from Cover)	6
15th Annual Gourd Art Festival—Last and Final Gourd Show at Welburn Gourd Farm	7
Classifieds	8
Call To Artists "Third Annual Northern California Gourd Art Competition 2011" Rules and Categories *Note Newly added Category #11 Inspired by Larry McClelland	9
Hooked On Gourds by Ginny Nordling	10
San Diego County Gourd Patch Present the 2011 - 2nd Annual "GOURDSTOCK"	11
Misti Washington Gourd & Basket Guild - Classes in the Garden - San Diego Botanic Garden	12
Classifieds	13
Gourd Friends are Good Friends! (Continued from page 6) * A Special "Rainstick Category #21	14 & 15
Call To Artists—"2011 California Gourd Art Competition Rules and Categories * Note Newly added Categories # 20 The Jim Story and #21 Inspired by Russ Conley "Rainstick"	16 & 17
Gourd Friends are Good Friends! (Continued from page 15) * "Come Walk With Me"	18 & 19
Classifieds	20 & 21
In Memory of Guojun Zhang * Ode to the Gourd Seller * Featured Book	22
2011 Gourd Events Calendar	23
Call For Teachers - "Baskets and Gourds – Containers of Our Culture 2012" * Membership News	24
CGS Board of Directors * Special Announcement CGS Website Up Date * Golden Gourd Ad Rates and Contact Information	25



President's Patch

Greetings Gourders,

Well, here it is 2011 and I finally have all my garden gourds harvested and drying on shelves in the barn. And I finished my first official Board meeting in January. It was a fun and productive time. We used Skype to communicate with a few members who were not able to make the trip to Sacramento. I must say that the California Gourd Society has a really wonderful board; they have been so supportive during my first year in office.

Condensed minutes of the Board meeting will be published in the upcoming Spring issue of the Golden Gourd but I just want to let you know that the Board came up with a budget which will be shared with the patch leaders at their annual meeting in San Diego the end of April (in conjunction with the Misty Washington Gourd and Basket Show). We voted to update our current website, and have a call to open up the bid process (see Special Announcement on page 25). We welcome any ideas that you have regarding what you would like to see on the website. Remember, it is not just the board but the whole membership who makes CGS successful. We also voted to use some of money we have made from selling/raffling Larry McClelland's gourds to award cash prizes at our two annual gourd competitions. Gourd Competition was one of Larry McClelland's main interest and it seemed a fitting way to use his gift to us. So check out the CALGourd website and the Golden Gourd for categories and start to work.

In line with the mission of the California Gourd Society to promote the horticulture, crafting, and appreciation of hard shelled gourds the California Gourd Society will participate in the California State Flower, Food and Garden Show held in Sacramento April 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th, 2011. The Z Miner's Gourd Patch in Folsom is handling much of the details but several Northern California patches are helping with demonstrations, working with kids and gourds, and sharing their knowledge and love of gourds with the general public. If you are interested in participating please email or call me. We can use all the help we can get.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Speaking of help – I am new to the Welburn Festival and would appreciate any and all help and support I can get for this their final festival. We need help setting up CGS in the booth, help with the competition, and help with ideas. Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated! More information will be in the next issue.

I visited two more patches “officially”. One was the Tulare Sequoia Patch in Visalia where the patch leader Toni Best arranged for a “dye-out” day. I was thinking tie dyed socks but instead it was a chance to dye pine needles, different coiling material, and other natural materials. Such fun it was, I dyed some beautiful pine needles black and red and have a great idea for a pine needle gourd – now if I just had the time. Plus it was a treat to meet so many wonderful artists. As I have said before the visits are one of the best parts about this job. I also had a chance to visit Sutter Buttes Gourd Artist as President and raffle another one of Larry’s gourds. Betsy Kritzon (one of the members) led us in a purse making class. It was a fun activity and now I have a cute little gourd purse. Sutter Buttes is a fairly new group but very active, with new members showing up every month and great gourd classes scheduled almost every month.



I already have a couple of Southern Patch meeting visits scheduled for this year. And by the time you read this I will have been to my first Wertz Festival in Arizona. Being President means I have a good excuse to go to Festivals and meetings and such.

So do you have your gourds photographed for “500 Gourds”? I hope each of our almost 400 members sends in at least 2 photos. Remember, you can enter up to four.

Also we have just added 1 more category to the CGS Competition at Leiser’s and two more to the competition held at Welburn festival look for complete details in this issue.

I hope the New Year finds you healthy, happy and surrounded by gourds. – Sylvia Nelson

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 9TH ANNUAL GREG LEISER FARMS GOURD ART FESTIVAL AND GOURD SALE



**MAY 14TH & 15TH, 2011
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9 TO 5**

**21886 KNIGHTS ROAD
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Gourd artists from all over California
showcasing and selling exquisite gourd art, gourd supplies and tools.

Free Live Demonstrations

Learn new tips and techniques from expert gourd artists!

Gourd Art Classes

Pre-festival gourd art classes being offered from May 11 - May 13.
Check website for prices & details.

Free Live Entertainment

Children's Gourd Crafting Corner

Gourd Art Raffle

To Benefit Knights Landing Library

Northern California Gourd Art Competition

Sponsored by California Gourd Society

We are very excited to announce that the "Inspired by Larry McClelland Category" has been added to the Third Annual Northern California Gourd Art Competition as Category #11
See page 9 for complete details

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.

**FREE ADMISSION AND FREE PARKING
SPEND THE WHOLE DAY. BRING A PICNIC LUNCH!
ON-SITE FOOD AVAILABLE**

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

www.GourdFarmer.com

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

**Pre Festival Gourd Classes
 Leiser's Gourd Farm
 May 11th - 13th, Wednesday-Friday**

ALL CLASSES WILL BE FROM 9AM TO 4PM. CLASSES WILL START PROMPTLY AT 9AM.
 Follow the links in the boxes below to take you to each days classes and complete information.



May 11—Pictured Left
http://www.galaxygourds.com/index.php/cPath/151_153

- BETSY KRITZON—TINNED PURSE
- GLORIA CRANE—BIRD OF PARADISE RAINSTICK
- JILL WALKER—DETAIL CARVING FLOWERS IN BLOOM
- KATHY RIKER—MY HORSE
- REBECCA STARK—CARVED CORN BOWL

May 12—Pictured Right
http://www.galaxygourds.com/index.php/cPath/151_154

- BETSY ROBERTS—MERMAID AND HER HOME
- GLORIA CRANE -NAVAJO SUNSET
- JILL WALKER -STEAMPUNK AMULET
- KATHY RIKER—TRAVELERS
- REBECCA STARK—CARVED SMALL GOURD
- TONI BEST—LADY'S SLIPPER



May 13—Pictured Right
http://www.galaxygourds.com/index.php/cPath/151_155

- BETSY KRITZON — JOURNAL
- BETSY ROBERTS - DETAIL CARVING
- CONNIE HOWELL - APACHE BEAR FETISH BOWL
- GLORIA CRANE - WILD HORSES
- JILL WALKER—BEGINNING GOURD CLASS
- KATHY RIKER - PAINTED PONIES
- TONI BEST - HANDLE BASKET



(Continued from Cover page 1)

Russ's positive influence on gourding went far beyond his consistent contributions to his local patch. He had gourd friends everywhere. He loved participating in the annual CGS completion at Welburn's and at the Gourdfair LA events CGS hosted at the Los Angeles Arboretum. When the Internet and World wide Web became part of everyone's life, he became an active contributor to the national and international Gourd Community. His computer skills, gregarious manner, and willingness to share his gourd knowledge led him to start the Yahoo group Forgourdnesssake, which quickly became a popular online group for gourders of all skill levels. Russ became a willing online mentor, always encouraging comments and questions from novice gourders as well as highly skilled veteran gourd artists. With Russ as moderator, memberships in Forgourdnesssake continued to grow as he gently encouraged all to post photos of their projects. Photos and chats allowed for sharing ideas and techniques across the miles. Soon Forgourdnesssake had many members across the US and began to connect gourders across international domains.



Above: Russ was a master at making gourd Rainsticks. This is but one of the many in his collection. He was asked for advice so often, he produced and distributed an informative CD tutorial to share his techniques. A "Rainstick" Special Category has been added to the CGS competition this year to honor Russ. *

Right: Ardee always had a big "Aloha" hug for Russ when they would get together.

Ardee, who lives in Hawaii and is an active Forgourdnesssake member, would look forward to seeing Russ when she visited the mainland for Welburn's festival. She says "He endlessly shared his time, energy and love to take care of the forgourdnesssake online gourd group, to make it a friendly and fun place for the members to share and learn about gourds while making meaningful friendships" When he became ill Ardee recalls. "He never let us see him sad or suffer and he never let us be sad. His words were always uplifting, always positive and full of love."

Below: CGS member Russ Conley (center) is seen here with friends gourd shopping at Welburns. Included here are Charlie McInturff, Carole Duncan, Jack Thorp and Ardee from Hawaii. Russ had many on-line gourd friends and looked forward to reunions at the major festivals!



(Continued on page 14)

15th ANNUAL GOURD ART FESTIVAL
LAST AND FINAL GOURD SHOW!
 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY JUNE 25th - 26th, 2011



The 2011 Gourd Art Festival is our 15th and last annual festival. Thousands of people travel from across the country to attend, and with the announcement that this is the last year, we are planning on having an amazing farewell Festival!

Exhibitors don't want to miss out on the incredible opportunity to share their artwork with the gourd art enthusiast community one final time, so visitors can plan on enjoying a packed festival filled with beautiful gourd artwork.

"First time ever at a gourd festival...Absolutely blew me away..I had so much fun watching people get excited over the art." - Carroll G. Loomis, Toledo, OR



Rose Lamp, by Christine Chan

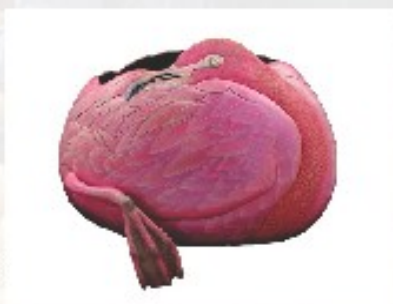


Tickets on sale now!

At the gate: \$12/each
 Online: \$9/each
 Buy 20+: \$4/each

You'll enjoy:

- * Exhibitors offering everything from fabulous works of gourd art to gourd books, tools, and supplies
- * The California Gourd Society Gourd Art Competition featuring stunning gourd art from across the country
- * Hands-on gourd crafting in the Gourd Crafting Arena
- * Live demos on gourd crafting
- * Gourd art classes taught by some of the most well-known and accomplished gourd artists



Pink Flamingo, by Daniel Montano

- * Great wine and beer in the Wine Garden
- * Delicious food and drink and more!

www.GourdFestival.com



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| BurnMaster | Banding Tools |
| MicroLix Gourd Saw | Hand Tools |

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| Dusgrit Tungsten Carbide Bits | Band Bowls |
| Professional Diamond Bits | Adhesives |
| Banding Discs | Waxed Linen |

Painting & Dyeing

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|----------------------------|------|
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|------------------------|---------|
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| Wire | |

**INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE -
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This is just a small sampling of the products available at www.galaxygourds.com if you don't see it - ask! Contact Betsy Roberts at gourdprincessb@yahoo.com

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

Gourds-By-The-Box Tools Colors & Finishes

Welburn Gourd Farm
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Call to Artists

Third Annual Northern California Gourd Art Competition – 2011

A Northern CA CGS Gourd Art Competition will take place at Leiser Farms 9th Annual Gourd Festival in Knights Landing, California May 14th – 15th. It is open to all CGS members throughout the state and beyond.

There are three divisions: Please note: The children's competition will be handled by the local elementary school.

The Novice division is for members who have not previously won a ribbon (Honor system) in a CGS competition.

The Open division is for anyone who has won a ribbon in the novice division or who do not consider themselves a beginner.

The Masters division is for artists who have achieved a level of expertise as demonstrated by having won awards, had work published or sold work in galleries. Artist entering specific categories in the Master's division may not enter the same category in the Open Division, but may enter other Open Division categories.

HOW TO ENTER

- * The entry fee is \$6.00 for each entry. **Make checks payable to CGS.** Advance registration is not taken.
- * All work must be original and done by the exhibiting artist and not previously entered in any CGS competition. Gourds must predominate and artistry, originality and integrity of design are all important.
- * Only one piece per category is permitted.
- * Entries may be submitted on Thursday, May 12th, from 12 noon – 5 pm or Friday, May 13th, 8 am – 9 am.
- * **NO MAILED ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- * Judging will take place on Friday, May 13th and the display will be open for viewing on Saturday and Sunday.
- * Release and pick up of entries will be from 3-5 pm on Sunday, May 15th. All art work not picked up will become the property of CGS.
- * While every effort is made to provide security of items, Leiser Farms and the California Gourd Society are not responsible for damage or lost items.
- * It is the responsibility of the artists to place their piece in the correct category. Please read category descriptions carefully.

Open and Novice Divisions—Categories 1-11 *Category 11: Inspired by Larry McClelland is a newly added.

Category 1: Musical instruments: Instrument must be playable.

Category 2: Carving: Whole or cut gourd. Carving must be featured. Natural or clear finish only.

Category 3: Pyrography: Wood burned only. Natural or clear finish only.

Category 4: Mix media: Any technique allowed. On entry form please indicate materials used.

Category 5: Weaving: Gourd with weaving of natural or man-made materials. You must be able to see some of the gourd.

Category 6: Coiling: Natural or man-made materials.

Category 7: Masks: Whole or cut gourds. Any technique allowed. Must include a sturdy hanger so it can be hung.

Category 8: Jewelry: Any technique allowed May use additional materials/embellishments.

Category 9: Native American - including North Coast Indians.

Category 10: Fantasy: Anything goes

*Category 11: Inspired by Larry McClelland - Create a single piece of one or more gourds which reflects the whimsy, color and creativity that characterize Larry's work. This category only will be judged and award given by Greg and Mary Leiser.

Masters Division -Categories 1& 2

Artist entering specific categories in the Master's division may not enter the same category in the Open Division, but may enter other Open Division categories.

Category 1: Pyrography. Wood burn only with natural or clear finish only.

Category 2: Free Style – anything goes



Hooked On Gourds

By Ginny Nordling

Ever since I saw purses that Kathy Riker made with a gourd bottom and partial sides and then very fine crocheting ending in a draw string at the top, I knew that I wanted to crochet on a gourd. So last year, when this big beautiful gourd presented itself to me, I knew the time, and the gourd, were right. I envisioned it holding needlework projects of any sort.

Just cleaning the outside and inside of the gourd took some time, but I was taken with my idea so just kept moving along. Once I had it all cleaned I coated the inside with diluted Aleene's Tacky Glue (about 40% water and 60% glue, mixed well) to seal any bits of fiber that may crumble off.

After it was dry inside, I drilled holes all around the top about 3/4 inches apart and about 1/2 inch down from the top edge, using a drill bit that would accommodate a size F metal crochet hook (you can use any size hook that will grab your yarn and pull it through the holes).

Then I dyed the outside of the gourd using Welburn Gourd Farm crimson gourd dye. When it had dried well, I sprayed the whole outside with two coats of Super Surface clear satin sealer.

Now for the crocheting - For the yarn I used Lion Brand Wool-Ease yarn in Spice - a fat soft yarn - nice for this big gourd. With the yarn on the inside of the gourd, I inserted an F crochet hook through a hole from the outside and grabbed the yarn, and pulled a loop through to the outside. With the loop on my hook, I grabbed the yarn on the inside from the top of the gourd and pulled it through the loop making a chain stitch. I made one more chain stitch, then inserted my hook into the next hole and pulled a loop through. I grabbed the yarn again and pulled it through both loops, then did one more chain stitch.

I continued this way all around the top of the gourd.

I then changed to a size J metal crochet hook for all the rest of the crocheting. This larger size made working with the heavy yarn much easier.

For the next row, and all remaining rows, I chained two and then double crocheted all around the gourd. When I had enough rows to nicely gather it closed at the top, I ended my crocheting.

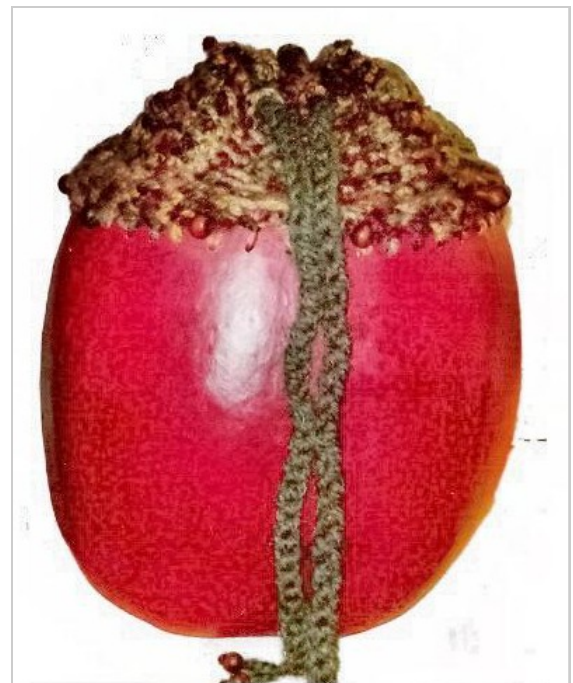
For the tie, I chained a long rope in brown and wove it in and out at the top of the crocheting.

For the top to remain open, the crocheting can be opened to its fullest and then rolled down on itself.

To finish the inside, I chose some cotton fabric, fitted it into the gourd, cut the fabric around the top of the gourd leaving enough for about 1/2 inch hem. I gathered the top of the fabric, easing it to fit the top edge of the gourd. Adjusting the gathers to be evenly spaced around the gourd, I hot glued the fabric in place.

I really enjoyed this project and have since made another large gourd crocheting the first two rows and then knitting several rows with circular needles.

I hope I have inspired you, as Kathy Riker did me, to combine gourds with crocheting.



The San Diego County Gourd Patch Presents the 2011, 2nd Annual

"GOURDSTOCK" Festival

August 26, 27, 28 9-5

Bates Nut Farm;

15954 Woods Valley Rd. Valley Center, CA 92082



Easy to find and access in North San Diego County
Open to the public, free parking, free Entrance

Groovy value!

- * **Vendors** (tools, gourds, supplies, materials)
- * **Classes** (priced at a value)
- * **Demonstrations** (free)
- * **Make & Takes** (kits and training)
- * **Opportunity Drawings** (\$1)
- * **Fine Art Show** (bring your camera)
- * **Educational Venues** (learn stuff)
- * **Food Vendor** (burgers, dogs, salads)
- * **Indoor bathrooms**
- * **Join our Patch & CGS**
- * **Petting Zoo**
- * **Gift Shops**



Visit us often for up to date information



www.sandiegocountygourdpatch.com

We've gone Social please join us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/San-Diego-County-Gourd-Patch/189483414410325>

Or RSVP for GourdStock at: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/event.php?eid=123809784356148>



CLASSES IN THE GARDEN

Saturday and Sunday

April 30 & May 1, 2011

We hope that CGS members will come and enjoy this magical weekend at the San Diego Botanic Garden (*formerly Quail Botanical Gardens*) in Encinitas, CA.

Some examples of the 30+ classes being offered include pine needle basketry, gourd carving, wire weaving, gourd basketry, knotting, and a variety of weaving techniques, and caned furniture.

Students will also enjoy a MWGBG member exhibit, supply vendor booths, a teachers' market, a Saturday reception and self-guided basket-makers' tour.

The complete catalog with photographs, class description, registration form and housing information is at our website <http://baskets-gourds.com>. Registrations are being accepted now.

We hope to see you there!!

2-Day classes

- 101 Lanny Bergner: "Meshing": Making Biomorphhic Patchwork Baskets
- 102 Deb Curtis: NW Treasure Basket
- 103 Judith Olney: Twill Shoulder Bag

Saturday only

- 204 Jackie Abrams: Happy Woman Twill Cathead Basket
- 205 Marcia Balleweg: Meghan's Basket
- 206 Toni Best: Never Ending Story
- 207 Jo Campbell-Amsler: Wisteria Bowl
- 208 Gloria Crane: Carved Gecko Gourd
- 209 Polly Jacobs Giacchina: Twined Beads & Brooches
- 210 Kay Harradine: Potlatch Pouch
- 211 Marla Helton: Rainbow Tower
- 212 Tom Hotkamp: Seven-Step Little Stool
- 213 Eileen LaPorte: Monterey Bowl
- 214 Marilyn Moore: Mini Ring Bowl
- 215 Nadine Spier: Omate Pine Needle Basketry
- 216 Don Weeke: Gourd Basketry
- 217 Peggy Wilcox: Rush over Mold
- 218 Jennifer Wool: Rainstick Sampler
- 219 Judy Zugish: Transparencies

Sunday only

- 320 Jackie Abrams: A (Plastic Bag) Shopping Bag
- 321 Marcia Balleweg: Mojave
- 322 Toni Best: Filling the Gap
- 323 Jo Campbell-Amsler: Willowglen Flower Basket
- 324 Gloria Crane: Relief Carved Lidded Bowl
- 325 Polly Jacobs Giacchina: Sculptural People Rattle
- 326 Kay Harradine: Flaxen Sacs
- 327 Marla Helton: Beaded Elegance
- 328 Tom Hotkamp: A Rocker for a Toddler
- 329 Eileen LaPorte: Twill Jardinière
- 330 Marilyn Moore: Wire Cloth Jewelry
- 331 Nadine Spier: More Coiling Techniques for Basket-makers & Gourders
- 332 Don Weeke: Gourd Masks
- 333 Peggy Wilcox: Spiral
- 334 Jennifer Wool: Basketry Around a Gourd
- 335 Judy Zugish: Salsa Dance

Looking For Gourd Artist

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THE GOURD GALLERY

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*The Gourd Gallery's endeavor is to show gourds as fine works of art
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The only gallery in California exclusively for gourds



Join owners & gourd artists Sandie Coelho-Davis, Linda Kelly, Rebecca Stark
& Guest Artists: Leah Adams, Matt Barna, Diane Bentley-Pavey, Marilyn Crayton,
 Patricia Eisenbeisz, Mary Fahey, June Goodfellow, Vera K, Carol Krause,
 Bettie Lake, Cindy Lee, Beverly Lockwood, Georgette Mafei, Sheryl Morris,
 JeriLynn Nager, Sylvia Nelson, Kathy Riker, Debbie Tompkins, Charlotte Vincent,
 Jill Walker, Bill Wilson, Kennie Winter & show your artistic creations in our gallery.

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 special craft projects.**

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(Continued from page 6)



Left: Russ and friends! Like other gourders connected by internet across the miles, Russ and his Forgourdnesssake friends looked forward to reunions at major festival events when many of these “e-friends” would meet face to face for the first time.



Right: Jeri Toth shown here became one of Russ’ good gourd friends through Forgourdnesssake. Jeri made Russ this nametag which he treasured and wore at his OC Patch meetings.



(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

A few years ago Russ was one of the first gourd artists to embrace CD format technology to share his expertise. He and his OC Patch friend, Mary Bliss, collaborated to produce his CD tutorial on How to Make a Rain Stick. That CD provides step by step details on Russ's own tried and true methods for inserting toothpicks into a gourd to make a great sounding rainstick. Persons interested in purchasing this CD can contact Russ' friend Jack Thorp (wildwoodgourdart@gmail.com). Jack has agreed to help the family with sales of the remaining CDs as well as Russ's gourd art pieces.

***A Special "Rainstick" Category #21 in CGS June Competition will Honor Russ Conley**

Orange County Gourdpatch members are pleased the CGS Board has decided to add a Special Category to the CGS Competition this year. The "Rainstick" Category will honor Russ Conley's memory and is likely to encourage more artists to perpetuate the artistic methods he developed for making rainsticks. The general CGS Competition guidelines will apply. All CGS members are welcome to enter a rainstick, and those that adhere to Russ's recommended techniques using toothpicks are very much encouraged. In this special Rainstick Category entries can be the work of an individual artist, or a collaborative effort by a group of two or more CGS members. All design techniques are welcome. Entries will be judged on artistic merit as well as sound and function as a rainstick.

A CD tutorial with Russ teaching his method is included in a kit that can be provided free to leaders of CGS Patches whose members will enter rainsticks. For more information contact Susan Sullivan susansphn@aol.com or Jack Thorp at wildwoodgourdart@gmail.com (SEE CGS Competition Call to Artists on pages 16 and 17 or www.calgourd.com)

Gourd folks value their friends and know that a strong friendship goes both ways, and just as Russ was a true friend to gourders everywhere, many gourd artists proved to be good friends to Russ. Two of his closest gourd buddies from the Orange County Patch, were Bill Duncan and Jack Thorp. Upon realizing Russ's progressive illness would require that he have help getting to and from patch meetings, the two were quick to become his chauffeurs and personal assistants, driving him to and from meetings and appointments. As Russ progressed to require a wheel chair, Sylvia Marson, another OC Patch member and Russ's close friend asked her husband, Wayne, a professional cabinet maker, to construct two special ramps, one for the porch of Russ's home and another for the home where the OC Patch meets monthly. These ramps allowed Russ to continue attending meetings and enjoying outings and events with his patch pals in Orange County.



Gourd Friends are Good Friends!

Bill Duncan (L) and Jack Thorp (R) helped arrange physical accommodations and transport Russ for many months so he could continue to attend OCGS meetings and events.

Many CGS Patch Leaders group knew and loved Russ. When the California Gourd Society had their annual leadership retreat at Carol Rookstool's ranch in Three Rivers in early 2008, they learned of Russ's health situation. The group decided to sit down at that retreat together and each Patch leader made a special "Greeting Gourd" to send Russ encouraging 'gourd wishes' in a big gourd basket!

(Continued on page 18)

CALL TO ARTISTS

The final Competition at Welburn Gourd Festival will be held at Welburn Farms June 25th and 26th, 2011. It is open to all CGS members throughout the state and beyond. The purpose of the Gourd Art Competition is to challenge CGS members to create new art and develop new ideas for gourd art which fulfills the requirements of a show category. Thousands of visitors attend the exhibit each year and enjoy the creativity and skill of CGS members. This year will be the last Competition at Welburn Festival – Let's make it the best one ever! Start working now!

2011 California Gourd Art Competition Rules:

Any individual may enter. All entrants must be current members of the California Gourd Society. Children and youth are also eligible to enter any novice category. Artist entering specific categories in the Master's division may not enter the same category in the Open Division, but may enter other Open Division categories.

GOURDS MUST PREDOMINATE – artistry, originality and integrity of design are considered. Participants may enter any division, only one piece per category.

There are five divisions:

- The *Novice division* is for members who have not previously won a ribbon in a CGS competition.
- The *Open Division* is for anyone who has won a ribbon in the novice division or who does not consider themselves a beginner (honor system).
- The *Master's Division* includes artist who have achieved a level of expertise as demonstrated by having won awards, had work published and/or sold work in galleries.
- The *Children's division* includes anyone 12 years of age or younger.
- The *Youth division* includes 13-17 year olds.

The entry fee is \$6.00 for each entry. **Make checks payable to CGS.** There is no charge for children and youth. All work must be done by the exhibiting artist and not previously entered in any CGS competition. Advance registration is not taken. When mailing entries, please include a completed entry form for each entry as well as the \$6.00 entry fee and return postage if needed.

Deadline: Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than Monday, June 20th. Mail to CGS c/o Welburn Gourd Farm, 40635 De Luz Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028.

Personal deliveries may be delivered to Welburn only on Thursday June 23rd between 9 am and 4pm.

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE JUDGED!

Judging will take place on Thursday and Friday, June 23rd and 24th. All participants agree to allow photographs to be taken of displayed items.

Pick-up will be on Sunday, June 26th between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Entries may not be removed early. Mailed entries will be returned within two weeks after the show. Mailed entries must have return postage and self addressed shipping container with a label. All art work not picked up or arranged for pre-paid return will be donated to CGS.

Judging: The California Gourd Society will coordinate all judging. Judging will follow the American Gourd Society judging guidelines.

While every effort is made to provide security for your items, the Welburn Gourd Farm and the California Gourd Society are not responsible for damaged or lost items.

For more information, contact Sylvia Nelson by email at cagourdpres@frontier.com or phone (916)682-2437.

We will have our CALL FOR JUDGES and Entry Forms in the next issue of the Golden Gourd and on our website in the coming weeks.

(Continued on page 17)

Continued from page 16)

2011 Open and Novice Divisions – Categories 1-21

**Categories #20 and #21 are both newly added.*

1. Carving – Whole or cut gourds, carving should predominate. Hand carving or power carving acceptable. Natural or clear finish only.
2. Pyrography - Whole or cut gourd, pyrography only. Natural or clear finish only.
3. Cut gourd – Any type of decorative or functional gourd featuring fancy cutting techniques or cut out design.
4. Beading - Beading must be the focal point, but other techniques and media may be used.
5. Weaving – Gourd with weaving of any material, natural or man-made. You must be able to see part of the gourd. Any finish allowed.
6. Coiling – Coiling on a gourd using any material, natural or man-made. You must be able to see part of the gourd. Any finish allowed.
7. Painting – Whole or cut gourd. Painting must predominate. Indicate type of paint used.
8. Inlay - Inlay must be a major feature of the design. Natural and man-made substances acceptable.
9. Garden theme – Whole or cut gourd must incorporate a garden theme. Any technique allowed.
10. Bowls and Baskets – Gourd must be a useable bowl or basket. Any technique allowed.
11. Fairies – Any representation of fairies. Painting, carving, pyrography, etc. acceptable.
12. Miniature – Any single gourd 3” or under. Any technique acceptable.
13. Class Gourd- Are you really proud of a gourd you made in a class? Enter it in this category. Please indicate class and teacher on entry form. Any technique allowed.
14. Inspired by Latin America – Includes Mexico, Central and South America. Any technique acceptable.
15. Inspired by the Orient – Includes any Asian influence. Any technique acceptable.
16. Inspired by the “Old West” – Gourd must incorporate western style. Any technique acceptable.
17. Inspired by the Sea – Gourd must incorporate images from the ocean or seashore. Any technique acceptable.
18. Multi-media – Whole or cut gourds than incorporate three or more techniques and materials. Describe materials and techniques used on entry form.
19. Free Style – Anything goes. Let your imagination take you away. Single or multiple gourds acceptable.
20. **The Jim Story—“manipulation” only means gourds tied in knots or influenced by tying.*
21. **Inspired by Russ Conley RainStick—For this category only, entries will be judged and awards given by the Orange County Patch. Entries can be the work of an individual artist, or a collaborative effort by a group of two or more CGS members. All design techniques are welcome. (see page 15 for complete details)*

Master’s Division – Categories 1-4

Artist entering specific categories in the Master’s division may not enter the same category in the Open Division, but may enter other Open Division categories.

1. Pyrography – Whole or cut gourd, Pyrography only. Natural or clear finish only.
2. Carving – Whole or cut gourds, carving must predominate. Hand carving or power carving acceptable.
3. Coiling/Weaving – Gourd with weaving or coiling of any material, natural or man-made. Any finish allowed. You must be able to see part of the gourd.
4. Free Style – Anything goes. Let your imagination take you away. Single or multiple gourds acceptable.

Children and Youth Division:

Children and youth are also eligible to enter any novice category

Children 12 and under - No restrictions. But minimal adult assistance, please.

Youth 13-17 – No restrictions. Work of entrant only.

Category for Children and Youth

Any decorated gourd - functional or decorative. Any technique allowed. May be a mask, doll, bowl, animal, insect or whatever.

(Continued from page 15)



Above:

Russ is seen here when he received the “Basket of Gourd Wishes” that CGS Patch leaders made for him at their 2008 annual meeting at Carol Rookstool’s home in Three Rivers. As one participant remarked...”That was some basket of gourds...each different ...yet all were crafted with love to convey well wishes and support that only concerned friends can send.”

As Russ’s disease progressed, he became an active supporter of the ALS Society. He invited his patch members to join his “Russ’ Rascals” team to raise donations for the annual Orange County ALS Walk. Through the next few years, many of his fellow patch members and their family marched alongside Russ each year, and joined the hundreds of folks walking to support fundraising for the ALS Society.



Above Right:

Several OC Gourd Society members participated in past ALS Walks to support Russ. Included here are Diane Calderwood, Roz Romain, Mary Bliss, Jack Thorp, Bill Duncan, Carole Duncan, Charlie McInturff, Sylvia Marson, and Susan Sullivan. Diane’s daughter Camber carries the big “We Love Russ” gourd.



Left:

Long time gourd friends!

(L-R) Bill Duncan, Sylvia Marson and Jack Thorp all helped to keep Russ mobile and involved in gourdng. Here they are with Russ at an annual ALS Walk-a-thon.

Continued from page 15)

Continued from page 18)



These are some members of Russ' team at the most recent ALS Walk in October 2010. OCGS members Roz Romain, Bill Duncan and Jack Thorp are behind Russ in this photo. It was at this 2010 Walk that Roz presented Russ with the special poem she had written for him. (See poem "Come Walk with Me")

Upon learning of Russ' passing, Lynne Everett, fellow artist who attended OCGS meetings with Russ when he first began gourding, commented that Neil Young's song lyrics "Heart of Gold" came to mind as she reminisced about Russ. Lynne wrote "Russ brought to mind the line..." "I want to live, I want to give..." and give he did! Russ had that heart of gold and was one of the most giving artist I have known, always that warm smile and a kind word for everyone. He was an amazing accomplished craftsman and a true inspiration to all of us to "keep on keeping on". He will be missed!"

Several gourd friends were among those attending memorial services for Russ in Long Beach on January 30. Russ's family is grateful to all in the gourd community that have raised funds for the ALS Society through auctions, raffles and other contributions. They suggest that other CGS members wishing to remember Russ may make a memorial contribution to their local ALS Society. Everyone who knew him would agree that is a fitting tribute and something that could very likely make Russ display that beautiful friendly smile again.

"Come Walk with Me"

A poem for Russ Conley by Roslin Romain

As a child you walk
you run, you climb, you play
that is all part of your day.

Time goes on
your body changes
from teen, to adult
you march, you ride
you carry, you push
you stumble.

What goes on inside of us
is still a mystery...
why some grow old and
some have bodies that
can't hold on.

"Why?"

"Why me?" is whispered in the dark.

Now you struggle with
pain, anger, frustration
then turn to faith and fate
as your lesson unfolds.

We know not the why.
Science tries to explain,
but all we can say is
"please make a change"

Change my day,
my hour,
my minute
so I once again will have time
to fill it with
hope, dreams and peace of mind
so my heart will know
I am not done yet.

Please don't give up.
Please keep strong and,
when all is said and done,
you leave the legacy
of who you are
science, man and beyond.
We pray please make this happen today!

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Washington State Gourd Society



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In Memory of Guojun Zhang

It is with a heavy heart I inform the many friends and admirers of our dear friend, Guojun Zhang that he passed away on June 5, 2010. Guojun's cancer had returned and he died suddenly of bleeding related to the cancer. His wife had no contact information for his American friends until she found a fax number while putting his files in order, so the news was slow to reach America.

Guojun loved gourds. Many will remember him traveling from state to state attending gourd festivals to sell a large supply of gourds he benevolently purchased from young Chinese gourd art students.

Guojun hosted an excursion across China in 2006, where Jill Walker and I were honored to meet Mr. Gendequan, a nationally-known hulu-se (gourd flute) musician, and talented gourd artist, Yueba Zheng. Guojun arranged tours of many popular tourist destinations as well as remote Dai villages where the gourd flutes originated. It was a trip of a lifetime.

Betty Finch

Guojun Zhang with Gourdman and Gourdwoman in front of Betty Finch's studio.



Ode to the Gourd Sellers

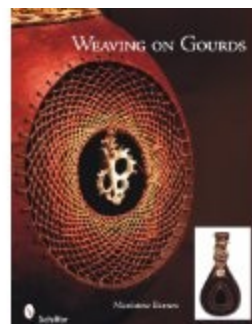
It was early, it was cold
 But we had gourds to be sold.
 We unpacked boxes and our bags
 Carefully putting on price tags.
 We set them out for all to see;
 With silent hopes of "Please buy me".
 We were lucky, some did sell.
 But come next year;
 We'll give them hell.

Laurie Fertig from the Amador Gourd Patch wrote it after one of our "cold, outdoor" show at Amador Flower Farm In October.

Featured Book

Weaving on Gourds

by Marianne Barnes



Mark your calendar April 20 –22, 2012
**Baskets and Gourds -
 Containers of Our Culture IV**



2011 Gourd Events Calendar (CA Shows)

Time to gather up your gourding buddies and tools and hit the road!!

February 25 – 27 – Annual Florida Gourd Show—“Gourdin Under the Sea”—Putnam County Fairgrounds, East Palatka, FL. Website at www.flgourdsoc.org

February 26—27 - New Mexico Presents the 6th Celebration of Gourds - NM State Fairgrounds/Expo, Albuquerque. NM. Website: <http://newmexicogourdsociety.org/>

April 1-3 – 19th Indiana Gourd Society State Show— at the Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds in Greenfield, ID.

April 9—Wisconsin Gourd Festival – Madison, WI <http://www.wisconsin gourdsociety.org/>

Apr 28-May 1—Maryland Gourd Festival – Elkton, MD <http://cecil.umd.edu/Horticulture/Gourd>

Apr 29-May 1—S how Me Gourd Festival – Sedalia, MO <http://www.showmegourdsociety.com/>

April 30—May 1— Misti Washington Gourd & Basket Guild - Biennial Conference “Weekend in the Gardens” Website: <http://baskets-gourds.com> Sponsored by San Diego Botanic Garden (formerly Quail Gardens)

May 14 –15- Leiser Farms 9th Annual Gourd Festival - Knights Landing, CA. website: www.gourdfarmer.com—**The Northern CA CGS Gourd Competition** (see page 4)

May 13-15—Kentucky Gourd Show –Taylorsville, KY <http://www.kygourdsociety.org/>

June 2-5—Cherokee Artists Gathering – Cherokee, NC <http://gourdgathering.net/>

June 23-25—PA Gourd Fest – Kinzers, PA <http://pagourdsociety.org/fest.htm>

June 25-26—15th Annual Gourd Art Festival —*Welburn Gourd Farm, Fallbrook, CA.* Website: www.gourdfestival.com — **CGS 2011 Gourd Art Competition** (see pages 8 & 9)

July 16 –17 – 2nd Annual Northwest Gourd Festival – Washington State Gourd Society. Theme “Celebrating Nature’s Canvas” Grant County Fairgrounds, Moses Lake, WA. Website: www.wagourdsociety.org

August 26-28—2nd Annual GourdStock 2011—San Diego County Gourd Patch—Bates Nut Farm, Valley Center, CA. Website: www.sandiegocountygourdpatch.com

Aug 26-28—Michigan Festival of Gourds – Imlay City, MI <http://michiganfestivalofgourds.com>

Sept 10-11—North Carolina Gourd Festival – Raleigh, NC www.ncgourdsociety.org/festival.htm

Sept. 10-11— 70th Annual North Carolina Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival. Holshouser Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. For more details see the website of the NC Gourd Society: www.ncgourdsociety.org

Sept 16-18—Mississippi Gourd Festival – Raleigh, MS <http://mississippigourdsociety.org>

[If you know of a gourd event not listed and you would like to add to our 2011 Gourd Events Calendar please send to editorgoldengourd@yahoo.com Thank you!](mailto:editorgoldengourd@yahoo.com)

For teacher and vendor applications and the most current information please check the website for each venue or organization. Please note many of the festivals have pre festival gourd classes.

Call For Teachers—Baskets and Gourds Containers of our Culture—April 21 - 22, 2012

This conference will be hosted by the Tulare/Sequoia Gourd Patch, and endorsed by the California Gourd Society. This is the Fourth Basket/Gourd Conference to be held in the city of Visalia, California. Visalia is located in the center of California, close to Sequoia/Kings Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks. We hope you'll plan extra time to enjoy our area!

We are seeking teachers for this event!

Friday, April 20, 2012 Opening reception from 6:00 – 8 p.m. at Arts Visalia Exhibit featuring Baskets and Gourds - Containers of our Culture.

Saturday, April 21, 2012 Classes from 9 – 3. Vendors Booths open 9 – 4 Teachers' Market Place 5 – 6 Hors d'oeuvres and no-host Bar Dinner 6:30 – 8:30

Our keynote speaker, Don Weeke, will share his art during dinner. Silent Auction – all day; ending at 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, April 22, 2012 Classes 9 – 3. Vendors Booths open 9 – 4.

Fees: Class fee per Participant: \$65.00. Teachers will receive \$45.00 per students, and may also charge a materials fee.

Proposals must be received by March 31, 2011. Class decisions will be mailed by May 1, 2011.

Please send the teaching application, biography, and CD with high quality image as your pictures will represent what you will be teaching. Your proposed class should be a project that you have not presented in class recently. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Application are at the CGS website: http://www.calgourd.com/events/bg_teachers_application.html

Please send applications to: Toni Best, P.O. Box 6846, Visalia, CA 93290. Please note one application per class.

REMEMBER: Classes which present new and different projects are always very attractive to participants. Please keep this in mind when submitting your application.

Sincerely,

Toni

559.627.5430

capineneedles@sbcglobal.net

Membership News

CGS membership dues are \$20 and are based on a calendar year January—December.

Our goal is to have our members completely on this schedule by the end of 2011.

If you have any questions regarding your membership dues please contact Membership VP JoAnn Clark.

Contact by email at: b4gourds@yahoo.com or phone (760) 749-9410.

Membership forms are at the CGS Website: www.calgourd.com

We thank you for your continued support during this change over.

CGS BOARD and DIRECTORS 2010

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CGS On-Line

<http://www.calgourd.com>
<http://www.cafepress.com/cagourdsociety>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/calgourd/>



Special Announcement

CGS Website
www.calgourd.com

At the recent board meeting it was decided to have a complete redo of our website. We have a committee formed to coordinate the re-design of the website.

If any of our members who are professional web designers would be interested in receiving a request for bid, please email me at: giza2005@sbcglobal.net and I'll pass this information on to the committee.

Also any website design features members would like to have reviewed and added to the design criteria please forward to the email above for consideration by the committee.

Thank you,
Peggy Blessing
CGS Secretary



THE GOLDEN GOURD

The Golden Gourd is the newsletter (electronic pdf file only) of the California Gourd Society, NU Chapter of the American Gourd Society.

Electronic submissions preferred: newsletter@calgourd.com

**For ads please make checks payable to: California Gourd Society,
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