

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 8, Issue 1 Spring 2006

Fabulous Festivals Unfolding

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Book Reviews

Greg Leiser Farms is a third generation family farm operating in the Sutter Basin near Knights Landing in Northern California. The farm was founded in the early 1900's and has historically grown wheat, safflower, milo, barley, wild rice and medium grain rice. Greg and Mary Leiser have been farming for over 30 years, and today their main crops are wheat, safflower, pumpkins and hard shell gourds. They produce 100 acres of over 35 varieties of pumpkins and squash. They have grown hard shell gourds for over 10 years, and currently produce 25 varieties of hard shell gourds on over 25 acres.

Greg Leiser Farms is located along the Sacramento River across from the small town of Knights Landing. This rural farm offers peace and solitude that is increasingly difficult to find in our busy, expanding world. Visitors can bicycle or stroll along the Sacramento River levee, and fishing simply requires bringing a pole and fishing license.

Adding to the peace and serenity found at the Leiser gourd farm is the ener-

getic creativity of Greg Leiser and the gentle, graciousness of Mary Leiser. Greg loves to experiment with gourd seed to expand on his already largely diverse gourd types. He is also constantly creating wonderful wind chimes, plant holders and other art projects with his gourds, while Mary is at his side taking good care of their customers, answering phones, helping out new gourd artists and giving Leiser Farms its strong heart.

Greg Leiser Farms will be hosting their Fourth Annual Spring Gourd Art Festival and Gourd Sale on May 13 and 14, 2006. The festival is located along the beautiful Sacramento River at 21886 Knights Road in Knights Landing, CA. The festival will feature gourd artists from all over Cali-



fornia selling their exquisite gourd art. Presently, five Northern California gourd patches will be participating. On Sunday afternoon, special mothers-only drawings will (Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hey Gourd Fans! Spring is showing up for a moment or two at a time! I've got flowers in my garden and on fruit trees and my first gourd seeds are pushing up through moist soil in the greenhouse window. If you have trouble getting your seeds started, try bottom heat. You'll be amazed at how well it works. Use an old heating pad or electric blanket if you don't have heating cables.

But sprouting gourds is only a small part of the gourd happenings! In April we'll have our spectacular Asilomar event and some lucky person will go home with the Ashanti Mother and her beautiful babies........ FOR THE COST OF A \$2.00 TICKET!!!! You can't beat that! Auction items and donated treasures are beginning to show up....are you going to be there? Chances are better than ever for going home with fabulous prizes! And the Gourd Morgue is being revived! Some new Medical Examiners, some old, some older, all answering this question, "Can this gourd be saved?" Fun in the morning and fun at night and fun in between! Bring your "show and tells", bring tools and plan on a round the clock gourd party! As if that weren't enough, we have the Leiser Festival in May and the Welburn Festival in June! Congratulations to the Orange County Patch for a splendid event at the Santa Ana Zoo! Now buy your Ashanti Mother tickets and get them all to Pat Wescott before the Asilomar weekend! (Thank you Pat!!)

Happy Gourding! **Leigh Adams**

CGS Financial Report

Our March bank balance (aside from Asilomar revenues) is \$6,900.00 Our primary expenses continue to be the newsletter and insurance policies. Our membership consists (currently) of 855 gourd lovers from around the state, country and world!

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the horticulture, crafting and appreciation of the hard-shelled gourds (Lagenaria) 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 GOLDEN GOURD

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

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: SummerMay 28, 2006 FallAugust 28, 2006 Winter November 20, 2006 SpringFebruary 28, 2007

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be held. Prizes will include gourd art, gift certificates and more. There will be free live demonstrations by Thena Trystad and Janice Kobe, as well as vendors selling tools and supplies. Greg Leiser Farms will be selling gourds at a festival discount, including thousands of gourds from their new crop. Both days will feature a special presentation by Leigh Adams and Betty Finch on gourd molding and gourd manipulation. Ginger Summit will be there autographing her book "Gourds In your Garden" (see review bottom page 3). There will be gourd classes (see page 10 for complete listing) by Larry McClelland, Betsy Roberts, Kathy Riker and Jeanne Chapman. Food service and picnic areas are available.

Admission and parking are free. The festival is a wonderful opportunity for show and tell, or just visiting and sharing gourd ideas. For more information on festival updates and gourd classes, please visit Greg Leiser Farms at http://www.GourdFarmer.com!



It is planting time!!

By Betty Finch

This is an important time of year for those of you who grow gourds. If you are like me the number of plants you can grow is limited so one of the most important decisions you will make is your choice of varieties. Gourds need about 130 growing days, then additional time to dry. This means you need to predict what type of gourd you will want for crafting 6 months from now. Ordinarily this decision is one nobody can help you make.

Now if you live in the city and have only a patio and 5-gallon bucket to grow your gourd plant I recommend you grow Miniature Nigerian Bottle Gourds or a cross-breed of the variety commonly known as "Jewelry Gourds". But for everyone who has enough space to plant one full-size gourd plant, this is the year to plant dipper gourds.

Why? Because the American Gourd Society has initiated a National Jim Story Award to honor the man who so willingly shared his knowledge about hand-training gourds.

The challenge is "Dipper Gourds as Never Seen Before". The award will be presented for the first time in 2007. The California Gourd Society has followed suit with a hand-trained gourd category too. There has never been a better time to plant Dipper Gourds and start experimenting.

An afterthought, for those of you growing miniature gourds on your patio, get seed from a gourd that looks like a miniature dipper. You may not be able to tie it in a knot but there are other experiments you can do like growing it between two boards or tying it with string.

Get on the Internet and look up seed sources. For Extra-Long Handle Dipper seed I like to use Rocky Ford Gourds because their hand-pollinated seeds are always "true".

My method is simple, I watch the extended forecast and soak the seeds 24 hours the day before a warm day 79 to 80 degrees is predicted and then get them out in the ground. They should sprout within a week. For those of you who live in northern California or in mountain areas starting your seed indoors is important to ensure a long enough growing season. The most common problem in starting seeds indoors is keeping the seeds too wet and causing them to rot or leaving them in pots too long where they never recover from the shock of transplanting. If you can sprout the seeds in slightly damp paper towels and check on them several times a day for signs of sprouting, you can then plant the seed outside. They cannot stop once they have started sprouting but they must be protected from frost. An easy way to do this it to cut a clear plastic bottle in half and place the top half of the bottle over the newly planted seed.

Get those Dipper seeds going and I look forward to seeing your experiments in the CGS hand-trained gourd competition!!!

If you have never grown gourds before I recommend the book "Gourds in Your Garden" by Ginger Summit.

A Guidebook for the Home Gardener is the definitive guide for growing gourds at home. Although out of print for a while, Hillway Press has republished this gourd classic. If you don't already own this book, there's a reason you haven't been too successful in growing gourds! Get your copy directly from Ginger at Hillway Press, Box 592, Los Altos, CA 94022. Or visit her website at:

http://www.gingersummit.com/pages/books_pub.html for an order form for this and other books as well. Wholesale orders are welcome too. Contact Hillway Press for a schedule at: qsummit@earthlink.net.

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY 10th ANNUAL GOURD ART COMPETITION & EXHIBIT SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 24 & 25, 2006

Display space donated by Welburn Gourd Farm, 40635 De Luz Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028 Email: info@welburngourds.com Phone: (760) 728-4271

California Gourd Art Competition Rules:

- Any individual may enter. All entrants must be current members of the California Gourd Society.
- GOURDS MUST PREDOMINATE- artistry, originality and integrity of technique are considered.
- Participants may enter only one entry per category and in only one division, with the exception of the Masters division. Artists entering a piece in the Masters Division may also submit entries in the Advanced division.
- There are three divisions. The Novice division is for members who have not previously won a ribbon at the Welburn competition. Advanced division is for anyone who has won a ribbon in past CGS competitions or those who do not consider themselves a beginner. (honor system). Masters division This division would include artists who have achieved a level of expertise as demonstrated by having won awards, had work published, or sold work in galleries. There are no categories in the Masters division. Each artist would submit their best piece and they would be judged against one another. Artists entering in the Masters division are also_eligible to submit entries in the Advanced division categories.
- The entry fee is \$6 for each entry. 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.
- All participants agree to allow photographs to be taken of displayed items.
- Deadline: Mailed entries postmarked no later than Monday, June 19. Personal deliveries no later than Thursday, June 22 at 4:00 p.m. so that the show may be set up prior to judging. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE JUDGED!
- Judging will be on Friday, June 23.
- Pick-up will be Sunday, June 25 from 3:00 5:00 p.m. Entries may not be removed early.
- Mailed entries will be returned in approximately two weeks after the show. Mailed entries must have return postage and self addressed shipping container.
- All art work not picked up or arranged for pre-paid return will be donated to CGS.
- The California Gourd Society will officiate in all judging.

27 CATEGORIES: GOURDS MUST PREDOMINATE. INDICATE ON YOUR APPLICATION WHICH DIVISION YOU ARE ENTERING AND SPECIFY THE CATEGORY BY NUMBER AND TITLE.

Category 1: Gourd with weaving or coiling of natural fibers. The binder may be man made.

Category 2: Gourd with weaving or coiling of man-made fibers. Waxed linen may be used.

Category 3: This Years Art Challenge: "Inspired by the Masters" Create a piece reflecting the influence of the masters – Van Gogh, Renoir, Degas, etc. but in a concept unique to yourself as the gourd artist. May be whole or cut gourd, carved, wood-burned, painted, stained or sculpted.

Category 4: Interior treatment. Utilize the interior of the gourd as a central design element. Any technique allowed. The exterior may be finished as well.

Category 5: Painting. Whole or cut gourd. Please indicate type of paint used.

Category 6: Staining. Whole or cut gourd. Woodburning allowed. Staining should be featured.

Category 7: Mixed media. Whole or cut gourd. On entry form please indicate materials used.

Category 8: Hand-trained gourds. This category will be called the Jim Story category. This is a new category with techniques and processes growing in popularity. Gourds may be knotted, grown in a mold or otherwise manipulated. Pieces should be left natural or finished with a clear finish only.

Category 9: Polymer clay and gourds. Mix them any way you like. Gourds must predominate.

Category 10: Pyrography. Whole or cut gourd. Wood-burned only. Natural or clear finish only.

Category 11: Carving. Whole or cut gourd. Carving should be featured. Natural or clear finish only.

Category 12: Dolls/Human figures. Single or multiple gourds may be used. Any technique allowed. Gourds must predominate.

Category 13: Flowers. Single or multiple flowers. Any technique is allowed, including burning, carving, painted or sculptural pieces.

Category 14: Sculptural Animal or Bird figures. Single or multiple gourds are allowed. Gourds must predominate.

Category 15: Creepy crawlers. Use your imagination. This category can include insects, reptiles, arachnids or other things that slither, crawl or creep. Any technique allowed.

Category 16: Sea Creatures. May be single or multiple gourds. The piece can be painted, carved, burned or sculptural. Any technique a lowed. The creature may be real, mythical or fantastical.

Category 17: Masks. Whole or cut gourds. Must include a sturdy hanger as this category will be hung and displayed from the ceiling.

Category 18: Jewelry. Whole or cut gourds and/or pieces. Any technique. May use additional materials.

Category 19: Bird Habitat. May be for indoor or outdoor use. Whole or cut gourds. Must include a sturdy hanger as this category will be hung and displayed from the ceiling.

Category 20: Musical Instruments.

Category 21: Gourds on Wheels. This could be a toy, carriage, racecar, whatever. Must be made primarily from gourds, including wheels. Other accessories may be added.

Category 22: Drinking or pouring vessel. May be whole or cut gourds assembled into a vessel. Any technique allowed.

Category 23: Inspired by Native America, including North Coast Indian.

Category 24: Inspired by the Orient.

Category 25: Inspired by Africa.

Category 26: Inspired by the South Pacific.

Category 27: Inspired by Latin America.

Children 12 and under. No restrictions. (minimal adult assistance, please). Youth 13-15. No restrictions. Work of entrant only. Children and youth are also eligible to enter any novice category.

Category 1: Human figures. Sculptural or painted/drawn.

Category 2: Sculptural/assembled animals, sea creatures or insects.

Category 3: Air dried or polymer clay on gourds. **Category 4:** asks. Must have a hanger for display.

Category 5: Open – artist's choice of medium and technique.

The purpose of the Gourd Art Competition is to challenge CGS members to create new art and develop new ideas for themselves within a category. Thousands of visitors attend the exhibit each year and enjoy the creativity and skill of CGS members. If requested, individual artist's telephone number may be released by CGS so that visitors may call the artist after the show. For more information contact Carol Rookstool at crookstool@aol.com - OR - go to www.calgourd.com

CALL FOR JUDGES

Any CGS member who wishes to participate in the gourd art judging process is welcome to the training and judging session on Friday, June 23 at 9:00 am. This is a fun experience that benefits the participating artists and thousands of visitors that view the exhibit each year. For more information contact **Merilou Jenkins at meriloujenkins@yahoo.com**

Competition Entry Form and CGS Membership Form are on page 15

GOURDS: KEEPERS OF THE HEART OF THE WORLD

BY DEBORAH EASLEY

High in Colombia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains, the Kogi, Wiwa, and Arhuaco Indians took refuge 400 years ago from encroaching civilization concomitant with its bloodshed and careless disregard for the sanctity of the earth. Remaining true to their religious, moral, and ecological dictates, these indigenous people silently watched the influx of progress from the jungle. In the early 1990s, the Kogi allowed filmmaker Alan Ereira a brief glimpse of their lives in order to send a message to the outside world. Calling themselves the Elder Brothers of the Human Race, the Kogi warn us, the Younger Brothers, of the havoc and perils our actions have seeded in the wake of upsetting the balance of nature. "Open your eyes," they tell us. "You are stripping the world ... the Great Mother taught us right and wrong. [She] gave us what we needed to live and her teaching has not been forgotten to this day. We all still live by it. But now they are taking out the Mother's heart, taking up the ground, cutting out her liver and her guts ... we are doing our work properly – it is you, Younger Brother, who is bringing the world to an end. You are looting the world, taking the guardians of the sun and the stars." They tell us the world does not have to end.

The Kogi creation story involves the act of spinning, a metaphor for the weaving of their cultural existence into the Sierra Nevada's landscape fabric. In the beginning the mountains were born from the Earth being spun on a colossal spindle, wherein the universe was conceived in 9 layers. The Kogi survive by farming in the lowlands; climbing higher up the mountain, they plant onions and potatoes, graze cattle, and gather thatch. They hold these migrations as weavings that over time create a protective cloak over the Earth. (Today, Kogi women spin cotton and agave fiber into thread, just as the world was spun into creation, and the men weave the threads into clothing, completing the cycle of creation and balance.) Imagine their horror in witnessing Younger Brother's destruction of the Heart of the World by annihilating the forests and replacing them with banana, oil palm, and cocaine plantations; imagine the irony of fleeing from the encroachment of right-wing paramilitary and leftist guerilla operations in modern Colombia! Receding glaciers and lack of snow on the high peaks signal to the Kogi a world badly out of order. Their mountain, the Heart of the World, IS the planet in miniature.

Led by its priesthood who are called Mamas (pronounced *Mummers*), the Kogi are taught that their spiritual work alone is responsible for maintaining the ecological balance of the cosmos. The Mamas are the enlightened ones who watch over the community and maintain purity. In this setting they are the true stewards of the planet, and they believe this to be their sole mandate conferred upon them by the Mother. They alone are responsible for keeping the universe balanced—male/female, creation/destruction, internal/external, spirit/matter, tangible/intangible.

From the age of puberty until death, the Kogi, Wiwa, and Arhuaco men carry a poporo (a gourd) in one hand. The poporo contains ground seashells collected from sacred beaches. While chewing on toasted coca leaves, a Kogi will ponderously insert a stick into the small mouth opening of the poporo, gather some seashell powder, and put the stick in his mouth. (The combination of coca and lime produces a mild, energizing effect that helps the Kogi live at 14,000+ feet. The seashell powder, pronounced doo-ah, which means stardust, is also an important source of calcium. The seashell powder is considered the "germ of life". Without it, masculinity is unbalanced and dangerous.) Removing the stick from his mouth, the Kogi then makes a circular spinning movement, scraping the edge of the stick onto the gourd, depositing saliva and calcium residue around the poporo's edge. The deposits gradually build into a bulb – the larger the bulb, the greater the man's age and wisdom. The gourd is considered female, the stick is male, and the art of bringing them together symbolizes the moment of creation and conception, a living metaphor for the balance of male and female. Eating from the poporo keeps a man in harmony with the Great Mother. He must never give up eating from the poporo; otherwise, he cannot be a man and marry. (Only the Kogi women are allowed to plant. It is considered part of their relationship to the Great Mother and the family. All plants, including gourds, have guardians that are supplicated for blessings.)

Another version of the Kogi creation story further demonstrates this at-one-ness with nature or Mother Nature: "In the beginning, there was blackness. Only the sea. In the beginning, there was no sun, no moon, no people. In the beginning there were no animals, no plants, only the sea. The sea was the mother. The mother was not people. She was not anything. She was in and was equal to spirit. She was memory and possibility. She was La Luna. ... All was conceived in the water of La Luna in the pre-dawning. We can only have ideas of things already conceived in the waters of La Luna, the inner reality of the world." They say the Great Mother is not a distant god. She is the mind inside nature; the Mother is fertility and intelligence. "What a power there is in the mind of the Great Mother, to conceive all this. And this power has been shaped in so many ways, so many forces, a vibrant powerful dance has been shaped – the dance of life."

References:

 Ereira, A. (Producer/Director). (1998). From the Heart of the World [Documentary/VHS]. United States: Mystic Fire Video.
 Ferry, Stephen. (2004, October). Keepers of the world. National Geographic, 206:4, 50-69.

Deborah Easley is a dancer, painter, gourd artist, and copy editor living in Crestone, CO. Her gourd art is currently on exhibit at Cichon Fine Art Gallery, Taos, NM. Her work is also featured in Chapelle Publishing's new book, <u>Gourd Art: Beyond the Basics</u>. Deborah has been a California Gourd Society member since 1997, and her work can be seen at www.gourdartgalleries.com.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Compiled and edited by Barbara McDermott

Amador County

Regional Coordinator: Carol Cherry (209 296-6834 or ccanddon@volcano.net Sylvia Nelson, (916)682-2437 or sylvianelson@citlink.net

Amador County is a growing group of enthusiastic gourders who gather on the second Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to around Noon at the Amador County Agriculture Building, 12200 Airport Rd. Jackson, CA 95642 to share ideas and techniques.

Future activities include several field trips, learning about silk dyes, a presentation on inlay techniques, a class on paper clay and a demonstration using burning techniques on gourds.

We have a "gallery show" to share our work every meeting. New members are always welcome. Please come join us!

Antelope Valley Gourd Patch

Regional Coordinator: Nancy Brown (661) 944-5528 or Nancy_b93544@yahoo.com

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm. We welcome people interested in gourds from the Palmdale, Lancaster, Rosamond Littlerock, Pearblossom, Llano and Lake Los Angeles areas. So anyone interested in joining us please give me a call at above.

Bakersfield/Kern County Gourd Patch

Regional Co-Coordinators: Melanie Ansolabehere, (661) 836-2501 or littlefeather3@aol.com Alice Hengst, (559) 949-8651 or moondust@savy2K.net Carol Walter, (661) 588-8398 or glwalter@earthlink.net

The Kern County/Bakersfield Patch meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Beverly's Craft Shop, 2819 F. Street, Bakersfield. Kern County Gourd Patch Bakersfield We always have an "opportunity" table at our meetings you never know what you can win there. We have lots of laughs and lots of fun at our meetings so anyone interested in gourds is very welcome at our meetings.

El Dorado County Foothill Gourders

Regional Coordinator: Carolee Jones (916) 988-7971 or sahtaitwo@earthlink.net

The Foothill Gourders meet on the first Thursday of each month at the El Dorado County Agricultural Commission's Cooperative Extension Building at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. The business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and followed by the educational meeting until noon.

Fallbrook Gourd Patch

Regional Coordinator: Barbara McDermott (760) 746-3913 or mcdeeart@verizon.net

The Fallbrook Area Gourd Patch meets every other month, on the second Saturday, at a Member's home, library or gourd farm. On the alternate months we conduct gourd classes, participate in gourd shows, festivals or other gourd related activities.

The April Meeting will be held at the lovely Valley Center home of JoAnn Clark when there will be a featured demonstration and a natural materials opportunity drawing. Several of the members are also looking forward to their Asilomar weekend in April.

This is a friendly group who is always looking for fun with gourds activities. If you would like to visit or join our meetings please call Barbara at above for more information.

Folsom/Sacramento Patch - Z-Gourd Miners

Regional Coordinator: Ann Mitchell (530)367-4830 or GourdMinerMama@cs.com

The Folsom-Sacramento Patch meets the second Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. of each month at Zittle Farms, Corner of Oak Avenue and Folsom/Auburn Road in Folsom. We have social time, show & tell, lunch, work on projects or classes. We have a great group and wish you to join us.

Kings River Gourd Patch

Regional Coordinator: Pat Wescott (559) 897-7470 or wagon4@lightspeed.net

The Kingsburg Fiber & Gourd Patch has so much fun, and talent, that it is like giving yourself an "artist's shot in the arm" once a month. We share gourds, fiber arts, books, latest projects, pot luck lunch and great friendship. Come and join us. Just call Pat and let her know that you will be coming. All are welcome. We meet the first Saturday of the month at Pat's house. Contact her (see above) for directions. Happy Gourding and Creating!

Los Angeles – Gourd Artisans of Los Angeles (GALA)

Regional Representative: Larry McClelland (310)549-3294 or macgourd@aol.com

The GALA Patch members are from the greater Los Angeles/Pasadena area and our meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, (except July & August) at 7:30, at the San Gabriel Bead Company, 325 E. Live Oak, Arcadia, CA 91006, (626)447-7753. Guests are always welcome. For more information please contact Larry at above. Our plans for Spring include monthly "show and tell", workshops on philodendrum weaving on gourds, creating faux stones from polymer clay and another yet to be determined subject. We will also have a number of our members participating in the 10th Annual Gourd Festival at the Welburn farm in June, and will probably have several members involved in showing at the Fine Art Gourd Show at the Fallbrook Art Center.

Los Angeles - Inner City Patch

Regional Coordinator: Bea Jones

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(323) 291-8752 or beapsyche@aol.com

For information call or email above or check at www.calgourd.com

L.A.W. (Los Angeles West) Gourd Patch

Regional Coordinators: Dr. Judy Bin-Nun, (310) 207-2998 or jbn12401@aol.com Colleen Huff, colleenhuff@charter.net or Sheila Goetz, shegoetz@earthlink.net

We meet the first Wednesday night of each month from 7–9 pm at Dr. Judy's Gourd Garden Studio in West Los Angeles.

Sherry Woods will be teaching Gourd Flower Pillar Candles in April. In May it is Leigh Adams with Stepping Stones for your garden and Niki Escobedo leading us to make Gourd Notebooks in June. We hope to encourage more members to join our creative camaraderie. Join us for these fun events. Call or email one of the coordinators for direction and to find out about upcoming meetings.

Northern Sierra Gourd Patch

Regional Coordinator: Jackie Berg (530)675-2577 or ljberg@cwnet.com

Call Jackie for information on current meeting dates and times.

Orange County Gourd Society Patch

Regional Coordinator: Susan Sullivan (714) 997-4482 eves or susansphn@aol.com. For more info visit our Website at: www.orangecountygourdsociety.org

OCGS meets in Costa Mesa (near Harbor & Baker) the 4th Thursday of each month 6:30—9 pm. **Our June meeting will be on the 15th** since a number of our members will be participating at the Welburn's Gourd Festival. If you would like to volunteer for the Crafting Coral at this event please contact Coral Coordinator Curtis Hayes at: mekaoi@earthlink.net or 714 545-3271.

We usually have Play Days on the 3rd Saturday of each month (see info on website). Coming activities include exhibiting at the Fullerton Arboretum Green Scene on April 22 & 23 and demos at the OC Fair in the Home & Hobbies Building, July 28-30.

Our Zoo event was Great! We would like to thank CGS members Gaye Berger, Darlene Propp, Betsy Roberts and the Dremel guys for the exciting and fun demonstrations they did for the group. Thanks also to all that gave prizes and attended this annual event. Congratulations to Bill Duncan who won the Dremel Grand Prize! See you again next year!

Pico Rivera/Whittier Patch

Welcome New Regional Coordinator

Regional Coordinators: Tony Torres yptorres@msn.com or 562 908-8275

Thank you Mike and Carol Wong for your continued support and help with the Pico patch. For information call or email above or check at www.calgourd.com

San Bernardino Patch

Regional Coordinator: Darlene Propp

(909) 862-9717 or dragongourd@dslextreme.com

The San Bernardino Patch is really looking forward to new things this year. At this time our activities are planned as we go so call Darlene (at above) or Valerie Martinell (909) 883-3527 for current meeting information. We will be glad to add you to our email list and notify you of any planned activities.

San Diego - Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild

Regional Coordinator: Peggy Blessing (858) 292-9219 or glassworks2005-gourdnews@yahoo.com Check our website, www.baskets-gourds.com

The San Diego Patch is part of the Misty Washington Gourd and Basket Guild, which meets the first Sunday of each month at Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas, 12 to 3:30 p.m. and begins with a pot luck lunch.

Meetings are informal and we encourage members and visitors to bring something to work on, a completed project to show the group, and/or a problem piece that you would like input on. About six times a year, there will be mini workshops (for a nominal fee), lectures or demonstrations at these meeting. Check out the website (above) for current meeting activities. Let the parking attendant know you are there for the "Misty Meeting," and they will waive the entrance fee.

The meeting coming up May 7, 2006, Mary Pryor, will teach a mini workshop on making dracaena baskets (must pre-register). At the July 2 meeting, members will have an opportunity to learn how to make philodendron angels (bring philodendron sheaths, soaked and ready to use).

There will be a nominal fee for those who wish to participate in these workshops.

San Fernando Valley Gourd Patch

Regional Coordinators: Art and Nina Lowy (818) 715-9473 or gourds@mac.com Dori Aberson (818) 702-8020 or daberson@aol.com

We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 23075 Mulholland Drive, Calabasas. We demonstrate or do a project each month. Please contact a coordinator for the coming month's scheduled project. Our Patch does community outreach by working with children at Oak Park School, showing them how to grow gourds.

In April we feature wood burning, in May, gilding and June will be paper clay. We offer new members this promise. You will go home with the gourd you worked on. Just bring yourself; we supply the gourds and supplies.

San Francisco East Bay - East Bay Gourd Patch

Regional Coordinators: Bee Hylinski (925) 552-5977 or beebee723@earthlink.net Kay Van Hoesen (925)254-0838 or kdvanh@sbcglobal.net

Our meetings are held the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Berkeley or Walnut Creek. Most of our meetings include a workshop. In April, Sheri Novac

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

and Bee Hylinski will instruct us in Couching on gourds. Both meetings will be at the Caning Shop in Berkeley. In may our Patch will exhibit at Leiser Farms Gourd Festival. In June, Bee Hylinski and Judy Burge will do a workshop on Gourd Masks in Walnut Creek. We welcome beginners to advanced gourders. For more information contact Kay (above). Please join us for fun and instruction.

Santa Cruz Gourd Patch

Regional Coordinator: Barbara Johnson (831) 440-1540 or greggjohnson@earthlink.net Kris Mangliers (831) 338-3449 or kmangliers@msn.com

The Santa Cruz Patch is busy these days planning our booth for the Leiser's Gourd Show, the Asilomar Conference challenge and planning for the year.

Our Patch meets every other month. The date of the next meeting is scheduled at each meeting so please contact us (above) for meeting information. We'd love to have you!!!

Shasta Tahoma Gourd Patch

Regional Coordinator: Rebecca Cileo (530) 357-4855 or <u>luv2ridedi@aol.com</u>

Call for current meeting information or check at www.calgourd.com

Silicon Valley - Calabash Club of Silicon Valley

Regional Coordinator: Jayne Xavier (480)779-9550 or nimbleneedle@aol.com

We meet every other month (Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec), at member's homes on the second Sunday of the month, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On the alternate months we have what we call "In-betweeners." This might be a workshop, class or play day. We welcome anyone interested in gourds to attend our meetings. Contact Jayne (above) for current date and place.

Sonoma Gourd Patch:

CGS is currently looking for someone to fill the **position** of Regional Coordinator. Interested parties please contact Carol Rookstool at :crookstool@aol.com for details.

Tulare Sequoia Patch

Regional Coordinators: Toni Best

(559) 627-5430 or capineneedles@earthlink.net Sue Winters-Brown ((559) 561-0608 or suewb@tcoe.org

April 8 DYE OUT DAY at Toni Best's house. Bring whatever you want to dye, a pot-luck and a project to work

on. 10:00 - ?

April 9 Reception for 3-d Art Show in Exeter, CA. Sam McKinney and Toni Best will have work at this show which will run through the end of June.

May 6 Annual Fun Day at Sam McKinney's - Potluck; bring a project and something for the blanket ex-Audrey will be there selling her wonderful change. beads! Contact Sam (562-1627) or Toni for info. 10:00 - ?

May 13 - 13 Redbud Festival. Everyone in the Patch is invited to share our booth. You will need to help with setup, take down and share the cost of the booth. This is a really fun day! Call or e-mail Toni if you have any ques-

Ventura County - Channel Islands Gourd Society

Regional Coordinator: Elsie Cogswell (805)491-5846 or elsiecogs@verizon.net

Our website www.channelislandsgourdsociety.com

Our group meets the third Wednesday of the month, 7 – 9 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Valley Clubhouse, 11701 E. Las Posas Road, Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012. Call (above) for directions or questions.

Our Patch is busy preparing for our Fourth Annual Gourd Festival, Saturday, April 8 at the Clubhouse where gourd art will be on display and for sale. Members are preparing gourd Easter baskets and eggs to be in an opportunity drawing. There will also be demonstrations, children's activities, a hat parade and entertainment by an old time fiddlers group. This Festival gets bigger and better every year. We extend a warm welcome to visitors.

Next Regional Roundup News due to Barbara by May 20, mcdeeart@verizon.net, Thank you.

Wouldn't you like to see your class listed in the Golden Gourd? Class Announcements are **free** to all **CGS members** and are included in the newsletter on a first submit and space available basis. Please email class schedules to: newsletter@calgourd.com

Include: name of class, instructor, day, date time, location, price and contact information.

Attention teachers!

CGS would like to add your teachers' contact information on our website. We are most especially interested in teachers willing to travel but also those willing to teach so that festival organizers, gourd patches and interested institutes can contact them. Please send relevant information, i.e. Name, contact information, general location and classes taught along with a digital photo of yourself (if you wish) to Lisa Toth, VP communications.

FOR THE MOST CURRENT CLASS LISTINGS AND FOR THE TRAVELING TEACHER'S LISTING CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.calgourd.com



CLASSES

Aprí

April 8 Jill Walker

Shake It Up Baby
10 a.m. -4 p.m.
Select a gourd and make it
into a shekerie. (Materials
and tools provided.) \$55.00.
Gourd Walker Studio,
Watsonville, CA
gourdwalker@charter.net
(831)728-4427

April 8 *** Kristy Dial

Wax Resist on Gourds 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Fee: TBA Jasmin Gallery— La Jolla, CA

April 15 *** Kristy Dial

Power Carving 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Fee: TBA Jasmin Gallery— La Jolla, CA

April 22 *** Kristy Dial

Metal Inlay 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Fee: TBA Jasmin Gallery—La Jolla, CA

April 22 Leigh Adams

Woodburned Gourd Basket Noon-5:00 p.m. Good for all levels—\$45.00 plus materials list San Gabriel Bead Company, Arcadia, CA 626 614-0014

April 23 Betsy Roberts

Wild & Crazy Painting and Free Form Coliling 11 am—5 pm Cost \$60 + \$30 material fee Jasmin Gallery - La Jolla, CA (858) 459-4505

April 29 Diane Calderwood GOURD BASKET

10:00 am - 4:00 pm Piecemakers Country Store, Costa Mesa, CA (714) 641-3112

April 29

U-Gouge Gourd Carving **Kemper Stone**

10am to 4pm. \$60.00 The Caning Shop, Berkeley, CA 94710 1-800-544-3373/510-527-5010 www.Caningshop.com

April 29

Geometric Pyrography & inlay **Noi Thomas**at Toni Best's in

at Toni Best's in Visalia, CA 9 – 4.\$50.00. Toni's home (559) 627-5430 CApineneedles@earthlink.net

May

May 6 ** Barbara McDermott

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Buzz On Inn Beehive Gourd
Birdhouse
Murrieta, CA 92562
\$50 includes materials.
Please bring any painting
supplies you have. I have
some for use and for sale

May 13 Nadine Spier

Gourd Decorating/
Woodburning
10 am -3 pm Ed
\$30 + \$15 materials
Valley Center, CA - V.C.
Adult (760) 749-4218

May 20 Toni Best

Pine needle coiling on gourd Choose between 8 different coiling techniques. All materials and lunch are provided. \$50.00 9 – 4. Toni's home in Visalia, CA (559) 627-5430 Capineneedles@earthlink.net

May 20

*** Kristy Dial

Power Carving 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Fee: TBA Jasmin Gallery—La Jolla, CA

May 21 *** Kristy Dial

Wax Resist on Gourds 10:00 am - 3:00 pm— Fee: TBA Jasmin Gallery—La Jolla, CA

May 27 *** Kristy Dial

Metal Inlay 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Fee: TBA Jasmin Gallery—La Jolla, CA

May 30 Leigh Adams

Mini Gourd Mask 7:00-10:00 p.m. Good for all levels \$35.00 plus materials list San Gabriel Bead Company, Arcadia, CA 626 614-0014

June

June 2 ****Kathy Riker

Tribal Knotting
9 am – 4 pm cost \$60.00
Los Altos, CA

June 2 ****Kathy Riker

Ornamentation & Émbellishments

Bring your problem gourds to fix
6 pm -9 pm \$25.00

Los Altos, CA

Kathy Will bring lots of
embellishments.

June 3 ****Kathy Riker

Ocean Drum and Dyeing Technique 9 am -4 pm \$60.00 Los Altos, CA

June 3
****Kathy Riker

Wax Resist Mini Rain Stick 6 pm - 9 pm \$30.00 Los Altos, CA

June 4 **** Kathy Riker

Faux Raku Bowl or Vessel 9am -4 pm \$60.00 Los Altos, CA

June 3 Diane Calderwood

Gourd Trinket Box 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Piecemakers Country Store Costa Mesa, CA 714-6451-3112

*June 4*Nadine Spier

Gourd Decorating/Lavender
Basketry/Woodburning
10 am – 4 pm
\$60 includes all materials
Valley Center, CA
www.thelavenderfields.com
(760) 944-9369 or
www.nadinespier.com

June 10 Dar Beck

Cost for the day \$50.00
Session I—Silk Dye
10am
Material fee \$15.00
Session II—Gemstone Rim
bring a gourd to put a gemstone
rim onto. beads & gemstones
supplied –starts 2pm
Material fee is \$15.00
Lakewood, CA
Dar Beck, 509-525-0999
dar@afamilyjournal.com

June 11 *** Kristy Dial

Power Carving 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Fee: TBA Jasmin Gallery—La Jolla, CA

June 17 *** Kristy Dial

Metal Inlay 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Fee: TBA Jasmin Gallery—La Jolla, CA

* Kristy Dial - La Mesa, CA (619) 460-9171 or www.geckogourds.com or geckogourds@cox.net A gourd and supplies will be provided.

*** Barbara McDermott—24474 Kentucky Derby Way, Murrieta, CA 92562—(951)894-1817 or mcdeeart@verizon.net

*** Kristy Dial - Jasmin Gallerries La Jolla, CA (858) 459-4505 or www.cagourds.com (619) 460-9171 or www.geckogourds.com A gourd and supplies will be provided.

**** Kathy Riker—Kennie Winters Home, Los Altos, CA. Contact Kennie at (650) 948-9189 or Kathy Riker at (909) 797-4591 All supplies included, bring scissors, mask, apron & lunch

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Greg Leiser Farms Gourd Festival Classes www.gourdfarmer.com

Friday May 12

Creating Fantasy Animals Larry McClelland 9AM - 4PM \$65.00

Wild and Crazy Painting with Freeform Coiling Betsy Roberts 9AM - 3PM \$70.00

Wax Resist Bowl or Vessel Kathy Riker 9am -4 pm \$55.00 all supplies included

Saturday May 13

Tribal Princesses
Betsy Roberts
9AM - 1PM
\$60.00 Includes all materials,
but student must bring scissors

Spirit Doll Kathy Riker 9AM -4PM \$60.00 Includes all supplies

Gourd Garlic Savers Jeanne Chapman 10AM - 2PM \$55.00 plus \$10.00 material fee.

Sunday May 14

Faux Raku Bowl or Vessel Kathy Riker 9AM -4PM \$60.00 all supplies included

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it was...Well laid out...the food was great...the art was
AMAZING and the atmosphere magical."-Cynthia Jacobs



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For gourd class registration, competition submission form, and more information please visit www.GourdFestival.com!

Pre Festival Classes at Welburn's Wednesday, June 21, 2006

"Ocean Drum" - Leigh Adams

"Silk Dying" - Diane Connelly

"Woodburning" – Pam Harmon

"Advanced Gourd Design and Color Finishes" - Maria Dellos

"Wax Resist Bowl" - Kathy Riker

"Petroglyph and Ripples Oil Candle" - Bonnie Gibson

"Gourd Purse" - Mary Segreto

"Gourd Pulp Paper and Lining Techniques" – Kristy Dial

"Sculpting Fantasy Animals" - Larry McClelland

Thursday, June 22, 2006

"Beginning Gourd Crafting" – Diane Connelly

"Gourd Basketry" – Don Weeke

"Power Carving" – Bonnie Gibson

"Advanced Gourd Design and Color Finishes" - Maria Dellos

"Kayum Drum" - Leigh Adams

"Gold Leafing" - Mary Segreto SOLD OUT

"Spirit Doll" - Kathy Riker

"Butterfly Carved Gourd Bowl" - Carrie Dearing

"Tenerife Weaving" - Toni Best

"Metal Inlay" - Kristy Dial

"Flint Knapping" – Ben Kirkland

Friday, June 23, 2006

"Gourd Basketry" - Don Weeke

"Silk Dying" - Diane Connelly

"Woodburning" – Pam Harmon

"Faux Raku" - Kathy Riker SOLDOUT

"Inlay/Inlace" - Bonnie Gibson

"Floating Coils" - Toni Best

"Carved Eagle Gourd Bowl" - Carrie Dearing

"Ocean Drum" - Leigh Adams

"Metal Inlay" - Kristy Dial SOLD OUT

"Dot Painting" - Larry McClelland

"Layered Feathers on Gourds" - Kayla Kirkland



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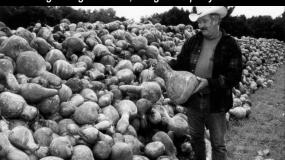
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California Gourd Arts Festival October 21 and 22, 2006

Arboretum of Los Angeles County 301 N. Baldwin Arcadia, CA 91007

See www.calgourd.com or www.californiagourdartsfestival.org for the following forms:

Call for Teachers (Class Proposal) DUE BY MAY 1, 2006
Niki Escobedo at gourdniki@yahoo.com

Application to compete in the Iron Gourd Competition

Jill Walker at gourdwalker@charter.net

Gallery Artists - Exclusive gallery sales area. Space is limited to First 30 artists.

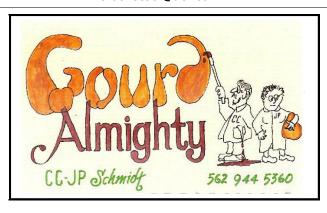
Jack Thorp at gourdfairla@yahoo.com or (562) 429-3582

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Sheila Goetz at shegoetz@earthlink.net

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Carol Rookstool—Conference Chair crookstool@aol.com



CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY 10th ANNUAL GOURD ART COMPETITION & EXHIBIT SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 24 & 25, 2006

Shout out for Volunteers!!

Interesting volunteer opportunities are available throughout the Festival on Saturday and Sunday. Could

you donate time to share a gourd crafting/ knowledge by minute demontoring our exand answer visitors, as well



some of your bit of your decorating a 20-30 stration? Monihibit to welcome questions of as protecting

gourd art on exhibit, is also a way to share your gourd enthusiasm! If you would like to mentor and assist visitors in the "Crafting Corral" to create gourd art your help would be greatly appreciated. And finally, although it isn't very glamorous your help would be really appreciated in setting up and taking down all the areas in which we participate. (With many helpful hands these tasks take surprisingly little time.) "Any amount of your time would be welcome, but, to qualify for free admission, volunteers must sign up for at least 2 hours."

"On Saturday, June 24th we need people to do demonstrations, monitor the exhibit, sit in the CGS info/sales booth, sell memberships (this can be done while walking around) and assist festival visitors to create gourd art in the crafting coral. We need to have two volunteers at all times to help Leigh with the children's booth? Volunteers must be impervious to boogers, immune to glue flu, delighted by indiscriminate use of glitter and enchanted by children who paint while biting their lips and wrinkling their faces. This is an "all process" activity. The goal is to support the kids in doing whatever the heck they want to do to their gourds, 10 minutes of "life without limits" before they return to the real world of rules and consequences!

On Sunday, June 25th we will need the same areas covered as Saturday, plus takedown after the Festival.

Festival Volunteers Contact **Peggy Blessing** at: (858) 292-9219 or glassworks2005-gourdnews@yahoo.com Crafting Coral Volunteers Contact **Curtis Hayes** at: (714) 545-3271 or mekaoi@earthlink.net

CALL FOR JUDGES

CGS member who wishes to participate in the gourd art judging process is welcome to the training and judging session on **Friday, June 23**, at 9 a.m. This is a fun experience that benefits the participating artists and thousands of visitors that view the exhibit each year. Contact **Merilou Jenkins** at:

meriloujenkins@yahoo.com

ART CENTER AT FALLBROOK



10th Annual National Gourd Fine Art Show May 21 - June 25, 2006 Mon-Sat 10am - 4 pm, Sun 12-3pm

In the Janice Griffiths Gallery 103 South Main at Alvarado Fallbrook, CA 92028 (760) 728-1414 . (800) 919-1159 www.fallbrookart.org

Special hours Sat June 24th 10am - 8 pm to accommodate visitors & artists at the 10th Annual International Gourd Art Festival at the Welburn Gourd Farm Admission \$5 - Art Center members free

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http://www.calgourd.com

For California Gourd Arts Festival go to: http://www.californiagourdartsfestival.org

For our members that enjoy the on-line community atmosphere and want the latest gourd news and happenings check us out on-line at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/calgourd/

Ask questions, share stories, photos and more.

Stop by and put your pin in the CGS State Member Map at: http://www.frappr.com/cagourdsociety

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CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY **GOURD ART COMPETITION 2006**

ENTRY APPLICATION -ONE FORM PER ENTRY, PLEASE

Name (please print):
Mailing Address:
City:State:Zip:
Phone: ()
Email:
Division: Novice Advanced Masters Child Youth
Category (see list on page 4 or go to www.calgourd.com):
If you have won a CGS ribbon in a past competition, you must enter in the advanced division. Any description required by category. See list:
I have read the competition rules and agree to abide by them. Signature:
MAIL OR DELIVER YOUR ENTRY WITH \$6 ENTRY FEE PER ITEM TO: (no fee for children and youth entries) Check payable to: <i>California Gourd Society</i> (CGS) California Gourd Society Gourd Art Competition, c/o Welburn Gourd Farm, 409635 De Luz Murrieta Road. Fallbrook, CA 92028



CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL (SEE BACK OF THIS FORM FOR EXP DATE)
Name :
Mailing Address:
City:State:Zip:
Phone: ()
Email:
PREFERRED METHOD OF NEWSLETTER DELIVERY: (Color) EMAIL or (B & W) SNAIL MAIL

Annual dues: \$15. Please make check payable to California Gourd Society (CGS) and mail to: California Gourd Society, c/o Niki Escobedo, 827 E. Chevy Chase Dr. #2, Glendale, CA 91205

Pay multiple years at one time and you will still get your coupons and membership card sent to you each year.

Annual membership dues for our national organization, the American Gourd Society, are \$15 and may be paid directly to: AGS Membership Secretary, 317 Maple Ct., Kokomo, MI 46902-3633

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To place an ad or for more information contact: Mary Bliss newsletter@calgourd.com (714) 693-1840 (after 11:00 a.m. PST)

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Calabash, a fundraiser for Food For Thought, Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank, is seeking new artists to donate a work for our highly acclaimed silent auction of fine gourd art. The sixth annual Calabash will be held Sunday Oct. 1, 2006. Artists' commitments by July 30, entries due Sept. 10. Contact Rachel at 707-887-1647 or foodfairy @aol.com. A great event - a great cause

www.calabashARTfest.org



Nicole Campanella's Gourdgeous Beaded Gourds Beginner's Instructional Bead & Gourd Art Is a deftly illustrated manual that will support and educate both beginning gourd artists and beginning bead artists. Nicole clearly explains each project and has easy to follow instructions accompanied by step by step diagrams. Don't miss the "Gallery of Gourds" at the back of the book! This is a great addition to our gourd libraries! Best of all, Nicole offers CGS members a discount the cost is \$14.95 so contact her directly at: http://nicolecampanella.com/

Nadine Spier's basket "Connections" has been chosen for Lark Books "500 Baskets" to be published this Spring. She was also published in the March issue of Crafts Report Magazine. An article on gourd crafting with Nadine will be published in the Fall issue of Better Homes and Gardens specialty magazine Garden Ideas.

Send your gourd tips, pictures or stories to: editorgoldengourd@yahoo.com

We've found that our Angelus Leather Dyes work really well dying pine needles. 1-2 oz dye per gallon of water. Simmer the needles for 30minutes to an hour. Spread them out to dry for at least a day \Box before using them to allow the dye to set. Jim Widess The Caning Shop

Just Opened Second Location Laguna Beach, CA





The Golden Gourd **California Gourd Society** 827 E. Chevy Chase Dr., #2 Glendale, CA 91205

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED Dated Material

Living the Gourd Life California Style 2006

April 8 Channel Islands Gourd Society host The Forth Annual Gourd Festival— Santa Rosa Valley Club house— Santa Rosa Valley, CA

April 14 – 16 CGS Conference at Asilomar— Pacific Grove, CA

May 13 & 14 The Fourth Annual Spring Gourd Art Festival & Gourd Sale at Leiser's Gourd Farm-Knights Landing, CA

June 21 -23 Pre Festival Classes at the Welburn Gourd Farm—De Luz Canyon, CA

June 24 & 25 The 10th International Gourd Art Festival and CGS Gourd Art Competition -Welburn Gourd Farm—De Luz Canyon, CA

September 21 & 22 Pre Festival Classes—Zittel's Gourd Farm

September 23 & 24 The 12th Annual Folsom Gourd Festival at Folsom City Park, Folsom, CA

October 21 & 22 The California Gourd Arts Festival at the Los Angeles Arboretum - Los Angeles. CA