



THE GOURDIAN KNOT

RHO Chapter of the American Gourd Society

Published by the Idaho Gourd Society, Summer 2009

President's Message

I can hardly believe we are into summer! Spring has come and gone except maybe for the rain! By June 15th, Idaho had already received an inch and a half of rain - three quarters of an inch of rain being normal for the entire month. Weather aside, IGS has been very busy with a packed venue ahead. Do you realize the Canyon County Fair and Western Idaho Fair will soon be here? Now is the time to start making those fair entries! But I am most certain everyone has some done?

Before you know, it will be time for our annual Gourd Fair scheduled for November 14, 2009. The theme for our fair will be "**The Secret Life of Gourds.**" The first place prize for entry into this category will be \$20.00. Our Gourd Fair Chairman, Jessie Newberry, is fired up! This wonderful lady has gathered an incredible line of donations to add to our jigsaw raffle (mentioned already in the newsletter). She has acquired so many donations! WOW! I was astounded. Jessie, you are the best. I would like to extend many, many thanks to those who donated raffle items. Those items help to make IGS possible which helps to forward the purpose of the American Gourd Society. "The American Gourd Society promotes interest in all activities relating to gourds: cultivation, historical uses, gourd show competition, craftwork, and artistic decoration" (www.americangourdsociety.org). Tickets for our raffle are on sale. If you would like to buy some, please contact me - Caryn (208)440-5523. You are almost guaranteed to take home a prize! What an exciting year! Not only do we have a huge list of raffle items, but a new location for our Gourd Fair is in the works.

The IGS Gourd Fair Planning Committee has been arranging a new location for our gourd fair. Most of you know we have been growing and bursting at the seams at our last two fairs. The unanswered question of where to go next has been answered. Well, this year hopefully will find us at Edwards Greenhouse for our show! How exciting is that!! There are still a few wrinkles to be ironed out, but so far so good! I would like to thank the planning committee for all your hard work in trying to pull this new location together!

Our group has some very positive events occurring and some fantastic people doing them with us!

P. S. If you are interested in doing gourd classes outside our monthly meetings, please feel free to contact me; and I will try to put something together.

Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of being the President of IGS.

Caryn Nicolosi

IDAHO ARTISTRY IN WOOD SHOW AND SALE

We had a modest turnout of spectators. Not very many buyers (do you suppose we are in an economic slow down)? However, we had a great display of gourd art in many different categories. The comments from the public were very complimentary. Most had no idea that you could create such different styles of art from gourds. The wood workers (that we shared the space with) were equally impressed with the versatility of the gourd and the artists that work with them. I would like to thank Sue Kostka and Liz Meyer for the great job they did as first-time judges. Alan Sweeney had just completed the judges training class for them. They did a great job of being impartial. I personally know this as Kris McCracken and I were the clerks for them. Yes, it was very difficult for me to keep my mouth shut as a good clerk is supposed to. However, I did manage with only an occasional nudge in the ribs from Kris. I would also like to thank the many volunteers that came down and helped us make this event possible - Lillie Smith, Chris Peters, Judy Schwehr, Sigrid Potter, Bev McGaha, Liz Meyer, Norma Bailey, Barb Gamil, Veletta Murphey, Judi Hosking, Sue Kostka, Caryn Nicolosi, Alan Sweeney and Kris McCracken. Kris was with me for all eleven hours on Friday. We did the setup, registration, and clerking for the judges. I could not have done it without her. Besides, she knew about the most excellent Chinese restaurant so we had a great dinner. The pictures that follow are all the gourds that were entered. We had 44 entries. I hope you enjoy seeing the entries as much as the paying customers did.



Bottomed row far left - YOUTH - Dakota Borchers - 1st place. Dakota is 7 years old and a first time participant. Good job, Dakota!
BEGINNER- Dale Matlack - white bird - 2nd place.
Dona Kirk - drum - 1st place.
Top row far left
Dale Matlack - southwest mountains - 2nd place.
Liz Yearows - received a first place on both of her painted gourds on the top shelf. This is the first time that Liz has entered a contest.



INTERMEDIATE SKILL LEVEL

Chris Peters - mountain lion - 1st place
 Debbie Wilson - leaves - 2nd place. Debbie sent her entries to us from Montana. Thank you for sharing your art work, Debbie.

Debbie Wilson - wood burned mountain and trees - 1st place. The picture doesn't do the work justice.

(Please disregard the masks on the wall. The art gallery did not remove everything from the walls).

Kathy Peterson - tall gourd with cougar face on far left - 2nd place. Kathy rode her motorcycle all the way from Twin Falls to enter.

Chris Peters - tea pot- 1st- and best of skill level.

Joan Lynk - leather laced - 3rd place.

Kathy Peterson - green apple with worm - 3rd place.



Debbie Wilson - Indian face - 1st place.

Joan Lynk - Indian figure with leather lacing - 2nd place. On the top shelf behind the Indian face.



ADVANCED SKILL LEVEL

Barb Gamel - whale sculpture - 1st place.

JULY PICNIC REMINDER!

Be sure to set aside the date of July 11 for the summer picnic. Liz and Joe Meyer have been kind enough to host the picnic again. We had a really good turnout last year and all had a good time. Chicken is furnished and the rest is potluck. Don't forget to bring a guest. Liz and Joe's address is 63 N. Wedgewood Drive, Nampa, Idaho. For directions call Liz at-461-2021 or see the map on the IGS web site.



ADVANCED SKILL LEVEL

From left to right.

Caryn Nicolosi - spiral fret work - 1st place

Duane Langworthy - roses with fret work - 1st place.

Duane Langworthy - bowl with cut leaves - 1st place.

Barb Gamel - small vase with stem handle - 3rd place.

Barb Gamel - pitcher with pink flowers - 2nd place.



Bev McGaha - whale sculpture - 1st place.

Duane Langworthy - mask - 1st place and best of skill level.



Barb Gamel - bowl with flowers - 2nd place.

Duane Langworthy - large bowl with birds - 2nd place.

MASTER SKILL LEVEL

Veletta Murphey - roses and fret work - 1st place.



MASTERS SKILL LEVEL

Back left to right.

Judy Pritchard - southwest with turquoise inlay - 1st place.

Veletta Murphey - dragon with inlaid inlay - 3rd place.

Marie Kuenzli - small sculpture - with clay sculpted face - 1st place.

Front row

Marie Kuenzli - beaded gourd - 1st place and best of skill level.



EXPERT SKILL LEVEL

Back row

Cindy Barrie - butterfly cutouts - 1st place.

Darlene Borchers - elephant - 1st place.

Front row from left to right.

Darlene Borchers - ocean drum - 3rd place.

Cindy Barrie - sand dollar fret work with inlaid - 2nd place.



Back row left to right.

Cindy Barrie - flowers and butterflies - 2nd place

Dee Smart - southwest style butterfly - 1st place.

Front row.

Sharon Matuzek - carved bird - 2nd place.



EXPERT SKILL LEVEL

Darlene Borchers - mask - 1st place.

Kris McCracken - southwest maiden with a papoose on her back - 1st place and best of skill level. Our judges had a very hard time deciding between this and Cindy Barrie's cutout butterflies. We solicited an art professor from BSU to make the decision. He was there as a judge for the woodcrafters. It was even difficult for him to name one as best of the skill level. They were both exceptionally nice.

Picture shown below text box. Back row left to right.

Judy Pritchard - southwest with stone inlay heads - 3rd place.

Cindy Barrie - red chip carved vase - 2nd place.

Darlene Borchers - thunder drum - honorable mention.

Front row left to right.

Cindy Barrie - cutout leaves - 1st place.

Dee Smart - woven rim - 2nd place.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE WINNERS!!**



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IDAHO GOURD SOCIETY FESTIVAL - NOVEMBER 14

The festival this year will be held at Edwards Green House off Hill Road at 4106 Sand Creek Street in Boise. The Festival Committee is headed up by Jessie Newberry. The theme for the special gourd category is "The Secret Life of Gourds." There will be a prize of \$20 awarded to the winning gourd this year. Get your thinking caps on and come up with a great gourd to enter. If you would like to be on the committee to help out, call Jessie at 286-7286 or Sue Kostka at 455-1362. The other committee members are Joan Lynk and Chris Peters. The committee has been working hard, and Jessie has contacted a large number of suppliers that have agreed to send us various items. They will be raffled off so be sure to plan on buying some raffle tickets. More festival news will be in the next newsletter.

Suppliers that have agreed to send us donations for our gourd festival are:

Welburn Gourd Farms

Del Rio Botanical

The Canning Shop

Blue Whale Arts

Turtle Feathers

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Gourd Art Tip by Sue Kostka

If you use a hand painted sealer on your gourd and would like a slight color, just add dye or acrylic paint to the sealer before you paint it on the gourd. This will give you a faint tint of color.

AGS Certified Judge Training

Alan Sweeney will be giving a three - hour class at his home in Caldwell on July 25th for anyone that wants to become a certified judge. Anyone that is interested in competition will find this class very helpful. Even if you do not plan on being a judge at a competition, the class gives you some insight on how to make your own art work better. There is a \$7.12 tuition fee. This is to cover your personalized name tag that will be presented at the end of the class. This class is full of information and Liz and Sue said they were glad they took it. There is an application form on our web site, or you may call Alan at 459-3211 for more information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This is a new announcement that we are doing. If you are a fairly new member and I do not mention your name, it is because I didn't go back far enough in the records; and I am sorry about that.

Welcome to Nedra Denison, Los Lunas, N. M.-
Kristy Dial, La Mesa, Ca .- Larry Kostka,
Caldwell, Id. - Shirley Eastman, Meridian, Id.
Debbie Wilson, Victor, Mt. - Linda and Mike
Brunetti Kuna, Id.- Wayne Cooper, Nampa,
Id. - Joyce Letham, Kuna, Id. - Margaret
Stallknecht, Vale, Or. - Kathryn VanAcker,
White Bird, Id. - Elli Mastropaolo, Eagle, Id.
Elaine Williams, Horseshoe Bend, Id. - And
welcome back to Cindy Barrie, Caldwell, Id.
We would also like to welcome a new
advertiser, MARDI GOURDS. The web site
is www.mardigourds.com

The following e-mail, at the request of Alan Sweeney, was forwarded to all the members with e-mail addresses. I am putting the announcement in the newsletter so all our members can be kept abreast of the status of the Northwest Gourd Festival. We have several members that were disappointed with this outcome. I urge them to join the Washington Gourd Society. This way you will still be able to participate in this venture. I wish the Washington group the best of luck in producing a successful gourd show. Judy

President

Idaho Gourd Society

Caryn,

Yesterday, Saturday, May 2nd The Washington State Gourd Society held their regular meeting. At this time the Board discussed and voted, unanimously, to rescind our offer of having IGS participate in our 2010 festival. This decision was based on many factors and one of them is that your Board and Membership are experiencing a lot of strife and uncertainty. This certainly was not our intent when we invited you to join us in this venture. We truly thought this was going to be a fun, exciting, progressive event, for everyone, that would benefit both states for many years to come. We will be refunding your check in the amount of \$300.00 and wish all of you the best of luck.

Sincerely,

Myrna Grigsby

President

Washington State Gourd Society

Mu Chapter

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**6th ANNUAL GOURD ART FESTIVAL AND
GOURD SALE
MAY 17 & 18, 2008**

Visit our website: www.GourdFarmer.com

New Email address: gleiser@afes.com

Proud member of **AGS, CGS, NMGS and AZGS**

Workshop schedual for 2009

Group I

- March - Beading with wax (Caryn Nicolosi)
- April - Planting (Jessie Newberry) and Stenciled Chalis (Karen Ryker)
- May - Slit weaving (Bev McGaha)
- June - Chip carving (Alan Sweeney)
- July - Picnic @ Liz Meyer's (Potluck)
- August - Scrimshaw (Norma Nelson)
- September - Dot pyrography (Darlene Borchers)
- October - Coiling (Kris McCracken)
- November - Gourd Faire
- December - Christmas Party

IDAHO ARTISTRY IN WOOD SHOW 2010

The woodcrafters are busy planning next year's show already. It will be in a larger building with parking. The date will be moved up to the end of February or the first of March. It did not cost us anything to participate in this show. We did give then a voluntary donation of \$200. I would be willing to chair this show and meet with the wood people. I would like some direction from our members. Think about whether you would like to see our group involved in this again. It is a good opportunity for us to show our art work to the public, and offer it for sale. We did not have a huge turnout this year, but those who attended were amazed with the versatility of the humble gourd and the skill of the artists. We will ask for a vote if we would like to continue to participate in this event at the picnic in July.

Kristy Dial Update

You might remember the beautiful horse gourd that was pictured in the last newsletter. She has a trip planned to the Boise area in September. She would be able to do a class on her horse gourd or other techniques like wax resist, raku, glass inlay or carving. You may e-mail her at geckgourds@cox.net to let her know your interests. The date has not been established yet. The price of Kristy's class would be \$55.00 (this includes the horse hair, metal inlay and patina paints). Please watch the web site for further information on this. It will also be announced at the regular meetings when we have a firm date and time.

KIDS AND GOURDS!

Many thanks to Jessie Newberry (this issue's featured artist) for donating gourds to the Foothills School of Arts and Sciences, Early Learners Program. The kids (three and four years old) had a great time designing and painting their birdhouses! They can't wait to see if birds will nest in their creations.



Thanks to Kris McCracken for the article on her grandson's school project. A big thanks to Jessie Newberry for the donation of the gourds. It looks like they were a big hit with the kids.

Featured Artist: Jessie Newberry

Jessie is one of our members that have been with us almost from the first meeting of the Idaho Gourd Society. The club was founded in 1998 and Jessie joined the club in 1999. She grew her first big gourd garden in 2001. She was one of the first area growers. She now sells a lot of gourds. Most of her customers are from word of mouth; however, she even sends some out of state. The fall harvest runs from 1000 to 3000 gourds. One year she had around 1500 in just penguin gourds. She grows all varieties. Jessie or her cows (she fertilizes with cow manure) are responsible for some of the biggest gourds grown in this area. The blue ribbon for largest gourd always goes to Jessie when we have our fall gourd festival. Her garden is a little behind this year. We had an unfortunate event this spring - a really late frost killed the gourds. However, Jessie is not a person to be stopped so she has replanted the entire garden.

Jessie is one of our more prolific artists. As a small child, Jessie was interested in drawing and used the only tools available - a pencil. She has progressed a long way from those days. Jessie is very active in giving gourds away. In the last four months, she has made and given away 33 gourd pigs and 20 necklaces, made from gourds, to the boys and girls at her church. Everyone at the Star Café has a name tag made out of a piece of gourd compliments of Jessie. She does sell a few of her finished gourds but keeps her prices really low. Her joy is in doing the gourds and sharing them. She creates a lot of fantasy critters along with the pigs. She does bird houses and shingles the roofs with gourd seeds. Jessie recently made a harp from a gourd. The one thing that Jessie does not lack is imagination. You will appreciate her imagination when you view the pictures below.

Jessie has been manning the entry table for years at our fall festival. I have had the pleasure of working with her for several of those years. This year she agreed to be the chairman for the event. Thanks, Jessie, we appreciate you.



Jessie has gourds stuffed in every nook and cranny of her farm. You can see the large variety of sizes and shapes. You could spend all day finding just the "right" gourd.



At the top left is a gourd Jessie will never part with. Her late mother made the hat and cape for the goose. This makes it one of those priceless gourds.

As you can see from the picture below the goose, Jessie grows some huge zucca gourds. At the top right is one of Jessie's fantasy creatures.

Below that is the harp Jessie made. You can not see the harp strings in the picture.



Top left are some more of Jessie's critters. They are one of her famous pigs and a turtle.

Below and to the right of the critters are some ethnic and southwest pieces.

The last picture shows the garden area where the second crop is just coming up after the bad frost. The club would not be the same without Jessie's smiling face.



14th Annual Lone Star State Festival Fredericksburg, Texas

Held at the Gillespie County Fairground in the Pedernales River Valley of the Texas Hill country. Workshops, Demos, Judged Competition and Kid's Kraft Korner. Visit

www.TexasGourdSociety.org

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor - Judy Pritchard

Contact - atlatlist@sitestar.net

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The newsletter is published four times a year.

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Meridian, Idaho 83642

The copy for the ad should be sent to:

Judy Pritchard

3974 Lena Ave.

Boise, Idaho 83713 or

atlatlist@sitestar.net

This is your newsletter so all articles are welcome. If you have a favorite technique to share, please send it to Judy at the above address or e-mail.

A big thank you to my secret helper. Without her constant vigilance as to my spelling and punctuation, the readers would see just how inadequate my education really was.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2009

President Caryn Nicolosi

Vice President Sue Kostka

Secretary Joan Lynk

Treasurer Karen Ryker

Director Sherry Grant

Director Veletta Murphey

Director Dee Smart

We have two directors that are not voted for. They are appointed by the Board of Directors. They are:

Chris Peters - web page master

Judy Pritchard - newsletter editor

Announcement from the Editor

You may have noticed in the past newsletters I have usually put in an opportunity for anyone interested in the job of editor to please let me know. To this date, I have received zero interest. SURPRISE! I am retiring! Sorry to leave the club without a newsletter editor, but I know someone will step up and fill the position. My husband and I travel so much that it has become just too much of a job for me. It has been a real pleasure to bring you the news. (Well, if you really know me, you know that last statement was stretching it a bit). I have always been vocal about my dislike for computer work plus the fact something is wrong with my computer. (I could not get any of the fancy banners into the text this time). I really appreciate my secret helper (Kris McCracken) who took the raw words from me and made it a work of art with no errors. She really wanted to remain anonymous, but now everyone knows who you are. Thanks a million! I will make CDs for the person that takes over. They will include the front page, last page and cover sheet. I also have the updated e-mail list and the address list of those that do not have e-mail. That should make it somewhat easier for the next editor. If anyone is interested in this position, please call Caryn Nicolosi at 459-2041 or Sue Kostka at 455-1362 to let them know.

Idaho Gourd Society
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