

# THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 8, Issue 4

Winter 2006

## The Misti Way by Peggy Blessing

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I was talking with a friend the other day about how certain decisions you made, people you met, or circumstances you faced took your life in a different direction than it might otherwise have gone. All of us have stories like these. But I want to share a special story about Misti Washington, a woman whose circumstances caused a chain reaction, weaving a common thread between 1000's of people.

It began in 1937 when Misti was faced with a terrible situation at the age of 12. She was stricken with polio, and spent many lonely hours and days lying immobile on her back in a hospital without much incentive to get better. Some kind and concerned interns decided they would teach her a craft to help give her the desire to recover. They strapped knitting needles to her hands and showed her how to knit. Misti persevered and, through her slow painstaking efforts, she gained the use of her fingers. Her new interest in fibers stimulated a recovery, and she began to



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## Discovering Hibiscus Bark Fiber

by Lynn Hoyt

One mild winter day I was cutting back dead stalks in the garden when I noticed shreds of Hibiscus bark from a broken stem waving in the wind. Natural retting from rains had exposed some fine filaments that would be perfect for using with gourds and baskets!

Hibiscus moscheutos, called Hardy Hibiscus, Swamp Rose, or Rose Mallow, is reliably hardy as far north as USDA zone 5 and south to zone 10. Here in zone 7 (NC) it's a herbaceous perennial, dying to the ground after frost. It has many branches and can grow anywhere from 3 to 7 feet tall, depending on variety and growing conditions. In summer large red, pink, or white flowers and many buds are held atop the stems. It's commonly available at local nurseries and by mail order. Not all Hibiscus species are good for fiber, but there are tropical species, like

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter Greetings Gourders,

The fall harvest is complete and the seasonal flurry of art and craft shows is winding down. The Second Annual Iron Gourd Competition was a huge success due to the support of many members and generous vendors. Congratulations to all the participants and especially Daniel Montano, the winner of this event!

Now is the time to begin planning for some exciting gourd events in 2007. We kick off the year with our CGS Patch Leader's Retreat and CGS Board Meeting, "The Route to Gourd Heaven in 2007," which will be held at the Rookstool Ranch the week-end of January 13-14. We look forward to working with patch leaders, new and old, and having a "gourdeous" time together.

We all need to start planning now for some major events which happen in late spring. The Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild will hold their 'Gourd and Basket Weekend In the Gardens' on May 5th and 6th. They will be offering outstanding classes by talented gourd artists and basket weavers from around the country. If you can attend you will surely enjoy the event.

Another exciting event is being planned by the newest chapter of the American Gourd Society, The Hawaiian Gourd Society. They will hold their first show on June 15-16, 2007, on the big Island of Hawaii near Kona. A number of CGS members are making the trip to the festival to teach and offer our congratulations and best wishes to our Hawaiian gourd friends. Check out their website at [outtayourgourd.net/](http://outtayourgourd.net/) for additional information.

Before packing our bags for Hawaii, however, we will be going to Greg Leiser Farms 5th Annual Spring Gourd Art Festival and Gourd Sale on May 19-20. Leiser Farms has an interesting variety of gourds not found at all gourd farms and I know you'll feel welcome at the event.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend some or all these gourd events.

I'll see you there! *Jill Walker*

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

## THE GOLDEN GOURD

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

### Editor/Graphic Design/Advertising

Mary Bliss .....[editorgoldengourd@yahoo.com](mailto:editorgoldengourd@yahoo.com)

### Special Events

Carol Rookstool .....[crookstool@aol.com](mailto:crookstool@aol.com)

### Regional Round-up

Barbara McDermott..... [mcdeart@verizon.net](mailto:mcdeart@verizon.net)

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

Spring .....February 28, 2007

Summer .....May 28, 2007

Fall ..... ..August 28, 2007

Winter .... November 20, 2007

Electronic submissions preferred: [newsletter@calgourd.com](mailto:newsletter@calgourd.com)

Snail mail or questions by phone cheerfully accepted: *Phone: (714)693-1840 (after 11:00 a.m. PST)*

*Mail: California Gourd Society, c/o Mary Bliss, 5765 Via Del Coyote, Yorba Linda, CA 92887*

The editors reserve the right to edit any submissions for content and consistency.

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### Announcements

#### 2006 American Gourd Society Election Results

#### PRESIDENT

BOB JAMES

#### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLOTTE DURRENCE

#### SECRETARY

ELAINE ENDICOTT

#### DIRECTOR

BONNIE GIBSON

#### DIRECTOR

JOY JACKSON

\*

### Attention teachers!

Would you like to see your gourd class  
listed in the  
Golden Gourd?

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 in either a .txt or .doc file format to:  
newsletter@calgourd.com

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

### PLUS!

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 at: gourddiva@verizon.net

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

**www.calgourd.com**

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weave on a small loom lying on her stomach and leaning on her elbows.

After two years in the hospital, she returned home and was able to walk at a snail's pace with crutches and braces on her arms, legs and back. She felt that crafts were largely responsible for her recovery. She went on to finish high school with honors, attended college, got a job at Johns Hopkins University and married. There were many challenges throughout all these stages of her life, but she managed to not be defeated.

She joined a weaving guild in New York, and was disappointed to learn that she would not be able to pursue basketry because the physical requirements of preparing materials like ash bark were beyond her physical capabilities. She began to focus on collecting baskets and devoured books on the techniques and history of basket-making. After moving to San Diego, she happened to read about a basketry course being offered at the Museum of Man. This series of classes was designed to revive interest in the techniques of local Indians who used soft fibers such as leaves, grasses and stems. This triggered Misti's new life in the world of basketry. She spent hours teaching herself how to identify different forms of vegetation, and many of those hours took place at Quail Botanical Gardens.

As more and more people saw her work, she was asked to teach. She began doing this at home, then traveled to other cities and eventually taught at the Museum of Man where it all began. Misti was proud of those students who went on to become teachers and sell their work. Her inspiration for teaching was watching people learn and develop their own styles. She said, "*A most exciting thing is that people come, then leave as different persons - taking the fundamentals and doing their own growing.*" She was adored by many who sought her instruction. One student was quoted as saying, "She is extremely supportive, she is never bullying, trying to impose her ideas or ways of working on you. Rather, she has a true gift of allowing and encouraging you to express yourself and your artistic endeavors. She has extreme credibility. She is a wealth of knowledge. More than anything Misti has a very endearing quality about her. She is communicative and can draw you in. She puts everyone at ease immediately. She's quick to laugh and always available to her students. People seem to blossom in her class, as individuals as well as weavers. It's a joy to be one of her students."

Misti once said, "*The most important thing that has become apparent to me lately is how many wonderful*

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## In Search of the Hulusi (Chinese gourd flute) by Jill Walker

After having the extraordinary experience of traveling to China in August, 2005, to attend the Chinese Gourd Island International Gourd Cultural Festival in Huludao, China I never dreamt that I would have the opportunity of returning to China to once again learn more about gourd culture! Betty Finch, her friend Beth Husted and I were guided on another incredible journey by Zhang Guojun in August of this year.



This trip necessitated our travel to the south west of China to Yunnan Province where we first stopped in Kunming. In Kunming we visited the Cultural Village where there are small "villages" set up to give architectural, cultural and religious insights into thirteen of the 36 minority groups found in China. Our guided tour was only a prelude to the more intimate visits we would later make to a few of the minority villages.

It was also in Kunming where we had the privilege of meeting Mr. Gen De Quan, China's famous master hulusi musician and hulusi maker. Mr. Gen welcomed us warmly and showed us his workshop. The hulusi is a very ancient instru-



ment which combines reeded bamboo flutes with a gourd ('hulu' in Chinese) to produce an instrument with a beautiful, unique sound. We were very honored to be gifted one of Mr. Gen's fine instruments.

A one hour flight to Mangshi City followed by a two hour car ride took further west to Lianghe where we were hosted by Mrs. Song chunyun, Director general of Lianghe County Cultural Bureau of Yunnan Province. With her wonderful good humor and close personal relationship with minority cultures in her area she was able to arrange for us to visit three groups, the Dai, the Ahchong, and the Jing Po.

At each village we were allowed to freely walk about the village compound and we were hosted to a meal. Our most extensive visit was with the Dai people.

In the Dai village we met and were treated to a musical concert by hulusi musicians ranging in age from 12 to 74 years old. In the Dai tradition it is said that a young man must learn to play the hulusi in order to woo a young woman so many men play the instrument.

We once again met Mr. Gen who performed and demonstrated his true mastery of the hulusi. Following the musical program we were feted

with a lunch of corn and rice fed pork, rice, boiled gourd, vegetables and noodles with boiled pork. Everywhere we ate during our visit food was served in abundance.

Although our visit to the Ahchong village was not as extensive as the visit with the Dai people, we were again met with a welcoming party playing a multiple sym-

bol instrument, drums song as water was splashed on us for good luck as we entered the village. We enjoyed touring the village and watching a program of song and dance.

By the end of the performance we were garbed with vests which women dancers removed and put on us and we were dancing along with the villagers! We later saw a demonstration of weaving of the beautiful multi-colored cloth that Ahchong women use in their national costume.

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H. tiliaceus, H. sabdariffa (Roselle Hibiscus), and H. cannabinus (Kenaf) that are used for fiber in Hawaii, other islands, and in Asia. They are also being farmed in the US as a sustainable crop. These are mostly commercially processed- chopped up and spun into textiles- not recognizable as coming from a plant. Highly processed natural materials don't really ring my chime. I much prefer to keep at least some of the original integrity of a plant when preparing it for use in art. Sometimes the only way to learn is to just play with it and see what works. That's what I did with the H. moscheutos. What follows is the process I developed through experimentation, to harvest and prepare the bark for use in basketry.

The bark is harvested when the plants are dormant and the stalks dead, from late Fall into Spring. Just snap or cut the stalks near the base. Remove the bark by breaking the stalk near the top and pulling bark down to the base. You can break the stalk in several places if the bark resists coming off; only the stems will break, usually not the fiber. The bark pulls a bit easier after a rain, but must be laid out to dry or will mildew. The bark is shreddy and soft, and usually comes off easily, though it's thicker near the base and harder to pull there. Don't



worry about getting the bark from all the tiny branches. Stripping the long main stalk will automatically bypass most of the small stuff. We will not obsess! You'll see that there is an outer and inner bark. The inner is the fibrous part. Wind 20-30 strips into a coil and tie in a few places with a strip of hibiscus. Hang in a dry place to store, preferably indoors.

The fiber is ready to use as-is, dry, bundled and coiled or twined on a gourd or in a basket, or made into cordage. As you work with it, especially in making cordage, much of the thin outer grey bark will flake off. Some of the bark can also be removed by rubbing the strip between your palms. It's not necessary or desirable to try and separate the individual fibers. Their strength is literally in numbers. The fiber color is usually

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*people there are involved in basketry, teaching basketry and writing basketry. Every time I get a chance to go to a conference or a talk, or read a book about basketry, I am transported deeper into the desire to spread the word further."*

I got into a conversation with artist Sherry Harris at the 2006 Welburn Festival because I felt a connection to her work. I was surprised to discover that Misti was her teacher when she lived in Fallbrook some time ago.

She said she tells all her students Misti's story, and the following is a quote from Sherry's website, "By the time I met her, Misti Washington already had a reputation for making beautiful baskets and gourd art with these natural materials. My life was changed after this experience learning from Misti. I felt that I had found my lifelong media. I had fallen in love with using materials from nature. This worked very well with my love to garden. I ended up experimenting with making baskets, gourd art and woven sculpture." I have since met others who were fortunate to have had Misti as their teacher. Although I envy these people, I have no doubt that her spirit is with me each time I share some time with my basket and gourd friends.

About four months before Misti died in her sleep on February 24, 1997, she was the guest of honor at an event at Quail Botanical Gardens at which the founding of the Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild was announced. This event was a part of a weekend of basketry classes. As many of you know, one of the main activities the Guild performs is the now biennial Weekend in the Garden (**the next one is May 5 & 6, 2007**). Over the last 10 years, this has grown to be a very successful event for the Gardens and the Guild, now averaging 35 classes with 250 students. It has brought students and teachers from across the nation together in the spirit of Misti - - sharing, caring and pure enjoyment of learning both the fundamental and the innovative possibilities of basketry, gourd crafting, and weaving. For the 2007 class catalog and registration form go the MWGBG website: [www.baskets-gourds.com](http://www.baskets-gourds.com)

Belonging to a group like the MWGBG can be richly rewarding, giving us all the opportunity to influence others on many levels in a positive way. Because the Guild was founded in Misti's honor, it took on the characteristics of her way of thinking and her way of teaching others. I think she would be very proud to know the seeds she planted have blossomed and grown beyond the walls of the Garden, far out into the world.

*(Basketmaker, April 1988, "A Visit with Misti Washington," by Jim Bennett was used as resource.)*

## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

*Compiled and edited by Barbara McDermott*

**Please call or email the Regional Coordinators of each patch for the most current meeting information. New members and guests are always welcome. Or check at the CGS website: [www.calgourd.com](http://www.calgourd.com)**



### **Amador County**

*Regional Coordinator: Carol Cherry  
(916)941-1551 or Sylvia Nelson, (916)682-2437 or  
[sylvianelson@citlink.net](mailto:sylvianelson@citlink.net)*

Our group gathers on the second Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Amador County Agriculture Building, 12200 Airport Rd. Jackson, CA 95624. Our gatherings are full of fun. We love sharing techniques and ideas and always have a "gallery" showing of our latest gourd art works.

In December we had our Annual Gourd Ornament Exchange and made gourd ornaments to distribute to nursing homes and shut-ins.

Our January Meeting will include a painting techniques demonstration by one of our newest members and also a planning session for 2007.

### **Antelope Valley Gourd Patch**

*Regional Coordinator: Nancy Brown  
(661) 944-5528 or [Nancy\\_b93544@yahoo.com](mailto:Nancy_b93544@yahoo.com)*

Our meeting time is 2 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. We invite anyone in the Palmdale, Lancaster, Rosamond, Littlerock, Pearblossom, Llano and Lake Los Angeles areas to join us. For information please call above.

### **Bakersfield/Kern County Gourd Patch**

*Regional Co-Coordinators: Melanie Ansolabehere,  
(661) 836-2501 or [littlefeather3@aol.com](mailto:littlefeather3@aol.com)  
Alice Hengst, (559) 949-8651 or [moondust@savy2K.net](mailto:moondust@savy2K.net)  
Carol Walter, (661) 588-8398 or [glwalter39@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glwalter39@sbcglobal.net)*

The Bakersfield / Kern County Patch meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Beverly's Craft Shop, 2819 F. St., Bakersfield.

### **El Dorado County Foothill Gourders**

*Regional Coordinator: Carolee Jones  
(916) 988-7971 or [sahtaitwo@earthlink.net](mailto: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, 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. The business meeting begins at 9:30 till 10:00 a.m. followed by the educational meeting until noon.

Planning for the first 3 months of 2007 was held at our Annual Ornament Exchange and Christmas Party in December. We hold a gallery time at each meeting and allow plenty of time for show and tell.

### **Fallbrook Gourd Patch**

*Regional Coordinator: Barbara McDermott  
(760)746-3913, (951)894-1817 or [mcdeart@verizon.net](mailto:mcdeart@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. We love GOURD times!

We held our Annual Christmas Party at the home of JoAnn Clark and had a wonderful gourd ornament exchange and pot luck brunch. We will be having our Annual Planning Meeting in February. We have a friendly group who is always looking for "fun with gourds activities."

### **Folsom/Sacramento Patch – Z-Gourd Miners**

*Welcome New Regional Coordinator: Susan Gouig  
(707)433-8223 day or (707) 433-9162 Eve.*

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.

### **Galt Patch**

*Regional Coordinator: Elizabeth Kummerle  
(209)745-6618 or [ekummerle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ekummerle@sbcglobal.net)*

Our meetings are held on alternating weekdays and weekends, 10 a.m. at my home and lasts 2 to 3 hours which includes a short business meeting, a gourd gallery and sharing time. Our activities have included a 2 month Library Display, attending gourd classes and having classes for adults and children. Regional boundaries will be Stockton, Lodi, Galt, Elk Grove and all surrounding areas east and west.

### **Kings River Gourd Patch**

*Regional Coordinator: Pat Wescott  
(559) 897-7470 or [graybadgers@attwb.net](mailto:graybadgers@attwb.net)*

The Kingsburg Fiber & Gourd Patch continues to meet on the first Saturday of each 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 as we meet on the first Saturday at her house. All are welcome.

### **Los Angeles – Gourd Artisans of Los Angeles (GALA)**

*Regional Representative: Larry McClelland  
(310)549-3294 or [macgourd@aol.com](mailto: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 (September – June), 7:30, at the San Gabriel Bead Company, 325 E. Live Oak, Arcadia, CA 91006, (626)447-7753. Guests are always welcome.

We usually begin our meetings with a "show and tell" of gourd projects that our members have been working on, followed by a demonstration, workshop or presentation by a guest artist. Some topics considered for winter meetings include projects for children and demonstrations of and making musical instruments.

Some of our members will be heading to Casa Grande, AZ for the Wuerz 4th Annual Gourd Festival in February.

Happy Gourding!

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### **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 of each month, 7 to 9 p.m. at Dr. Judy's Garden Studio in West Los Angeles. We have an enthusiastic group and new members are welcome.

January 3, we will have an evening with the talented and amazing, Carol Rookstool, with a Basketry on Gourds class for all gourding levels. February 2, our meeting topic will be, "Do you think we are sexy gourds?" Gourds with a Valentine twist. Colleen Huff, co-leader, and "The Queen Gourdess" will inspire all naked gourdians to new heights. March 7, the talented, Sherry Woods, will help us create Mini Gourd Pocket Purses with necklace clasps and combine beading and gourding. Please contact us for more information or directions.

### **Los Angeles – Inner City Patch**

*Regional Coordinator: Bea Jones  
(323)291-8752 or beasyche@aol.com*

### **Northern Sierra Gourd Patch**

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

### **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](http://www.orangecountygourdsociety.org)

Our Patch continues to meet in Costa Mesa the 4th Thursday evenings and have Play Days on the 3rd Saturdays (see info on website). We are an active Patch and welcome new CGS Members! See ya soon, Susan Sullivan

### **Pico Rivera/Whittier Patch**

*Regional Coordinators: Tony and Paula Torres  
(562)328-5124 or AyPTorres@msn.com*

### **San Bernardino Patch**

*Regional Coordinator: Darlene Propp  
(909) 862-9717 or dragongourd@dslextreme.com*

The San Bernardino Patch tries new things and we are open to all suggestions. At this time we plan activities as we go along. Call Darlene or Valerie Martinell at (909)883-3527 for current meeting information. We will be glad to add you to our e-mail list and notify you of our planned activities. We would love to have you come visit (and join) our Patch. Bring something to share – we love show and tell!

### **San Diego – Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild**

*Regional Coordinator: Peggy Blessing  
(858) 292-9219 or glassworks2005-gourdnews@yahoo.com  
Website: [www.baskets-gourds.com](http://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 meetings. 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 next Weekend in the Gardens is May 5 & 6, 2007. Catalogs for the weekend classes are available and classes and updates are posted on the website.

### **San Fernando Valley Gourd Patch**

*Regional Coordinators: Art and Nina Lowy  
(818) 996-3606 or gourds@mac.com  
Dori Aberson (818) 702-8020 or daberson@aol.com*

We meet the second Tuesday of each month at Mountain Restoration Trust in Calabasas, CA. If you are in the area and would like to come to a meeting please call/email one of the coordinators above.

### **San Francisco East Bay – East Bay Gourd Patch**

*Regional Coordinators: Kay Van Hoesen (925)254-0838 or  
kdvanh@sbcglobal.net  
Kathleen MacIntyre kmac1958@hotmail.com  
Kemper Stone gourdcamp@yahoo.com*

Our Patch meets every third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at either The Caning Shop in Berkeley or the Civic Arts Studio in Walnut Creek. This quarter we will be meeting January 20, February 17 and March 17. Our February meeting will be a workshop on using horse hair on gourds taught by Kathleen MacIntyre. For our other meeting programs we are considering gourd bases, coiling, clay, leather hinges and beads on gourds and gourd dolls and figures.

### **Santa Cruz Gourd Patch**

*Regional Coordinator: Barbara Johnson  
(831) 440-1540 or gregjohnson@earthlink.net  
Kris Mangliers (831) 338-3449 or kmangliers@msn.com*  
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 luv2ridedi@aol.com*

### **Silicon Valley – Calabash Club of Silicon Valley**

*Regional Coordinator: Jayne Xavier  
(408)779-9550 or nimbleneedle@aol.com*

We meet every other month (Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec), the second Sunday of the month. December was our Pot Luck and Ornament Exchange which was held at the Villages in San Jose. February will be our annual "White Elephant Exchange" with proceeds to benefit a club location. We welcome anyone with an interest in gourds or a curiosity to see what this "gourding thing" is all about. For more information please call Jayne.

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### **Sonoma Gourd Patch**

*Regional Coordinator: Donna von Edelkrantz  
(707) 778-0580 or donnavone@comcast.net*

Our meetings are held the last Wednesday of every month from 7:00 until 9:30 p.m. For location information, contact Donna (see above). We invite any gourd, art or craft enthusiast to join our group to share, learn and explore. We decide on topics or workshops month to month.

### **Tulare Sequoia Patch**

*Regional Coordinators: Toni Best  
(559) 627-5430 or capineneedles@sbcglobal.net  
Sue Winters-Brown ((559) 561-0608 or suewb@tcoe.org*

Regular Meetings are not held, but impromptu get-togethers work best for our group. Please contact Toni or Sue (at above) for more information on activities.

### **Ventura County – Channel Islands Gourd Society**

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

Our website [www.channelislandsgourdsociety.com](http://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. We have some interesting classes planned for the coming year which includes painting horses on gourds, metal inlay and a class for beginners. We extend a warm welcome to visitors. Call for more info or directions.

### *Keep Spreading that Gourd Glow*

**Next Regional Roundup News due to Barbara by  
February 20, 2007. [mcdeeart@verizon.net](mailto:mcdeeart@verizon.net), Thank you.**

\*\*

## **One Funtastic Weekend** by Barbara McDermott

The members of the Fallbrook area gourd patch are always ready, anxious and willing to join in the fun activities centered around gourds. One of the most successful events has been their Annual Member's Retreat.

It all started about three years when some of them were coming home after an exciting CGS weekend at Asilomar. One of them asked, "Why can't we have a weekend get-away for our Patch?" Long story short, she (Vickie Echols) got busy and reserved a lodge in Julian, CA and plans were set for a terrific weekend in the mountains.

The next year's plans started a little earlier and more plans and activities for the week-

end were made. Even (the then President of the CGS) was invited to spend the weekend as Guest Speaker/Teacher. That year the group went to the desert to enjoy the Warner Springs Resort.

But, the retreat committee, led by Sherry Hunga-Moore wanted the retreat even bigger and better. Most of all they did not want anyone to miss out on anything by spending time working in the kitchen and perhaps they could hire teachers instead of doing classes themselves. So they got busy with fundraising events they held yard sales, white elephant sale and had opportunity drawings to earn some extra money for the Retreat kitty.

This year's retreat was held the second weekend in November at the Highland Springs Resort & Spa in Beaumont, CA. Friday evening as more than twenty members gathered in the Main Gourd Workroom each was given a gift bag and a puzzle piece of a gourd to decorate any way they wished during the weekend. After dinner was served in the Dining Room they retired to the Main Room for a social "Meet & Greet" session with prizes and a gift ice breaker game. The rest of the evening was spent relaxing, visiting, working on projects or off to the pool and spa. *(Picture Below: Karen Waxler enjoying the gourds)*



There were two classes on Saturday and one class on Sunday.

*(Continued on page 15)*



## Gourd Classes for January, February and March 2007



### January 6 Basic Gourd Craft Kemper Stone

Tuition: \$60  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Carquinez Gourd Plot  
1044 Orchard Avenue,  
Vallejo, CA  
Learn how to select, clean,  
cut, dye, paint, carve,  
wood-burn, etc.  
To register call  
707 557-0462 or  
gourdcamp@yahoo.com  
www.gourdcamp.com  
\*

### January 7 Tacked gourd djimbe and direct-laced mini-drum

Kemper Stone  
Tuition: \$70  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Vallejo, CA  
We'll learn and apply the  
three most basic methods for  
combining goat skin to a  
hard-shelled gourd to create  
a drum. To register see  
Kemper's January 6 class.  
\*

### January 13 Metal Inlay Kristy Dial

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
La Mesa, CA  
Learn how to emboss metal  
and how to carve the gourd  
to inlay the metal. All materi-  
als will be supplied contact  
geckogourds@cox.net  
\*

### January 13 2-Step Raku Finishes with Dianne Connelly

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
La Mesa, CA  
Learn how to use various  
products to create a Raku  
finish.  
Dianne Connelly:  
deconnelly927@yahoo.com  
\*

### January 13 Basic Gourd Art Diane Calderwood

10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
In this introductory class we  
will discuss the different  
types of gourds, where to  
find them, preparing them  
for cutting and decorating.  
Piecemakers Country Store  
Costa Mesa, CA  
714- 641-3112  
\*

### January 14 & February 11 Power Carving Kristy Dial

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
La Mesa, CA  
Learn how to carve designs  
into gourds. Learn about  
burrs and how to use them.  
geckogourds@cox.net  
\*

### January 14 & February 11 Crushed Glass Inlay Dianne Connelly

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
La Mesa, CA  
Learn how inlay crushed  
glass into the gourd.  
deconnelly927@yahoo.com  
\*

### January 20 Woodburning Gourd Craft Jeri Lyn

Tuition: \$40  
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
RILEY STREET  
103 Maxwell Ct.  
Santa Rosa, CA  
207-526-2416  
\*

### January 20 Gourd Decorating/ Woodburning Nadine Spier

10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Santa Monica Community  
College  
Tuition: \$49 + \$15 materials  
3171 S. Bundy Dr,  
room 428.  
pre-registration required  
(310) 434-3400  
http://commed.smc.edu/  
\*

### January 27 Round Gourd Bowl with Woodburned Design Sylvia Marson & Mary Bliss

Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Tuition: \$50.00  
Includes: All Materials (5-6  
inch gourd), Practice Pieces  
and Class Tutorial  
Limited to 8 students  
To register and get the  
address email or phone  
Norrah at:  
createitceramics@aol.com or  
714 641-8124  
\*

### January 27 Easy (Atlantean) Ocean Drum or "stringless lute"

Kemper Stone  
Tuition: \$70  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
1044 Orchard Avenue,  
Vallejo, CA  
Includes all materials; No  
experience necessary.  
To register see Kemper's  
January 6 class.  
\*

### January 28 Gourdcraft Doubleheader! U-gouge carving on gourds Kemper Stone

Tuition: \$40  
9:00 am—noon  
1044 Orchard Avenue,  
Vallejo, CA  
All gourds, materials and  
tools will be provided but  
if you already have carving  
tools, bring 'em!  
Salvage Gourd Playday  
1:00 pm -6:00 pm  
Creating new destinies for  
sub marginal gourds.  
Gourds, materials, and tools  
will be provided, but  
participants are encouraged  
to bring their own. No ex-  
perience necessary.  
No charge!  
To register see Kemper's  
January 6 class.

## February

### February 3 "Celtic" drum and Irish hoard relics.

Kemper Stone  
Tuition: \$70  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
1044 Orchard Avenue,  
Vallejo, CA  
Includes all materials; No  
experience necessary.  
We'll construct drums using  
gourds, faux bronze finishes,  
goat skin and brass tacks.  
To register see Kemper's  
January 6 class.  
\*

### February 3 Gourd Mini-Mask Diane Calderwood

10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
We will be working on mini  
and jewelry gourds to create  
this mini-mask. Simple  
woodburning, carving and  
painting techniques will be  
covered. To register see  
Diane's January 13 class.  
\*

### February 10 Beginning Gourds Kristy Dial

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Learn the basics of gourd art.  
Learn how to clean, dye and  
weave pine needles.  
La Mesa, CA  
geckogourds@cox.net  
\*

### February 10 Silk Dyes Dianne Connelly

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Learn to use silk and leather  
dyes on the gourds. Weave  
and embellish the rim.  
La Mesa, CA  
deconnelly927@yahoo.com

(Continued on page 13)

### Iron Gourd Competition Results are In!

The Second Annual CGS Iron Gourd Competition held, October 6, 2006, at Welburn Farms was a success of Olympic proportions! With seven fearsome competitors and only six hours to complete a gourd work of art the sawing, grinding and sanding were intense. Angela Briggs, Larry McClelland, Daniel Montano, Darlene Propp, Ona Reid, Betsy Roberts, and Pat Zandi all did an awesome job. Our judges, Paul and Kathy Klopfenstein were charged with selecting just one winner from the field of seven beautiful gourds.



Top Left: Betsy Robert's Piece  
Top Right: Ona Reid's Mask



Above: Darlene Propp  
Below: CGS President Jill Walker

The winner of the coveted CGS Iron Gourd Trophy and \$500.00 was none other than "Dominating" Daniel Montano, an artist and FIRST-TIME gourder!



Above stand: Paul Klopfenstein, Ona Reid, Pat Zandi, Larry McClelland & Daniel Montano  
Above sit: Kathy Klopfenstein, Angela Briggs, Darlene Propp & Betsy Roberts  
Ground: Jill Walker  
Left: Daniel Montano's Judge Grand Prize Piece  
Below: Angela Brigg's Piece



For the second year Angela Briggs was the recipient of the "People's Choice Award" and a huge basket of gourders goodies donated by Candy Kruger, The Caning Shop, Featherco, Galaxy Gourds, I Brake for Stamps, Welburn Farms and Gourd Walker. Thanks you to all our generous sponsors for their donations. I hope you'll plan to be a part of this exciting event in our 2007 contest by competing or joining the cheering squad.



Pictures courtesy of Jill Walker and Mary Bliss





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(Continued from page 5)

A one day tour of the local area included a visit to the border check point with the neighboring country of Myanmar, a visit to the Jing Po nationality village, and visiting the Moli National Rain Forest which included a hike to a beautiful waterfall.

Our visit to Quwo to visit Mr. Zheng Yueba, a very accomplished gourd artist, was the final highlight of our gourd tour.



Since the end of his career as a soldier Mr. Zheng has dedicated himself entirely to folk arts. He and his family now concentrate on gourd art and kirigami (paper cutting.) We spent



most of a day in his gallery and family compound. We were amazed at the beautiful, intricate work he was able to produce with only the most rudimentary tools. Like gourd artists the world over he makes use of designs and methods which are found in other folk arts and adapts them for use on his gourds. It was truly gratifying to meet another artist who is as passionate about gourd art as we are.

Our final days in China including visiting the Huaqing Hot Springs and the Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an. Before departing China we visited the Great Wall and did the requisite shopping tours in Beijing. As I write this article I am taken back to China and our unforgettable trip. If you ever have the opportunity to visit this vast, beautiful country, I highly recommend it!

The following information is taken from the enclosure of the CD which Mr. Gen gave each of us. : (It might make an interesting side bar to the article.) "About the Gourd Pipe" "The Gourd pipe or flute is known as "Bilangdao" in the Dai language. It has existed among the Dai (Yunnanese Thai), De'ang and Achang peoples of Dehong, Baoshan and Lincang Prefectures in Yunnan Province.

According to legend, during the great flood of ancient times, a young Dai boy survived by grasping onto a giant gourd and rode it out to save his lover. His devotion moved the Buddha Sakyamuni, who inserted three bamboo shafts into a gourd and gave to the brave boy as a gift. When the boy blew into it a beautiful melody sprang forth, the waters receded, the wind stopped, flowers bloomed, and the peacock opened its feathers. The tradition of the Gourd pipe has been passed on through generations of the Dai people to this day."

\*\*\*

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(Continued from page 9)

**February 10 & 17  
Gourd Rooster  
Diane Calderwood**

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

A penguin gourd, a few gourd parts, some date palm and paper clay and we can create a one-of-a-kind rooster. To register see Diane's January 13 class.

\*

**February 17  
Faux Raku Gourd Class  
Kathy Riker**

Tuition: \$65.00

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Rookstool Ranch

Three Rivers, CA

Includes all materials

Contact Toni Best

(559) 627-5430 or

capineneedles@sbcglobal.net

\*

**February 18  
Color & Paint Techniques  
on Gourds  
Kathy Riker**

Tuition: \$65.00

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Rookstool Ranch

Three Rivers, CA

Includes all materials

Contact Toni Best

(559) 627-5430 or

capineneedles@sbcglobal.net

\*

**February 24  
Nadine Spiers  
3-Dimensional Peyote  
Stitched Gourd Necklace**

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tuition: \$55.00

Payment confirms your spot!

Limited to 8 students

To register and get the address and supply list please email or phone Norrah at: createitceramics@aol.com or 714 641-8124

\*

**February 24  
Woodburning Gourd Craft  
Jeri Lyn**

Tuition: \$40

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

RILEY STREET

103 Maxwell Ct.

Santa Rosa, CA

207-526-2416

**MARCH**

**March 3  
Toni Best  
Coiling Pine Needles on  
Gourd**

Tuition: \$50.00

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Visalia, CA.

Choose from 10 different coiling techniques. All materials and lunch are provided.

Contact Toni Best at

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\*

**March 11 & 18  
Diane Calderwood  
Women of the World**

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

A combination of woodburning, color and carving will create this enchanting gourd.

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\*

**March 21 & 22  
Toni Best**

Will be teaching a 2 day class in coiling pine needles on a gourd while integrating an antler at the Southern Conference of Handweavers at the Visalia Convention Center. Contact: www.ASCHsite.org for information.

(Continued from page 5)

a soft gray, but can range into the browns. The fiber can vary from plant to plant, and sometimes has a slight sheen. The natural is lovely, and generally I prefer it, but you can also bleach some for adding contrast to a basket.

To bleach, soak a loose unbound coil in a 30 - 40% bleach water solution. Check in 10 minutes and turn coil over to evenly soak, until fiber is mostly whitened and most of outer bark is dissolved. Remove coil, rinse well in water and neutralize in white vinegar. Using the vinegar will stop the bleaching process and thus the further degrading of the fibers. Bleaching too long will weaken the fibers. This is a trick that can be used in other bleaching applications. The bleached hibiscus makes a wonderful light colored accent with pine needles or other naturals. Bleached fiber also takes Rit dye readily, making extremely vibrant colors.

Hibiscus makes attractive cordage of medium strength. To make 2-ply cordage (my way), take two strands about the same width, one 3 or 4 inches longer than the other, and knot them together at one end. Hold the knot between your toes and hold a strand in each hand. Twist each strand to the right many times until each whole length is twisted. Then pass the right

strand over the left hand and the left strand under to the right hand. Pull strands taut so that the twists are down near your toes, working their way up. Alternate twisting both strands to the right, then pass right strand over left. Soon you will have a cord. When you're 3 or 4 inches from the end of the shortest piece, add another strand by laying it parallel to the short piece and letting a 3" tail overlap to the other piece. Twist the new strand in to the right on both existing strands and continue as before. When you've reached the length you want, you can use scissors to clean up any loose strands. I like to leave slubs and loose fibers on my cordage because I like the way it looks in a basket.

Discover it for yourself.... Hibiscus is one of those plants that keeps on giving. New stalks will rise from the ground, a beautiful plant will bloom again, and the harvest of fabulous fiber is the icing on the cake!

*Bio:*

*Lynn Hoyt is a gourd and basket artist living in NC. Her fanatical fiber quest led her to start the Natural Fibers Group, a guild that focuses on gathered naturals for use in art.*

*<http://naturalfibersgroup.tripod.com/>*

*and*

*<http://lynnhoyt.net/>*

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**This Gourd Cleaning Tip comes for Mary Bliss**

This gourd cleaning tip was told to me at the Asilomar Conference after someone hearing me complain how hard it is to clean those gourds that get that real waxy film when they are left exposed to the hot sun. But this will work to clean any gourd especially those hard to clean warty gourds.

You can use your own garden soil or buy a cheap bag of potting soil for this purpose. You can use a container or bury directly in your garden bed. Once you have your soil dampen it little (do not soak) remember water may soak in. Next bury your gourds covering them with a couple inches of damp soil and let it do all the work! Check them in two days you will be amazed at how easily the film wipes off with just a light rub of you finger! You can leave longer if needed. Be sure to let the gourds completely dry again inside and out.

(Continued from page 9)



**Retreat Committee Members Finally Get to Relax!**

Top L to R: Vickie Echols, Vickie Martinez  
 Mid—Nancy Dolan, Kellie Delp  
 Bottom—Konane Reeves, Sherry Hunga-Moore, JoAnn Clark,  
 Donna Rositani & Barbara McDermott

All meals were served in the very pleasant dining room. In between times members took short walks around the interesting park like grounds, took pictures and generally enjoyed each others company. Another great idea was sharing books.

Sunday came much too soon, the highlight was the gorgeous "Friendship Puzzle Gourd". All of the now decorated gourd pieces were gathered up and the puzzle was put back together by Kellie Delp in time for this wonderful memory prize to be won by guess who? The lucky Barbara McDermott!



**CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY  
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 (SEE BACK PAGE OF THIS FORM FOR EXP DATE)

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	Larry McClelland	macgourd@aol.com	(310) 549-3294
<b>Editor, The Golden Gourd</b>	Mary Bliss	editorgoldengourd@yahoo.com	(714) 693-1840

### CGS On-line Gourd Information

For the most current and latest **CGS** information and gourd happenings go to:  
<http://www.calgourd.com>

For our members that enjoy the on-line community atmosphere and want the latest gourd news and happenings check us out on-line at:

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Mary Bliss - Editor

### Living the Gourd Life California Style 2007

January 13 & 14—CGS Board and Patch Leader's Retreat, Rookstool Ranch—Three Rivers, CA

January 20—February 3—The Welburn Gourd Farm Half Price Sale—Fallbrook, CA

May 5 & 6—MWG&B—Weekend in the Gardens—Quail Botanical Gardens— Encinitas, CA

May 19 & 20 - Greg Leiser Farms Fifth Annual Gourd Art Festival and Gourd Sale, Knights Landing, CA

June 23 & 24— 11th Annual International Gourd Art Festival and CGS Gourd Art Competition — Welburn Gourd Farm—Fallbrook, CA

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