

THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

WINTER 2002

“The Best in the West Ever” 8th Annual West Coast Gourd Festival

by Ann Mitchell

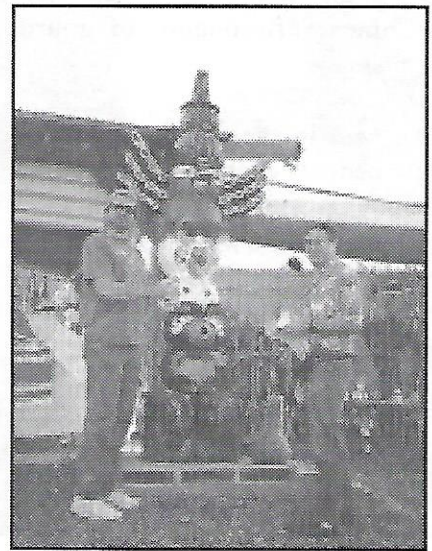
On behalf of the Zittels, I would personally like to thank “Z” Gourd Miners (Zittel Farms’ Gourd Club) for all of their hard work manning the demonstration booths and providing hospitality for the vendors. I would then like to thank our mentor and friend, Ginger Summit, for two full days of nonstop help and support. To our more than 70 vendors who provided the public with awesome art to enjoy, thank you. Thank you, Elvie, for coordinating the entertainment. We appreciate our special friends Tom, Cheryl and Brandon Baal who came up from Palmdale to lend support our festival. A special thank you to Tom and Brandon Baal and Jim Widess and his crew for restocking our numerous and voluminous gourd bins Saturday night. A big thank you to Brian and Judy, the Zittels’ staff, that pulled it all together. We can’t forget Roger’s old cronies who manned the gourd sales booth for us. Finally, I would like to thank the more than 17,000 fans that attended our festival. The amazing thing is that most come by word of mouth!

Friday, September 27th found 199 people hard at work at one of our 16 classes. Many had brought significant others who enjoyed watching vendors set up and enjoyed visiting booths that had been set up the night before. The only comment we heard about the classes was negative—why can’t they be on two days so we can have more classes to take? Who knows, maybe next year...

Saturday and Sunday was the festival proper. People enjoyed the many sights to see—from the world’s tallest gourd sculpture (the famous Zittel Farms’ Totem Pole by Dave Roseberry) to our special broom maker Mark Pietz who made brooms using broomcorn which is especially popular as a decoration this time of year. From the entertainment tent came gourd music and native dances. From the demonstration booths, gourds were washed, (under the careful eye of our Gourd Miner Man made out of a gourd), cut, cleaned and decorated while hundreds of questions were asked and answered.

As usual, the line was 50 feet long to The Caning Shop booth. Almost as long was the line to the children’s art booth run this year by Lynda Chipman and Patti Brown. People looked forward to “Z” Gourd Miners and their annual raffle of a huge, decorated Zittel gourd with contributions from its members and other gourd donations from vendors and members. People enjoyed seeing the gourd arbors,

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Zittel Farms’ Totem Pole, creator Dave Roseberry, and Jim Widess

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President's Message

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Happy New Year to YOU!!!

Lorraine Valenzuela, Carol Rookstool and I celebrated the winter holidays and New Year's Day in China! We were visiting Gourd Island in the Liaoning Province, surely to become a Mecca for gourd artists who love to travel. We saw molded gourds and carved gourds and cricket cages and lanterns! We saw gourd sculptures, gourd topiaries, gourd vases and gourd scrolls. We saw gourd finials on building towers, gourd paintings, furniture with gourds carved into it, alabaster friezes of the Gourd Fairy and marble busts of the legendary Meng Jiang Nu, born of a gourd. We ice skated on a gourd shaped lake and ate gourd meals, some just shaped like gourds (beautiful!) and others were actually the dried and reconstituted flesh of the gourd. Delicious! We participated in the founding congress of the Gourd Island Gourd Society and we met many Chinese aficionados of gourds. And therein lies the message.

Just like here in the states, Chinese gourd lovers are fabulous people, each and every one. We connected through our favorite fruit and found many other areas of interest. I look forward to the coming year and its opportunities to meet with one another and share our passion for gourds! May all of you and your families enjoy a healthy and prosperous New Year.

PS — I'm looking forward to seeing all the Regional Coordinators at the Rookstool Ranch Board retreat on February whatever date. Board members will be there and we would really like a large turnout of regional reps! RSVP to Carol Rookstool....

Leigh Adams

• NEWSLETTER DEADLINES •

Winter - Nov. 27, 2002

Spring - Mar. 7, 2003

Summer - May 17, 2003

Fall - Aug. 22, 2003

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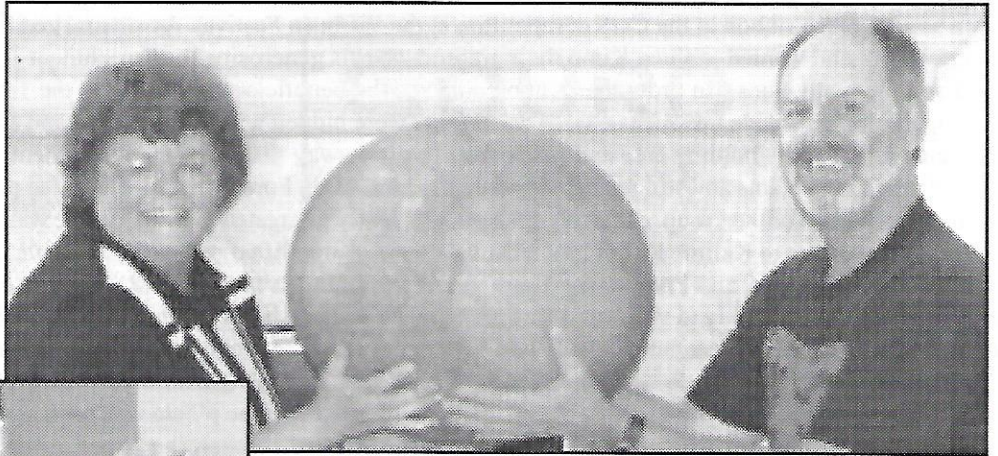
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“Big Gourd” Update

CGS Community Gourd Project

by Judy Cunningham

Everyone on the Steering Committee has now completed his or her artwork on BIG GOURD. Don Weeke put legs on it; Judy Cunningham did the bottom; Leigh Adams created a fused glass bird; Pat Boyd wrapped a sculpted figure around Leigh’s glass bird.



Carol Morrison created a combination of geometric design and pyrography.

We are all excited and looking forward to Robert Rivera’s artwork on the gourd. At The Arboretum show in September, Robert said that he would like to be a part of our project. Larry and Judy Cunningham delivered the gourd to Robert in Old Town, San Diego at the new Four Winds Gallery where he had a reception and showing of his recent works.

Robert will have his part of the gourd completed in mid-January. After that it will travel to over 22 patches throughout California and be completed in time for Asilomar, 2004. For updates, check the CGS website, www.calgourd.com and Welburn Farms *Gourdzette*, published online.

To subscribe to *The Gourdzette*, visit www.welburngourdfarm.com



Kimo's Hawaiian Heritage Benefits Rain Forest Inhabitants

By Leigh Adams

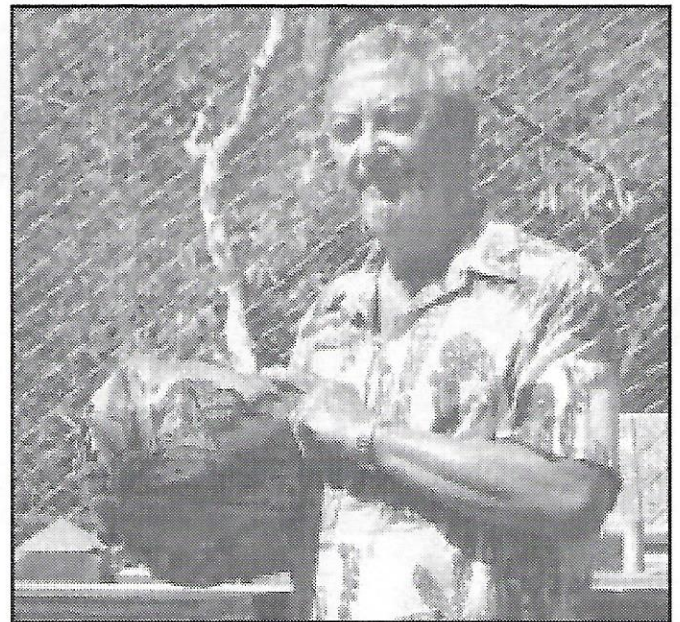
I met Kimo and Lucretta Trueman at the Los Angeles Zoo. Kimo had created a beautifully carved orangutan peeking out from behind banana leaves (on a gourd) to donate to the Enrichment Team (formerly Behavioral Enrichment) at the zoo. The exquisitely done piece took a second place ribbon at the CGS competition at the Welburn Festival. As several zoo employees burst into tears upon seeing the beautiful work and wanted to show Kimo their gratitude for his generosity, the Enrichment Team staged a photo session with Kimo, the gourd and the orangutans. In order that Kimo could see the beneficiaries of his gift, the Team created gourd piñatas carefully sealed with papier maché. Inside the piñatas, tasty dried fruits were hidden within the gourds and among layers of papier maché. The oranges were released from the holding area and made their leisurely way through the environment, stopping to pick up bits of favorite foods secreted among the plants and structures around the Red Ape Rain Forest. Kimo was being photographed holding his gourd and Kalim, the youngest female of the group, came over to see him, clearly interested in the gourd he was holding. Kimo reached out to the window in a friendly overture to Kalim. Kalim looked at the gourd. Kimo lifted the gourd as Kalim peered inside. "Show her the orang on the gourd", prompted Trish, an Enrichment Team member. Kalim leaned toward the engraving as if to see more clearly. A look of puzzlement resolved quickly to shock and Kalim slapped the glass sharply with her hand and jumped away. Unable to believe what she had seen, she returned to look more closely and her displeasure was pronounced! While humans may be pleased to see orangutans on gourds, orangutans evidently do not share the sentiment! Rosie and Bruno ambled over to greet Kimo and Bruno put on a spectacular display of an orangutan having a great time opening gourd piñatas. One piñata was used as a hammer, wielded powerfully by Bruno's massive arms. Bam, bam, bam, again and again, Bruno worked to open the paper covered gourd and retrieve the goodies inside. Volunteer Sherry Woods, also a CGS member, videotaped the event (we hope you saw the tape of Kimo's visit to the zoo during Gourd Fair LA 2002 at the LA County Arboretum last September). I then had an opportunity to talk with Kimo about his work.

Kimo Trueman's gourds are inspired by his Hawaiian heritage. "I was raised around gourds and Poly Hau dancers. Heritage is very important to me; you can't go wrong if you draw from your heritage. Think back to your childhood," he says, "think of all the things you really loved and cared about the most, even the things you had to do." For Kimo, those things were birds, plants and animals and those are the images he lovingly portrays on his gourds. "When I was a kid, I took care of the animals and I helped with the plants. You think about the way a plant looks up close and you move it around in your mind until you get it just right. And I never do it the same way twice, even when people ask. I always change it a little bit, turn it a different way, use a different plant, a torch ginger instead of a hibiscus or turn it to the left instead of the right. Some people see something they've just got to have and ask me to make one just like "that one". But I never do, I always change it in some way."

"Talk to the gourds? I can't do anything until the gourd tells me what to do. Sometimes the idea just floats in my mind for a while so I work on 3 or 4 pieces at a time and I dream on it. For me it has to look almost real. I'm always trying something new, a new technique, a bit for the tool. A challenge for me is to repair a crack, to strap or glue it and to camouflage it. I enjoy that."

Kimo numbers and authenticates each of his gourds. Each piece is accompanied by an artist's biography, a certificate of authenticity and detailed instructions on care.

Kimo was in the Marines and in the US Postal Service before retiring. Trained to defuse bombs and explosives, Kimo brings that same deliberate precision to his work. "I'm a perfectionist. I have to get it just right; I'll even work under a magnifying glass." Kimo's technique is so refined that he was requested to work at the California State Fair as a demonstration artist. The piece he worked on, Japanese Snow Monkeys, was donated to the zoo last year.



"When I work on a piece and it doesn't move or sell for some reason, I look for a worthy cause to donate it to. I donated two pieces to the Leukemia Foundation to help pay the medical bills of a critically ill young woman. They raised over \$35,000.00 and that made me feel really good. I love doing things like that. You really have got to give something back, that's what makes it all work."

While Kimo is the artist, his lovely and supportive wife Lucretta is the business half of the team. "She does all the pricing and the business part. Sometimes she asks how many hours I worked on a piece or whether or not I'd do it again." Lucretta is Kimo's number one supporter and it is she who first encouraged him to show his work to others and who continues to urge him to value his work. For anyone who has seen Kimo's booth at a gourd fair, there will be no argument as to the skill, beauty, originality and quality that Kimo Trueman brings to his work.

Artists and Vendors Invited

Join the roster of international exhibitors
at the CGS Gourd Fair LA
October 10-12, 2003

For an application packet please
contact Show Chairman Carol Rookstool
(213) 624-1200 x 3023



CGS Annual Board Meeting

Officers and Regional Representatives
February 15 -17, 2003

CGS Officers and Regional Representatives
Rookstool Ranch, Three Rivers, CA

For more information, contact
Carol Rookstool
(213) 624-1200 x 3023 • crookstool@aol.com



The Gourd Artists Guild would like to invite you to the 2003 Gourd Artists Gathering, May 16-18, 2003 in Cherokee, North Carolina! This event is being organized by members of The Gourdpatch, an email list hosted by John K. Stacy of Texas, owner and webmaster of The Gourd Artists Guild website.

We have created web pages, which will be updated frequently, to keep those interested informed:
<http://www.jkstacydesigns.com/GourdArtistsGuild.html>

For more information, or if you have questions not addressed at the website, please feel free to contact one of us.

Joy Jackson, Co-Chairperson
kaycee@dragonbbs.com

Jerry Lewis, Co-Chairperson
GadgetManJL@aol.com

*The California Gourd Society and
The American Gourd Society
together this year!*

GOURD FAIR LA 2003

OCTOBER 10-12, 2003

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CALIFORNIA WILL HOST THE ANNUAL DINNER
MEETING OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY
ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 10.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT SHOW CHAIR
CAROL ROOKSTOOL
(213) 624-1200 x 3023
CROOKSTOOL@AOL.COM

[HTTP://MEMBERS.AOL.COM/GOURDFAIRLA/MAIN.HTML](http://members.aol.com/gourdfairla/main.html)

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CREATE GOURD ART FROM THE HEART

July 28 to August 3, 2003

Join California gourd artists/instructors Janis Kobe, Connie Mygatt, Trish Power and Thena Trygstad in a week-long class, creating five gourd art projects. Travel to Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico, July 28 to August 3, 2003, and experience the beauty of the gourd and the versatility of this ancient form. "Let the beauty of what you love, be what you do." — Rumi

The Gourd:

First there is the seed, planted in the ground. Nurtured by the elements, the seed transforms, grows and matures into a hard-shelled gourd. Its varied organic shapes offer unlimited inspiration for the artist. A unity of creative vision and the surface of the gourd mingle to bring forth a new warm, organic creation.

Class Outline

MEDICINE BOWL:

This project will teach you all the basics of preparing and designing and finishing a gourd. Create a simple medicine bowl and practice a variety of techniques, the tools, and the tricks of applying dyes and stains. We will finish with a choice of two types of pine needle embellishments.

PERSONAL ALTAR OR SHRINE:

This class will teach you to use a gourd and gourd pieces to construct a temple, box, or shrine. Using a mini jigsaw, you will learn cutting and attaching techniques to create a hinged door or lid. Other attachments, such as feet or handles are also possible. If you have a special item for a temple or shrine, bring it, or add these items later at home. We will finish the gourd with the dyeing techniques learned in the previous classes.

CREATE A MASK:

Let the shape of the gourd inspire you. We will cut, clean and dye a gourd to create a wild woman, contemporary or ethnic mask. Using various natural materials, dyes and embellishments, you will create a wonderful finished wall piece.

TREASURE NECKLACE USING A MINI-GOURD, KNOTLESS NETTING:

Begin with a mini gourd, which you may cut open or leave whole. You will sand and dye the gourd and we will focus on the technique of knotless netting upon which you will attach beads and a special totem. You may decide to use the mini vessel as a special herbal container. Knotless netting may be used for a variety of projects once you learn this versatile technique.

SPIRIT DOLL:

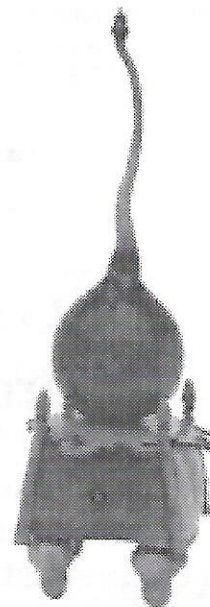
Selecting a gourd or pieces of gourds, you will create your own spirit doll. This is your opportunity to use the techniques that you learned during the week to let your spirit soar. 'Let your intuition be your art director!' An assortment of materials will be provided to enhance your creation. You will be amazed at your work of art.

The final day, we will spend time completing our projects. If you are finished, you will be able to select a gourd and do a 'free' inspirational project.

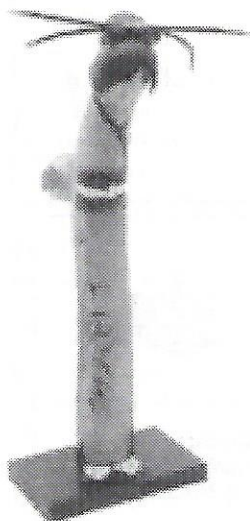
What to bring:

You may want to bring any favorite charms, beads, crystals, and totems, which you would like to use that have a 'special' meaning for you. We provide tools for everyone to share, but you may want to bring your own toolbox of hand tools, i.e.; pliers, nippers, scissors, tapestry needles, awl, that are marked with your name for easy identification. Bring any special feathers, or organic materials i.e.; shells, pods, cones, which you would like to include on your gourd. We will have some to select from. We have some feathers and an assortment of beads, for you to use and all other materials are included in the fee. Be sure to wear work clothes or an apron, as we will be using dyes and paints etc. We will provide fabrics for the Spirit Dolls, but you may want to bring leather pieces or other things that you would like to use.

Lodging Cost: Contact Ghost Ranch www.newmexico-ghost ranch.org
Sign up early as the class is limited to sixteen students.



*Gourd Art by
Thena Trygstad*



*Gourd Art by
Janice Kobe*

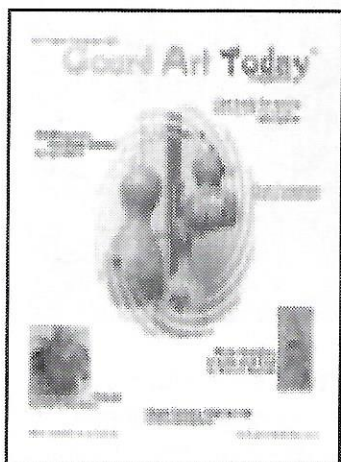
New Magazine!

Gourd Art Today

Now is your chance to subscribe to the only in print, international magazine about gourds!

Look at what \$48 per year will get you:

- 12 regular monthly issues of Gourd Art Today, the only international magazine for people who love gourds.
- 4 Special growing/harvesting/storing issues in the spring, summer, fall and winter.
- Our special 2003 Year in Review issue highlighting our previous years in the marketplace articles, and the most memorable gourd moments of 2003.
- Access to the subscribers only area of our website.
- FREE Enrollment into our Buyers Club where you can purchase select supplies at 40-50% off retail (Coming soon!)
- Special pricing on select artist classes and videos from some of the top artists in the world!
- Free email alerts when we add something new to the website.
- Eligibility into our "Artist of the Year" award where you can win a whopping \$1000 in cash and prizes, plus your mug on the cover of our "Year in Review" issue!
- There are so many more benefits, if we listed all of them here, the padded wagon guys would come and lock us up! Don't hesitate; once this offer is gone, it's gone.



Contact Info:

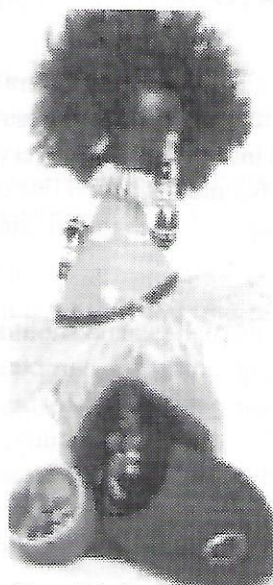
Gourd Art Today Magazine

Toby Vanlandingham
Editor / Publisher
editor@gourdarttoday.com

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• CGS members will receive a \$10.00 discount. •

Annual Black Doll Exhibit Salutes Artists And Collections



*Gourd Doll
by Angela Briggs*

The 21st annual Black Doll Exhibit presents this year "A Salute to Doll Artists", highlighting the work of 17 artists, plus the doll collections of African Native American Southern California (ANASCA), James V. Burks, Jacquelyn Bellard-Wilson and Gwendolyn Foster.

"A Salute to Doll Artists" opened Sunday, December 15, with a reception from 3 to 6 p.m. at the William Grant Still Arts Center, 2520 South West View Street, Los Angeles. The show runs through January 26, 2003.

In conjunction with the Black Doll Exhibit, five workshops will be offered on four consecutive Saturdays. Parent/child workshops are offered for ages 10 and older. Reservations are needed.

Gallery hours are Tuesday to Sunday from 12 noon to 5 pm. William Grant Still Arts Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department.

For further information, call (323) 734-1164 or (213) 847-1540.



Zittel Festival

continued from front page

colorful and abundant flowers, pumpkins and squash. It was fun watching person after person carrying their 33-gallon bag of gourds they had just bought. But what was really impressive were the vendors who were demonstrating their talents, willing to answer questions and allowing photos to be taken.

We received numerous comments about the festival, which can be summarized as follows. While our farm in Folsom is small in size and sometimes parking can be a problem, it is large in heart. Our festival is made up of people helping people explore the wonder of gourds. The festival keeps getting better each year and we know the same will be true of our 9th Annual West Coast Gourd Festival as well which will be held September 26, 27, & 28th—so mark your calendars. Last, but not least on behalf of all of who enjoyed the festival, I would personally like to thank our gracious hosts, Roger, Gail and Kent Zittel.

Julio Seguil Rios, CGS Member from Peru

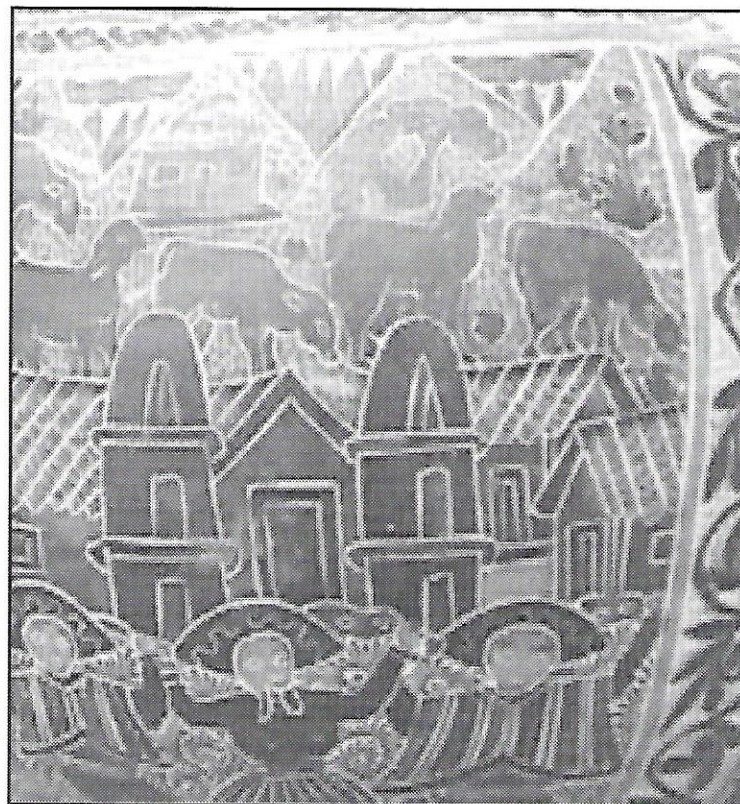
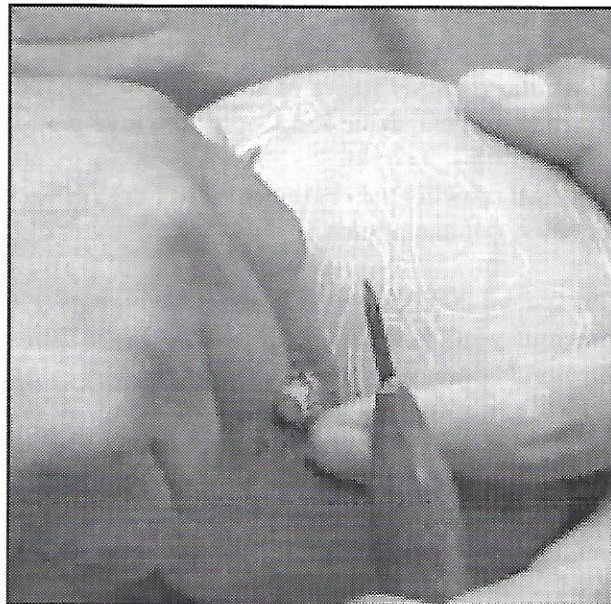
by Leigh Adams

Julio Seguil Rios was born in Cochas Chicos, Peru to a family of gourd artists. One of seven children and a sixth generation gourd carver, Julio began carving at the age of seven. Peruvians use a home made tool called a "buril", essentially a nail driven into a hard stick and sharpened into a three sided, very sharply pointed tool. When Julio picked up the tool for the first time and imitated his father, Julio's father drew a pencil line on a gourd and Julio followed it with the engraving tool. And thus a phenomenon was born...

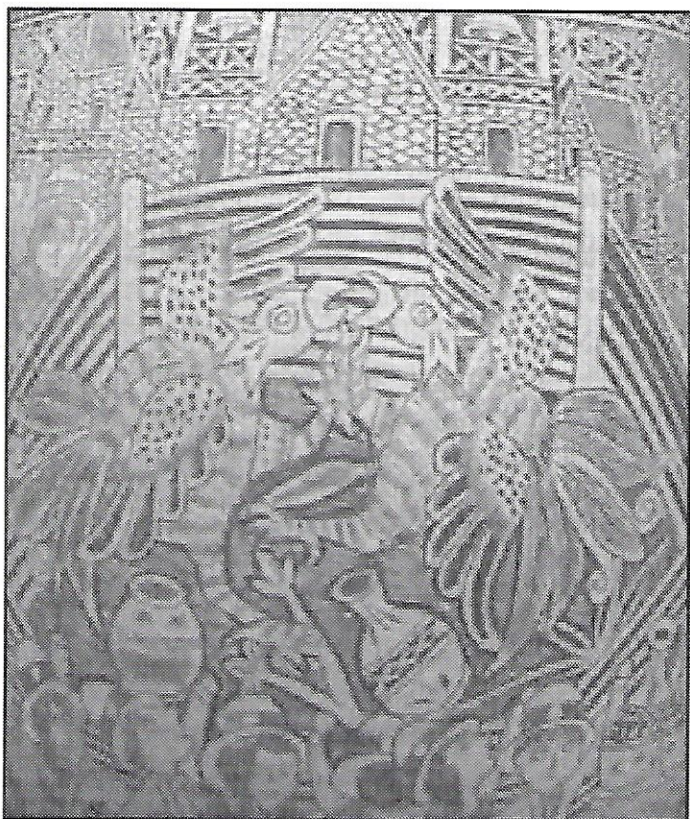
By the time Julio was eleven, he was clearly head and shoulders above his siblings in the artistic realm. Needing money, his parents often kept Julio home from school to work on gourds while his siblings continued with their schooling. Reeling with the inequity, Julio left home at eleven and made his way to the city of Cuzco. There he lived on the streets, working at construction jobs as a helper and, incredibly, going to school. Julio's passion for information continues to this day.

Ten years ago, Julio entered a national competition for artists. For a solid month he worked on a gourd to enter into the contest, often going without food as he forsook his daily livelihood to work on his masterpiece. Julio grins as he tells of receiving the first place prize for all of Peru. He is most pleased that he not only won the prize money, he also got his entry back! For the last seven years, Julio has achieved first place each year. A very modest man, Julio recounts this accomplishment only reluctantly. It seems that in Peru, to tout ones' achievements would attract undesirable attention.

Two years ago, Fernando Covarrubias, of the San Diego Zoo was visiting Peru. He was intrigued with Julio's remarkable skill as well as Julio's intimate knowledge of rain forest animals. He arranged for the zoo to sponsor Julio to come to the United States and to sell his work at the zoo. The incredibly detailed and humorously intriguing style of Julio's was very popular among zoo attendees. When Julio's demonstration gourd broke, Fernando took him to the



Welburn Gourd Farm to get another one. When the Welburns saw Julio's work, they invited him to return and participate in their 2002 Welburn Gourd Festival. He was such a popular addition to the show that he was subsequently invited to Gourd Fair La 2002 at the Arboretum.



Gourd Artists' Ten Commandments

1. Honor and support your gourd grower so that their harvest may be prosperous in the land (be they perfect or twisted).
2. Thou shalt cultivate creativity - do not live in the land of "what if"; be challenged to go beyond birdhouses and penguins.
3. Thou shalt become a disciplined gourd artist, practicing thy gourd craft daily (Warning: this can lead to "Total Gourd Junkie").
4. Thou shalt be committed to gourd art and be not unreasonably fragmented with other arts and crafts.
5. Thou shalt appreciate thy state and national Gourd Societies.
6. Thou shalt keep a daily reminder to encourage your fellow gourd artist by phone, email, snail mail, plane, ship or swinging from gourd vine to gourd vine.
7. Remember the dates and times of Gourd Patch meetings and Gourd Festivals, and keep them holy.
8. Thou shalt not give in to "moodiness", which may bring about strange impulses; i.e. overspending at gourd farms, finding oneself with a sign reading "Will Work for Gourds" - subordinate your emotions to wisdom (if you can).
9. Respect other gourd artists who have gone before you, and traveled known gourd paths of cutting, cleaning, staining, etc. They can save your last nerve, and decrease your amount of grey hair.
10. Thou shalt gird up the loins of thy mind to keep the focus on your calling as a true gourd artist in the land.

(Thanx to Pat Boyd for sending this in!)

Julio's work will be featured in Jim Widess' new book on gourd carving. The processes he uses are age old, but his work is fresh and exciting. Working freehand and without any visual models, Julio covers the surface of a gourd with micro-fine engravings. He then burns newspaper or other organic materials into ash, mixes a bit of vegetable oil with the ash and rubs the mixture into the carved surface of the gourd, achieving the intaglio effect for which Peruvian gourds are known.

But this is only one of the processes he uses. Julio also creates "fondo quemado" (burned foundation) gourds, vegetable dyed gourds and gourds that employ all three processes. Look for Julio at California Gourd Festivals, the Indiana Gourd Festival and the Ohio Gourd Festival. While he may spend 5 to 30 days creating one of his masterpieces, it is guaranteed that you will enjoy it for much longer, generally finding something new each time you pick up one of Julio's incredible works of art.

Attention CGS Members!

We are looking for articles, step-by-step projects, hints and tips, interviews, etc. of the sort that YOU wish to see in *The Golden Gourd*.

Feedback regarding content is also welcome!

Contact editor Dawn Schiller,
rhaiven@pacificnet.net

Gourd Art with Lois Rainwater

**San Gabriel Mountain Basket Art
Lois Rainwater Home Studio**
6 week series

Gourds, Gourds, Gourds

May 1 - June 5 (Thursdays)

OR

May 3 - June 7 (Saturdays)

10 am to 2 pm

(818) 352-3756

GOURD FAIR LA 2003

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

The California Gourd Society will hold its 3rd Annual Gourd Fair at the Arboretum of Los Angeles County October 10 - 12, 2003. CGS is soliciting proposals from teachers for:

- 3-hour beginner classes to be taught on Saturday and Sunday (9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm)
- 3 hour (12 pm - 4 pm) beginner or experienced classes to be taught on Friday afternoon only.

The instructors will be paid \$20 per student for a three-hour class and \$40 per student for a 6-hour class. No travel or lodging expenses will be paid. Maximum of 12 students per class. If necessary, you may charge a small materials fee.

CGS volunteers will provide dye and cutting stations. The stations will confine these processes to a single area.

Folding tables and chairs will be provided.

If possible, prepare a handout and make copies to distribute to your students. Please include a sample of your handout and a picture of the project with your proposal. Remember, emphasis is on projects of a modest scope that can be completed within the class period by students with a variety of skill levels.

Please include a publishable picture of your project with your proposal. People usually enroll eagerly when they can see a clear picture of the project.

Proposal deadline is April 20. Classes will be advertised in *The Golden Gourd* and on the website beginning approximately June 1, 2003.

Gourd Fair 2003 Schedule

Friday, October 10 — vendor and booth setup; limited classes 1-4; Gala dinner 6:00 pm.

Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12 — Full day events 9am-5pm

Beginner classes, music, lectures, displays, fair activities, booths, demos

Teacher's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Proposed Class: _____ Beginner class or experience needed? (circle one)

Description of Class (supplies, tools students need to bring, materials, etc.)

Materials fee (if any) for student: _____

You MUST include a photograph of your teaching project and a sample handout with this form.

Deadline April 20!!

Mail to: Selection Committee c/o Charlene (Cookie) Hanson, 13250 Fairfield #173 F, Seal Beach, CA 90470.

Putting the "Fest" in Gourd Festival

By Patti Diaz

It all began as a 4th of July party. Neighbors, friends, & family all gathered at the Welburn Gourd Farm in De Luz Canyon of Fallbrook, CA to enjoy kahlua-style pork, horseshoes, card games, and just visiting with Doug & Sue. Each year the party grew, and more and more people came. Soon people who knew very little about the Gourd Farm or the Welburns showed up and became very intrigued by the thousands of gourds lying on wooden pallets. Once it reached that point, and with the support and encouragement of Carol Rookstool and the California Gourd Society, Doug decided it was time to add some structure to the festivities and promote gourds and gourd artists. And in June 1997 the First Annual Welburn Gourd Festival was established.

That first year there were about 13 gourd artists displaying on the front lawn of Doug and Sue's home, one food vendor selling kahlua pork plates, and one Hawaiian Hula Halau for entertainment who performed for about 2 hours on Saturday. The attendance for the two-day weekend event was approximately 1,500 people.

The Second Annual Welburn Gourd Festival was enhanced by the addition of the first Gourd Art Competition in California, inspired by Carol's enthusiasm and monitored by CGS. Doug had his doubts regarding its success, but after one turn of being in Doug's shed, the Competition quickly outgrew its confined location and blossomed into one of the greatest attractions of the festival to date.

During the first two years of festival preparations, Doug & Sue's daughter, Phoebe Welburn, was enjoying her service in the Peace Corps. By year three, with the festival and business growing by leaps and bounds, Phoebe had finished her service and came home to help her parents.

Word of mouth and Phoebe's marketing campaign perpetuated the festival even further. And after four years on Doug & Sue's 25-acre property, the festival was moved to the 110-acre parcel of the growing fields just three miles down the road. With the attendance nearing five figures and the attention of international artists and attendees, the event was renamed the International Gourd Festival. Then, soon after discovering how much time and work one festival can demand in preparation, Phoebe enticed Patti Diaz, her lifelong friend, to come help with the festival as well as the daily operations of the farm.

Now, with Phoebe driving the business, Patti organizing the festival, and Doug & Sue's years of experience, the International Gourd Festival has become one of the most sought after venues for gourd artists. "We started this whole show to get more people excited about gourds, and that way the artists would receive a great benefit from being known and people would buy their work. And, of course, when we are growing over 300,000 quality, hard-shell gourds each year, we needed more people to buy them, so we could stay in business," Doug explains.

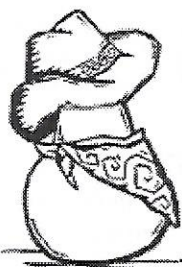
The 6th Annual International Gourd Festival, held this past June, has set the precedents for the coming years. And there is much to live up to, with over 50 exhibiting artists and suppliers, two days of gourd art classes, a kids' fun zone, live demonstrations and the Gourd Art Competition sponsored by CGS, a landscaped Wine Garden, live entertainment, and more. Each year's successes and challenges have been culminating and improving the show year after year. And preparations for the 7th Annual show are already underway for June 21st & 22nd, 2003. It now takes a whole year to plan the four-day event: a far cry from the one-month planning of the first show.

And to add even more promotion for gourd art and crafts, October 19, 2002, the Welburn Gourd Farm hosted its first October Gourd & Pumpkin Fest. "There are still a lot of people out there that think hard-shell gourds are harvested in the Fall. And with the holidays just around the corner, we thought it would be a great time to put together another show," explains Phoebe. The one-day festival featured approximately 20 artists and several gourd art classes. There were food and drink available for purchase, as well as over 100,000 craft-ready gourds. And the Welburns grew some pumpkins just for the occasion.

With two festivals, planting and harvesting of over 60 acres of gourds, and selling over 300,000 gourds each year, there is always a buzz about something to share with the gourd community. The best way to keep informed with the happenings at the Welburn Gourd Farm is to subscribe to the e-mail newsletter, *The Gourdzette*.

Times have certainly changed. In 23 years of farming gourds, the business has grown from just 10 people on the mailing list to about 15,000, and the annual 4th of July party blossomed into a world-renown gourd festival. One thing that has remained constant in the whole picture is Doug and Sue. With the farm opened to the public Monday through Saturday, customers, friends, family, and neighbors can drop by to pick up some gourds and to chat with the farmer himself (look for the man wearing a cowboy hat and smoking a pipe) and his lovely wife.

For information about Welburn Gourd Farm or to subscribe to *The Gourdzette*, visit www.welburngourdfarm.com or call (760) 728-4271.



REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Bakersfield/Kern County —

The Kern County Gourd Patch will begin the new year with Lillian Hopkins as the new coordinator. Recently relocated from Santa Monica, Lillian is eager to continue her leadership role in CGS.

Look out for this patch! We are eagerly awaiting the competition categories to be published for the 2003 Gourd Art Competition and hereby challenge the other CGS members to create their best new work for display at the Welburn's International Gourd Festival in June.

(Editor's note: Competition guidelines will be published in the Spring issue of the Golden Gourd)

Congratulations to Betty Finch for winning the Steven's Family Best of Show Award at the 2002 Ohio Gourd Show! Thanks for your many years as our leader and thank you for your never-ending enthusiasm.

Our monthly meetings are at Beverly's Crafts, 2819 "F" Street, Bakersfield. Bring some of your work and bring a friend!

Lillian Hopkins (616) 845-6835 (gourdsprits@cs.com)
Betty Finch (616) 589-3368 (finchgourd@aol.com)

Channel Islands —

One of our goals this year is to get more of our artists into juried shows and fine art displays. We also plan to work closely with our local colleges this year.

We especially like to show our work at festivals and fairs. We won prizes at the Ventura County Fair, had many sales at the CGS Gourd Fair LA 2002, participated at the Tierra Rehada Family Farm Festival and plan to keep growing.

Several of our members learned how to judge an art show at the CGS Gourd Art Competition in 2002. What a great experience!

Service projects are a high priority for our gourd patch. Thanks go to Tony Graves and Geri Farkas for their work with Cub Scout Pack 3831. Pearl and Fern (patch leaders) are now working with the Somis 4H.

We hosted a great teacher – Judy Cunningham – this past fall. We love visitors and enjoy the network of friends that CGS brings into our lives.

Check out our new website: www.channelislandsgourdsociety.com

Fern Wesley (tjwesley@msn.com)

East Bay —

Kemper Stone is the Regional Coordinator for Concord, Vallejo, Carquinez and surrounding area. He is an enthusiastic visitor to many of the nearby gourd patch meetings!

Our patch loves making musical instruments and finding a use for all those gourd scraps. Give us a call.

Kemper Stone (gourdcamp@yahoo.com)

Fallbrook —

The Fallbrook Area Gourd Patch is proud to announce their second annual Fine Art Gourd Show, "GOURD PIZZAZZ 2003", March 4 through 29 at the Artist's Gallery, Grand Avenue in downtown Escondido.

Contact Jane Dratzer, Show Coordinator (760) 746-7506.

We hold monthly meetings. Everyone is welcome!!

We had a great 2002 at the Escondido Grape Day Festival, CGS's Gourd Fair LA 2002, Valley Center Bell Gardens Farm Festival and the October Gourd Fest at the Welburn Gourd Farm. The new year will bring new gourd opportunities for our patch.

Barbara McDermott (McDeeArt@msn.com)

Los Angeles/Pasadena —

We are known as the Gourd Artisans of Los Angeles (GALA). We are the host patch for the annual Gourd Fair LA that is held at the Arboretum of Los Angeles County each fall.

Our meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month. We meet at the Fashion Institute Community Room (2nd floor) at 7:30 pm.

We love to share gourd art that has been created each month. We have a "creativity" challenge scheduled for January and February. We love guests!

Mary Jane Jones and Ed Jasaitis (ejasaitis@earthlink.net)

Orange County —

The Orange county Gourd Patch meets on the 4th Thursday of each month. Norrah at "Create It" is our host and everyone is welcome!

Gourds, beads, baskets, dolls. Teaching, learning, creating. You name it, we do it!

Susan Sullivan (Susan SPHN@aol.com)

San Diego —

The San Diego Gourd Patch is part of the Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild.

Meetings are the first Sunday of each month at Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas from 12:00 to 3:30 pm.

On even-numbered months we have a potluck lunch, door prizes and a business meeting with show-and-tell!

Odd-numbered months are for sack lunches, demos, and working on projects.

February 2, 2003 is election of officers. March 2nd will have "grab-bag art."

On May 3 and 4, 2003 MWGBG will host 35 basket and gourd classes at its' Weekend at the Garden event at Quail Botanical Gardens. Nationally known teachers and lots of fun!

MWGBG website is: www.baskets-gourds.com

Peggy Blessing (giza@sprynet.com)

Shasta/Tehama —

Save the second Saturday of each month to visit us from 1 to 3:00 pm.

Rebecca Cileo (luv2rivedi@aol.com)

Tahoe/Truckee —

Traveling may be a challenge this time of year but we are meeting! We are the CGS sky-high patch!

Gabrielle Bryant (gbryant@ltol.com)

Tulare County/Sequoia —

We are in our 9th year of growth. Contact us to get on our mailing list.

Thanks go to Dianne Burke who was our great coordinator last year and is temporarily busy building a new home next to her fabulous gift shop in Camp Nelson.

We are famous for our "dye-in" events. Everything from gourds to feathers, reed to palm inflorescence – join us.

In February we will be the host patch for the annual CGS Board and Regional Coordinator Meeting in Three Rivers. CGS President Leigh Adams will focus on training and supporting the volunteers who make our gourd society a world-class organization.

Toni Best is returning as the Tulare/Sequoia patch leader and Sue Winters-Brown as co-leader joins her.

Happy 2003 to all CGS members!

Toni Best (abest59368@aol.com)

Sue Winters-Brown (559) 561-0608

San Bernardino —

We meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the home of Kathy Riker.

We are known for our clever challenge games and interesting projects!

Kathy Riker (monkmonk@cybertime.com)

CGS Ballot Election of Officers

The following nominees are presented for the 2003-2005 open positions.

Vice President Membership

— Niki Escobedo

Vice President Programs

— Carol Rookstool (incumbent)

Director

— Rebecca Cileo

Director

— Doug Welburn (incumbent)

I support this slate of officers

(Signature of CGS Member)

**Comments and nominations for
future officer positions:**

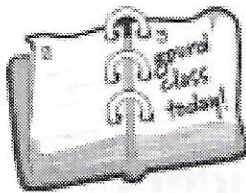
Please make a copy this ballot and mail to
CGS, 950 S. Flower, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Attention! Regional Coordinators

Please send your Regional news to Carol Rookstool
(213) 624-1200 x 3023 at least one week

BEFORE the quarterly deadline (see page 2) at
crookstool@fidm.edu, or to

Carol c/o FIDM, 919 South Grand, Los Angeles, CA, 90015



Gourd Classes

Check the website at www.calgourd.com for more classes

All members of CGS may list gourd classes they are teaching — there is no charge to list a class.

• January •

January 16
Gourd Decorating/Woodburning
Nadine Spier
San Diego Adult Education
(760) 753-7073

January 18
Mayan Gourd Drum – Kayum
Guillermo Martinez
The Caning Shop

January 18
Wood Burning and Gourd Design
Duane Teeter
Zittel Farms

January 22
Jeweled Gourds
Leigh Adams
San Gabriel Bead Co.

January 23
Woodburning Mini Class
Barbara McDermott
Escondido (760) 743-3710

January 25
Creative Animal Painting on Gourds
Sandy Sandman
Zittel Farms

January 25
Gourd Crafting
Duane Teeter
The Caning Shop

• February •

February 1
Gourd Decorating/Woodburning
Nadine Spier
Vista Adult Education
(760) 758-7122

• February •

February 1
Creative Finishes on Gourds
Jeanne Chapman
Zittel Farms

February 2
Woven Rim Gourds
Leigh Adams
San Gabriel Bead Co.

February 6
Valentine Bird House
Sherry Hunga-Moore
Escondido (760) 473-3710

February 8
Hawaiian Ipu Wai
Carey Camacho
The Caning Shop

February 8
Woodburning with the Razertip
Susan Sweet
The Caning Shop

February 8
Gourd Decorating/Woodburning
Nadine Spier
Palomar College
(760) 744-1150 X 2702

February 9
Metal Embellished Gourds
Carolyn Potter
San Gabriel Bead Co.

February 15
Spirit Painting on Gourds
Kathy Riker
The Caning Shop

February 15
Wood Burning and Gourd Design
Duane Teeter
Zittel Farms

• February •

February 16
Tribal Knotted Pouch
Kathy Riker
The Caning Shop

February 18
Mini Gourd Necklace
Leigh Adams
San Gabriel Bead Co

February 22
Metallic Finishes on Gourds
Gretchen Skillman
The Caning Shop

February 27
Mini Drum Necklace
Barbara McDermott
Escondido (760) 743-3710

• March •

March 1
Beginning Gourd Basics
Paula Bonella-Valdez
Zittel Farms

March 22
Pine Needle Basketry and Gourds
Linda Peitz
Zittel Farms

March 29
Gourd Drum Class
Forest Flanigan
Zittel Farms

• April •

April 4
Gourd and Pine Cone Birdhouses
Ann Mitchell
Zittel Farms

The Caning Shop
926 Gilman Street • Berkeley
(510) 527-5010

San Gabriel Bead Company
8970 Huntington Drive • San Gabriel
(626) 614-0014

Thomas Farms
20947-B Avenue 245 • Lindsay
(559) 562-9640

Zittel Farms
6781 Oak Avenue • Folsom
(916) 989-2633

To help facilitate the production of the newsletter, Carol Rookstool is coordinating class listings for the CGS website and *The Golden Gourd*. Please send all class listings to Carol at least one week BEFORE the quarterly deadline (see page 2) at crookstool@fidm.edu.

**California Gourd Society
Rebecca Cileo
P.O. Box 762
Anderson, CA 96007
Membership Application**

To Renew Your Membership: Send the mailing label to the right, along with any corrections, and your \$15.00 annual dues to Rebecca Cileo at the address listed above.

For New Membership: Complete the following information and send your \$15.00 annual dues to Rebecca Cileo at the address listed above.

Name (please print) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Annual dues for CGS are \$15.00 – Membership in the American Gourd Society is \$15.00 annually, and may be paid directly to: AGS Membership Secretary, 317 Maple Ct., Kokomo, IN 46902-3633



The Golden Gourd
California Gourd Society
P.O. Box 762
Anderson, CA 96007

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Information Changed?

Has your address, email, or phone number changed?

CGS is updating the member database, and to keep everyone informed of all CGS activities, we need your help!

Send any new information to:

**California Gourd Society
Rebecca Cileo • VP Membership
P.O. Box 762
Anderson, CA 96007
Email: luv2ridedi@aol.com**

• Online Gourd Art Gallery •

CA Gourd Society members interested in displaying their gourd art on the CGS website may send photos to online gallery curator Lisa Toth.

Lisa's email for electronic submissions is farfield@earthlink.net, or send photos with a SASE for returns to:
Lisa Toth, 410 Ivywood Dr., Oxnard, CA 93030

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Updates to Gourd Patch pages on www.calgourd.com may be emailed to Peggy Blessing at giza@sprynet.com.

• Newsletter Email Submissions •

Please use "return Receipt Requested" when emailing submissions to the editors. Contact Leigh Adams at lladams@earthlink.net if you need instruction; let her know what email program you are using.

The editors' email for electronic submissions is rhaiven@pacificnet.net; lorval430@aol.com for advertisements, and crookstool@aol.com for classes and Regional Roundup.

• • • • •

Remember! The deadline is the latest possible date for submissions! Your email doesn't always arrive as soon as it's sent.

Gourd Stuff

Santa Monica Regional Rep ANGELA BRIGGS has work on display in the Black Doll Exhibit (see page 7)

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Gourd artist KIMO TRUEMAN (see page 3) is featured in the Jan/Feb 2003 issue of *Expression* magazine

• • • • •

DENISE MEYERS and DENNY WAINSCOTT will be at the Southwestern Arts Festival – Jan. 25-26, Indio, CA

• • • • •

Gourd Pizzazz 2003
March 4-29, 2003 – Artists Gallery, Escondido

• • • • •

7th Annual International Gourd Art Festival
June 21-23, 2003 – Welburn Gourd Farm, Fallbrook, CA