

THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 18, Issue 4

Winter 2016 –2017

Featured Artist - Jack Thorp



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You may have noticed this issue is smaller than usual. We are currently working on the Northern and Southern Gourd Art Competitions and those will come out as "Special Editions" in the coming weeks. Stay Tuned!	

President's Message

Greetings Fellow Gourders,

Here we are, well into a new year and looking forward to new and exciting things happening with gourds here in California. We are so thankful for all the rain because that means we have more water for planting and growing gourds this Spring. Remember you don't have to have a lot of room to grow a few gourds. Go back to our previous newsletter (Winter 2015-2016) and reread the article written by Mary Bliss on "Growing Gourds 101" (page 11) and the article Betty Finch wrote on "Patio Container Garden Fun" (page 14). Also, if you really want to have fun, plant some long handle dipper gourds and try your hand at gourd manipulation. Our own CGS member and president of the American Gourd Society, Cecile Garrison, wrote a wonderful article in the Summer 2016 issue, page 9 "The Art of the Gourd Knot".

Do you know if there is a gourd festival in your area? Check out the calendar section. There's a new festival this year in Orangevale - the Folsom Festival. There will be gourd competition, vendor booths and classes.

Many of the county fairs have gourd categories in their competition. Go to your county fair's website and note the date to enter deadline. Then enter your favorite gourd. It's fun to collect blue ribbons!

I hope to see some of you at the festivals this year. Stop by the CGS booth and say hi.

Your President,
Olive Moore

pres@californiagourdsociety.com



California Gourd Society MISSION STATEMENT

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

(Continued from the Cover Page)

Featured Artist Jack Thorp

By Debbie Zimmerman

Jack Thorp discovered gourd art the way many of us do – by default.

While out for a walk in 1997, he happened upon a gallery displaying gourd art from Africa and wandered inside. That day, Jack signed up for the gallery owner's basic gourd class and has been honing his craft ever since.

Jack is a Master Gourd Artist, AGS Certified Judge and AGS Certified Judge Trainer. He learns by experimenting with processes, watching other artists and interviewing people about their techniques. He relies on books, magazines and the Internet to keep abreast of trends.

Jack's favorite piece is a 47-inch-long dipper gourd with fret work, which won Best of Show, Best of Division, People's Choice and Judges Choice at a CGS competition in 2011. This piece reflects his patience and attention to detail.

Jack's art is influenced by 25 years working in floral design and studying under a master florist. Before beginning a project, he contemplates the gourd's shape and sketches out designs. He looks to nature, sculpture and woodcarving for inspiration.

Jack is an institution in the world of gourd art. When he was starting out and seeking information about gourds, he was referred to Carol Rookstool, the founder of CGS, who recruited him to be a founding member of the group. Jack has also been involved in the Orange County Gourd Society Chapter. He first attended the Welburn Festival when it was in the front yard of Doug and Sue Welburn's home in 1998. The next year, he had a booth at the Festival.

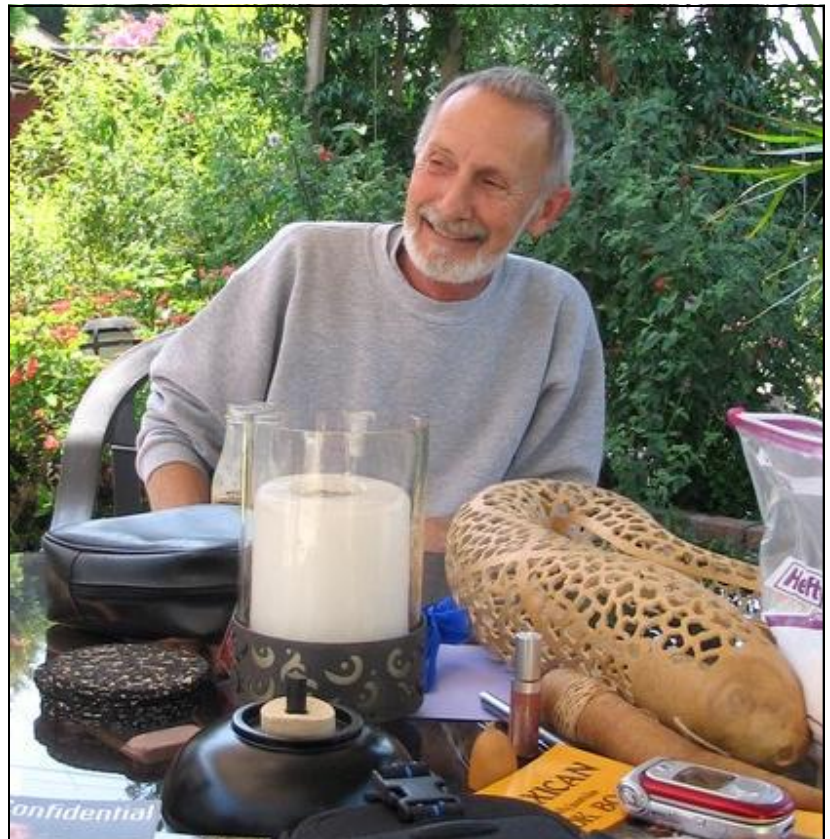
Jack's work has been displayed in numerous Los Angeles-area galleries and is published in *The Complete Book of Gourd Carving* (pictures in this issue on page 4). Jack is known among fellow gourd artists for his willingness to help beginners and share his knowledge of techniques and tools. His favorite tools are his Micro Mark gourd saw, his Detail Master woodburner and his Ram Mystisa portable micro-carver.

Susan Sullivan writes:

I have learned during my 20+ years of "gourding" that "Gourd Friends" are really Good Friends!

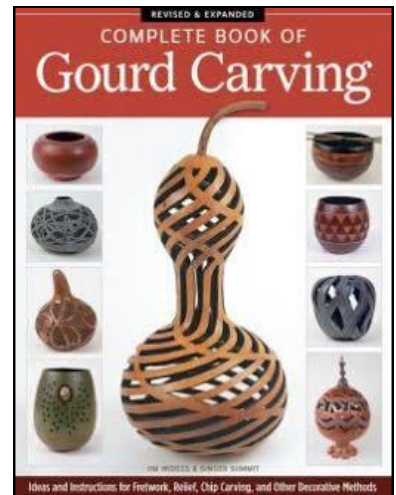
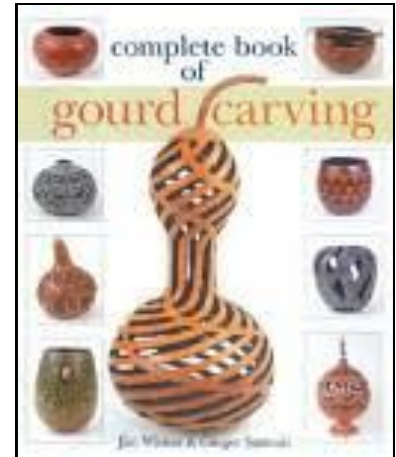
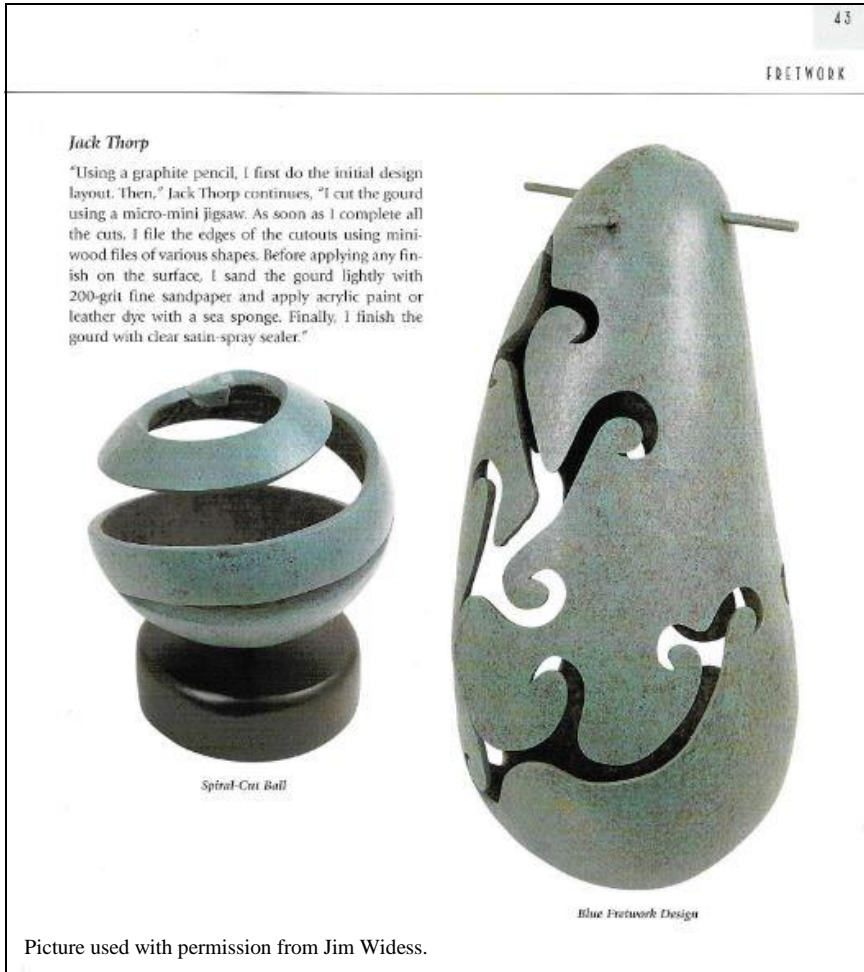
But that was never more apparent than when I observed the "Tres Amigos" of the Orange County Gourdpatch. Jack Thorp and Bill Duncan rallied when their patch buddy Russ Conley began to lose mobility as a result of ALS (Lou Gerhig's disease). Jack and Bill continued to drive Russ to our patch meetings and even had a special ramp constructed to allow them to maneuver Russ's wheelchairs into the meetings. They repeatedly rallied Gourders to "Walk for Russ" in the annual events to support ALS research. They were there for Russ and his family all through his experiences dealing with the inevitable progression of his illness.

After Russ passed, Jack and Bill helped publish detailed tutorials and conducted workshops to teach the "Russ Conley Rainstick" method. They wanted to assure his superior "toothpick technique" will continue to be taught to new gourd artists, because it creates such a beautiful resonant gourd rainstick and will perpetuate his memory. Yes, Gourd friendships are lasting friendships!



(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)



If you would like to learn more about "Gourd Carving" this is an excellent book to have in your collection. If you are going to order from your Amazon account please consider signing in under the CGS Smile account. To do so you can enter your account using this link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-2054131> or you can buy directly from the Caning Shop. We thank you in advance for your support.

CGS is currently Seeking Nominations for the Position of Treasurer, duties listed below:

- Serve as a member of the Board of Directors.
- Must have financial accounting experience.
- Must have experience using QuickBooks.
- Make deposits and write checks for expenditures.
- Maintain accurate records of all deposits and disbursements.
- Maintain monthly financial statements.
- Prepare and file Federal and State annual tax returns.
- Maintain PayPal and SquareUp accounts for accepting credit card payments.
- File all forms required by State and Federal agencies.
- Respond to correspondence from State and Federal agencies.
- Prepare quarterly reports.
- Prepare an annual report for the CGS Board meeting.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions regarding this position please contact CGS Secretary Peggy Blessing at: (858) 292-9219 or email secretary@californiagourdsociety.com



"Spring Chicken"

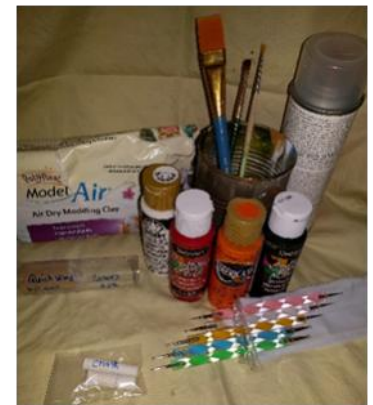
(Sherry Hunga-Moore)

A whimsical folk art project using repurposed springs and a sculpting medium. Terrific project to complete within a few hours.

Sculpt - Paint - Assemble

1. Create comb, beak, wattle and eyes, securely pressing & molding onto gourd, set aside to dry. Ensure googly eyes have a flat surface to adhere to if you are using them. *Once clay has dried sand if necessary.*
2. Glue spring onto wooden plaque.
3. Paint base, spring and chicken. Using stylist, create dots for decorative interest.
4. Seal entire project with clear sealer.
5. Create and secure nest and create raffia bow.
6. Attach a black board sign.
7. Glue on googly eyes if desired.

Materials - Supplies - Tools



- Small kettle shaped gourd, (*needs to balance easily on top of spring*)
- Bed Spring
- Wooden plaque
- Quick wood or Air dry paper clay
- Raffia or a natural ribbon material
- Sisal material for nest or pre-maid nest
- Paints, brushes, sealer and stylists
- Mini chalkboard signs & chalk
- Googly eyes
- Super glue & sandpaper

Enjoy your "Spring Chicken" project!

Call for Teachers

Earlybird's Place 2nd Annual Gourd and Craft Festival June 24th & 25th 2017

Festival hours:
Saturday 9:00am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 to 4:00 pm

We are seeking new and unique full and half day gourd art classes for our 2nd Annual Gourd Festival.

Please submit your Class Proposal with color picture and complete details ASAP to the address below:

Earlybird's Place
15310 Chalk Hill Rd
Healdsburg, Ca. 95448

**Or
Call**

Myrna Fincher
707-319-1313

mfincher@wildblue.net

Baskets and Gourds - Containers of Our Culture VII April 27 – 29, 2018

This conference will be hosted by the Tulare/Sequoia Gourd Patch and endorsed by the California Gourd Society. It is the seventh Basket and 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.

Proposals must be received by March 31, 2017. Class decisions will be mailed by May 10, 2017. **The proposed class needs to be unique and taught for the first time in California at our 2018 conference.**

Fees: Class Fee for Participants: \$65
Teachers will receive \$45 per student, and may also charge a materials fee.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Toni Best tonibestbaskets@gmail.com
P.O. Box 6846 (559) 627-5430
Visalia, CA 93290

Complete details at our website:
http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/uploads/Conference_teacher_App1_2018.pdf

More to Come!

We'll have more teaching opportunities and announcements later in the year for the "NEW" Folsom Gourd Artists Festival and The Calabash Club of Silicon Valley - 6th Annual Gourd Festival.

Nevada is having their 1st Festival and are soliciting for teachers, see page 8 for contact information.

CGS Membership News

CGS membership dues are \$20 a year based on a calendar year.

January 1- December 31

Some of the Benefits of Membership:

- **The Golden Gourd Newsletter** (electronic only) highlights artists, festival classes, tells where CGS is participating in festivals, competitions and related events, tutorials, advertisements for gourd-related services and products.
- Eligibility to serve on CGS Board.
- Opportunity to be trained and certified as an American Gourd Society judge.
- Participate in occasional members-only State-wide events (retreats or conferences)

You will receive a Welcome Letter and CGS Membership Card

CGS Website <http://www.californiagourdsociety.com> click Join Us.



Family/Household Membership is available and can consist of a: husband/wife, mother/daughter, father/daughter, roommates, etc. residing at the same address. This package includes only one membership card, and one email address that is shared by all at the address. Youth - 15 are always free.

Tip: Take and keep a photo of your CGS Membership Card with your phone.

Membership VP JoAnn Clark by email at: b4gourds@yahoo.com or phone (760) 749-9410.

Tips & Tricks

Your CGS Board of Directors has chosen to add an exciting and useful new feature to the Golden Gourd newsletter! I have been honored with the assignment to submit articles. Input from everyone is welcomed. What questions do you have? Do you have suggestions for others? Send them in and maybe you will be featured in the next issue. Betty Finch

Tips & Tricks for Cleaning Gourds

How to remove the most stubborn dried-on skin.

This trick works on even the tough waxy white skin patches. Wrap the gourd in one or two layers of paper towels, dampen them so they cling to the gourd. Place the wrapped gourd inside a plastic bag and tie it shut. Keep it at a comfortable room temperature out of direct sunlight for 3 days. Open the bag, immediately remove the paper towel and dunk the gourd in water and scrub the skin off with a pot scrubber. It is easier to clean if you keep the gourd damp. For the really tough spots scrape the skin off with a non-serrated knife blade. It should scrape off easily. If not, rough up the skin with a pot scrubber, re-wrap the gourd in damp paper towels and tie it in the bag for a few days longer. Caution! If conditions are right mold will grow very quickly inside the bag. It won't hurt the gourd, in fact it will make cleaning much easier. You should wear breathing protection while opening the bag and using this process.

Simple Gourd Washing Machine

This trick works for medium and small sized gourds. You will need 2 buckets. Five gallon size works best. Fill the bottom bucket half-full with warm water. Add gourds, stack the second bucket on top. The gourds will be forced completely under water as the top bucket fills. Let them sit and soak until the skin is soft enough to scrub off. Soaking time varies but most are ready in 30 minutes. You can speed the process by lifting and lowering the top bucket, agitating your washing machine.

Cleaning inside a very long gourd

Here is a tip you can use to remove seeds and pulp from a really long gourd. You must first cut a hole (anyplace) in the gourd that is large enough a seed can not get stuck in the hole. Insert a chain into the hole. Dog chains work well for this. The chain should be heavy enough to knock seeds loose. With the entire chain inside the gourd, tilt it from one end to the other, pull the chain back out and dump out the seeds and material that are loose. re-insert the chain and shake the gourd. Remove the chain and dump the debris. Repeat until clean. Wear breathing protection while performing this operation.

How do you clean your gourds? What tricks have worked for you? What crafting or growing tips do you have up your sleeve? Please share! Got questions? Please ask! More next issue...

HAPPY GOURDING!!! Betty Finch
ambassador@californiagourdsociety.com

Silver State Art Festival

Fuji Park ~ Carson City, NV

Featuring Gourds, Basketry, Woodworking

September 23 & 24 Saturday 9:00—5:00

Classes on Friday Sept. 22

Free Admission

- ◆ Stunning artwork for sale
- ◆ Raffles ~ Great prizes
- ◆ Food truck
- ◆ Suppliers - Specializing in gourding, basket weaving, and woodworking



The Nevada Gourd Society is inviting vendors and teachers to participate in our Inaugural Art Festival!

Please visit our website today: nevadagourdsociety.org

or email us: nevadagourdsociety@gmail.com

Contact: Kristy Dial 619-995-2475

Come join us for a GREAT weekend! Nestled at the base of the beautiful Sierra Mountains we are just 30 minutes away from beautiful Lake Tahoe, Reno and the historic town of Virginia City. While you are here, make it a point to visit some of the great spots in and around the Carson City area—the state capital of Nevada. The Nevada State Museum, Train Museum, lake fishing or fly fishing, Casinos, Hotels, RV parks, and shopping nearby.



Del Río Seed

20030 Old River Road
West Sacramento CA 95691

916-919-1843 delrio-seed@hughes.net

www.delriobotanical.com
certified organic YCOA YO-1

Hello, We have gourd seed: of Alligator, African Drum, African Warty, African Kettle, African Water bottle, Acoma rattle, Apple Gourd, Bali Sugar Trough, Bushel, Black Seeded Bottle, Banana, Bowl, Bali Sugar Trough, Bushel, Black Seeded Bottle, Banana, Bowl, Cheese, Chinese Cricket Cage, Cucuzzi, Corsican Flat, Cofan Kapok, Dipper Gourds-mini, extra long handled, small bowl long handled, short handled mottled skin, GO3, Dinosaur, Gakha, Indonesian Water Bottle, Hawaiian Dance Mask, Japanese Round, Kampo Yugoa, Japanese Oval, Kenyan Drum, Legendary Bottle, Japanese Siphon, Japanese Long, lump in the neck bottle, Kyoto Gourd, Longissima, Mayo Bilobal, Long Mammorata, Mayo Gooseneck, Little Man, Mayo Bule Warty, Mini Bottle Sennari, Nigerian Drum, Nigerian Saybo, New Snake, Snake INPOL, Penguin, Round Gourd, Tarahumara Canteen, Cork and Twine, Peru Sugar Bowl, SSE Gooseneck, Tobacco Box, Water Jug, Zucca Melon-Sheep Neck. Prices are 4.00 per packet of 15 or more seeds, post paid. Seeds are from 2016 grow outs. The seeds are hand pollinated to ensure purity. You can go on the web site to see photos of each of the gourds-www.Delriobotanical.com or e-mail me for more information. All gourd seed is organically produced.

**Earlybird's Place 2nd Annual Gourd
and Craft Festival
June 24th & 25th 2017**

**Festival hours:
Saturday 9:00am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 to 4:00 pm**

Fees

1 Day: \$35.00 for a 10x10 space and a ticket worth \$5.00 for food or drink at the Snack Shack
2 Days: \$60.00 for a 10x10 space

YOU WILL NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN CANOPY. THERE IS LITTLE SHADE

If you need a table we will rent one for you for \$20.00 please use the registration form below.

Saturday we will have a Pot Luck Dinner here on the farm. Please bring your favorite dish to share. We will provide Tableware. Refrigeration & B.B.Q. will be available your use.

We will have home made breakfast items for sale each morning (Biscuit & Gravy, Coffee Cake & Zucchini Bread and more) and Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs & Nachos, Snacks & beverages thru out the day.



Earlybird's Place
2ND ANNUAL
Gourd & Craft Festival
707-319-1313
earlybirdsfarms.com

15310 Chalk Hill Rd, Healdsburg, Ca

**June 24 & 25
2017**

**Saturday 9-6
Sunday 9-4**

Free Admission



Saturday- Agave Restaurant will be here cooking & selling lunch.

We are going to have Raffle Tickets for sale. Would you be willing to donate items for this.

----- **CUT HERE** -----

Please send your registrations by June 10th.

Make checks payable to:

Earlybird's Place
15310 Chalk Hill Rd
Healdsburg, Ca. 95448

Amount enclosed _____

Questions Call Myrna Fincher
707-319-1313
mfincher@wildblue.net

There is a R V / campground approximately 5 miles away and motels & hotels in Healdsburg 10 mile away. Also we have arranged for security at all times of the festival.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Seller's permit# _____

Electricity: yes or no - (Bring your own extension cord). Table Rental: # _____. Donation: yes or no

California Gourd Society 2018 Fundraiser project "Totems"

WIN Fabulous Gourd Art



"Enter to win" one of 20+ gourd art projects made by members of CGS. Regional Gourd groups (Patches) and individual CGS members throughout California will be creating unique art in the form of **Totems**.

The Gourd Art Projects will be offered as opportunity drawing prizes at the Annual **"Gourds and Baskets: Containers of our Culture"** Event in Visalia, California Saturday
April 28, 2018



Tickets are sold by individual CGS Members and CGS Regional Patch members, (Patches). They are listed at:
www.californiagourdsociety.com

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

Winners need not be present to win!

Tickets \$1.00 Each
Thank you for your donation.

CGS 2018 Fundraiser

Featuring the only power tools designed expressly for gourds!

We have created these tools for you – the gourd artist

New

variable speed power supply!

We have created these tools for you: the gourd artist

The Gourd Saw #7001

The Gourd Drill #70002

Gourd Sander 70006

The Gourd Tool Kit #70011



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



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



Our miniature power tools fit comfortably in your hand



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

The Caning Shop

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Flexible Shaft, Portable, High Speed Micromotor Tools ~ Starter Kits

Dye Ink ~ Starter Kits

Applicators ~ Brushes

And Much More!!!

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Free Online Gourd & Pyrography Tutorials



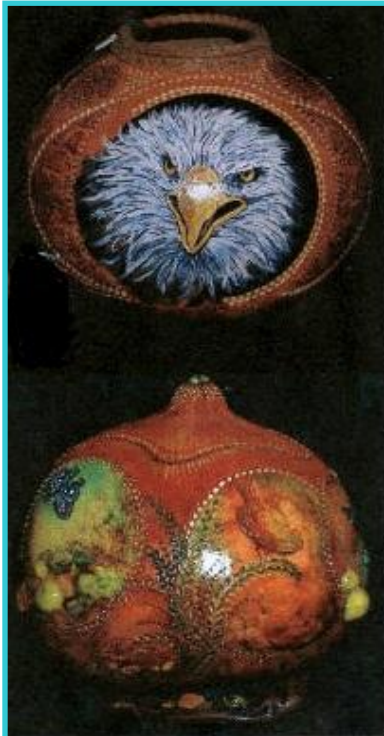
www.GourdSupplies.com

www.pyrography-gourd-art.blogspot.com

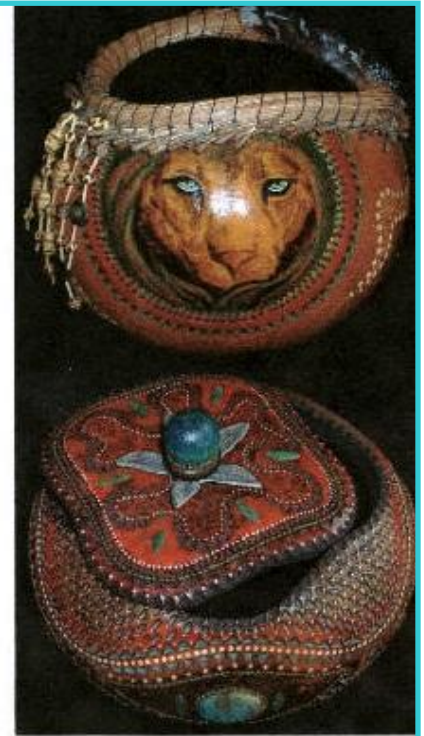
www.facebook.com/groups/pyrography.gourd.art.1

505-506-3558

Nedra@GourdSupplies.com



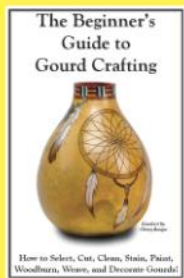
Workshops include
Personal instruction on
our own project
Power & specialty tools
Gourd & pattern books
Pigments and dyes
Embellishments
Art supplies
Raw gourds available or
bring your own to class
\$35 10-4 pm
25 yrs experience with gourds



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

Your Premier Source for Quality Organic Gourds, Tools, and Supplies!

**Get This Guide FREE
On Our Web Site!**



**Plus Get FREE
Video Tutorials!**



"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*

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!

"I received both boxes of gourds I ordered right on time. I love getting the cleaned gourds. Your service is perfect and I love the specials! Thanks again." *Carrie, Channel Islands, CA*



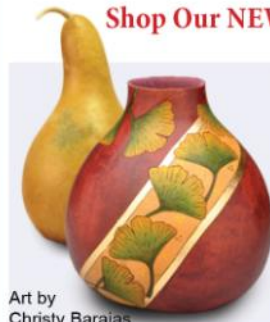
Happy customers picking their gourds

Shop Our NEW Low-Priced Gourds!

"I love the new low-priced gourds!! ...the Welburn 'standard quality' gourds are better than other farms' high quality ones!" - *Jan Bollins, CT*

Our **Standard Quality Gourds** arrive **CLEANED**, and they are **40%-60% cheaper** than our Premium Quality Gourds!

Shown left, a 'standard quality' gourd was used to create this beautiful pot with ginkgo leaves. The minor shell blemishes are concealed with the use of **Cordovan GourdMaster™ Transparent Acrylic** (which is still transparent but has a heavier pigment load and thus gives better coverage than GourdMaster™ Ink Dyes).



Art by *Christy Barajas*



On the Web: www.WelburnGourdFarm.com
 Call 1-760-728-4271 Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm PST





2017

- April 22 * Northern Patch Leaders Meeting held at the Caning Shop and hosted by East Bay Gourd Patch.
- May 20-21 Capitol Woodcarvers Assoc. Presents 2017 Woodworking and Gourd Show - Sacramento, CA
- May 20-29 San Bernardino County Fair, Victorville, CA
- June 2-July 4 San Diego County Fair, Del Mar, CA
- June 16-July 9 Alameda County Fair, Pleasanton, CA
- June 24-25 Early Bird Gourd Festival - Healdsburg, CA
- July 14-30 California Exposition and State Fair, Sacramento, CA
- July 14-August 13 Orange County Fair, Costa Mesa, CA
- August 2-13 Ventura County Fair, Ventura, CA
- Sept. 1-25 Los Angeles County Fair, Pomona, CA
- Sept. 29 -Oct. 1 * Northern Gourd Art Competition and Gourd Exhibit - Hosted by the Folsom Gourd Artists - Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale, CA
- Sept. 20 - Oct. 1 Kern County Fair
- Oct. 5-8 The Calabash Club of Silicon Valley - 6th Annual Gourd Festival - Uesugi Farms, San Martin, CA
- October 14-15 * Southern Gourd Art Competition and Gourd Exhibit - Hosted by the Orange County Gourd Society in collaboration with Orange County Carvers Guild - Elk's Lodge, Santa Ana, CA

2018

- April 27 - 29 Baskets and Gourds - Containers of Our Culture VII - Visalia, CA
- August *CGS Mexico Cruise - LA to Mexico—3/4 days—Look for more details in the coming months.

* Official CGS Event

Craft Leather for Sale

“Get Creative with Leather”



Various colors, sizes, textures and prices. Use on gourd art, dream catchers, purses, arts/crafts, and other fun projects.

Contact JoAnn Clark
 b4gourds@yahoo.com
 Phone: 760 749-9410

Easily Clean the Inside of Your Gourds in Just Seconds Instead of Hours!

“I love the gourd cleaning ball. I have used many, many tools from hand sanding, paint strippers, gourd wands, and genies. I have found the Easy Cleaner Ball to be my favorite and use it all the time now.” - Dianne Connelly, artist and instructor



The Easy Cleaner Ball has a durable, gravel-like surface that removes even the most stubborn dried gourd pulp in seconds flat! Choose from 4 sizes and 2 grit options (coarse and fine).

Simply attach the ball to your electric hand drill and the spinning action of the drill does all the work!

- Guaranteed built to last
- Clean out any size gourd
- Comes in coarse and fine grit with long or short shafts
- Fits any standard drill
- Shaft extenders are available



Open Mon-Fri 10am - 4pm PST



Shop Online: www.WelburnGourdFarm.com
 Or Call Us: 1-760-728-4271

The Editor’s Vine

Hello Gourders,

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 newsletter. A very special thank you to Olive Moore for doing a great job proof reading for me.

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, made something new or tried a new product? The box on the right has the current ad rates per issue and the deadline dates. The newsletter is usually emailed a month later. CGS also sends “Shout Outs” on a fairly regular basis; they are a great resource for those surprise events that don’t make it in time for the newsletter.

All members are encouraged to visit the “Members Only” section at our website, especially if you are a NEW member. There you will find all past issues of the Golden Gourd, tutorials and more. And for those of you that like a more INTERACTIVE social network you can LIKE us on our **Face Book page**.

Please note my email address and add to your address book:
editorgoldengourd@californiagourdsociety.com

Thank you for your continuing support!
 Mary Bliss -Editor Golden Gourd

The editor reserves the right to edit any submissions for content and consistency.
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Golden Gourd Newsletter Annual Cost \$2,400.00
 022517

Golden Gourd Electronic Newsletter Article/Ad Deadlines - 2017

Spring.....April 15, 2017
 SummerJuly 15, 2017
 FallOctober 15, 2017
 Winter 17/18.....January 31, 2018

Ad Rates – 2017

Half Page \$25
 3” X 3” \$15
 Business Card Size (members only) \$5