

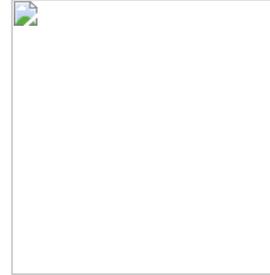


Arizona Gourds

August updates from the desert southwest...

Welcome to the August issue of the Arizona Gourds newsletter!

ALS Fundraiser Results Thank you to everyone that supported this good cause with their donation to the ALS Association. Through the generosity of so many, a donation of \$775 will be used for ALS research! The lucky winner of the raffle drawing is **Diane Calderwood** of Newport Beach, California! I will be mailing her the gourd along with some additional bonus gourd supplies.



Thank you to all that purchased raffle tickets:

*Iris Durand, Joy Huggins, Sylvia Marson, Doreen Peterson, Annie Pratt, Susan Sullivan, Geri Bishop, **Betty Younker**, Judy Richie, Marianne Barnes, **Ray Davis**, Sylvia Hendrix, Nancy Jackson, **Russ Conley**, Dorothy Fackler, Janie Calamia, Rita Heller, Vicki Pleinis, Bette Frost, Dagmar Marrero, Patty Sorensen, Diane Calderwood, **Donna Rosatini**, **Sue Harkness-Williams**, Cheryl Harding, Robynn Bell, **Sandra Hutchins**, Irma Brewer, Phyllis Sickles, Abby Rankin, Tom DeMoss, Karey Karam, Terri LaBrosse, Linda Womble, Barb Larkum, Sue Brogdon, Susan Carle, Wanda Ryckman, Lyn Brown, Erich Munkeinbeck, Amber Jennings, Irene Oliphant, Dee Pfeiffer, Renee Mezzone, Barbara Johnson, Ralph Gurule, Vi Lancione, Gene Kelly, Alison Kumataka, Arlene Hibben, Sandy Younker-Hellman and After Midnight Rubber Art Stamps.*

**Names in BOLD donated at least \$25 or more!*

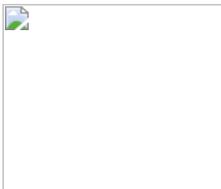


The drawing was held at our local Tucson gourd patch meeting. Phyllis Sickles stirred the pot thoroughly before drawing the winning name. (Yes, that's me on the right, telling her to be sure to only pull one name!)

What's new on the [Arizona Gourds](#) website?

I'm always looking for new and exciting things to use with my gourds. Sometimes this search leads me into new directions - see the article below for my take on "crossover art". This month I've added new [dichroic glass and turquoise](#) and other embellishments that can really add some zing to your gourds. I've found that adding a few turquoise cabochons to a gourd can increase the perceived value of the gourd and will make it sell faster than similar gourds without the added embellishments. I also added a few pieces of wirewrapped jewelry made with dichroic glass - these were made as examples for my recent glass fusing class.

I've added some new items on the ["Embellishments"](#) page - check there for inlaid shells, buffalo teeth and painted and carved bone feathers.



Update: Gourd Classes

Only a few spaces remain in my **Faux Basketry** class in November. **New Fused Glass and Coiling Classes** added in November! (Visit the [Classes](#) page for descriptions of each class.) Please send me an [email](#) if you want to register.



Gourders: The Ultimate "Crossover Artists"?

Over the course of the last 10 years that I've been doing gourds, I've discovered that most gourders (including myself) are what I would call "crossover artists".

Have you ever visited with one of your gourding friends, only to discover that you both also share a passion for (*insert your own hobby here!*) - egg crafting, stamping, crocheting, beadworking? It seems that most of us have arrived at gourd crafting in a round-about way. We have tried other crafts and hobbies - discarding a few and keeping a few that we enjoy. The beauty of gourds is that because they are so versatile in what you can create and techniques that you can use, that they are the perfect hobby for people that have tried almost everything else!

Over the years, I've dabbled in just about every type of craft I could possibly try. For about 20 years, I had a small cottage industry creating and selling dollhouse scale miniatures. The photo to the right shows one of my earliest gourd/miniature combo project - which was a great way to combine my interest in miniatures with my new found gourd passion.



Another hobby of mine was scrimshaw on ivory and bone. While I haven't tried etching designs directly into a gourd, I've occasionally inlaid pieces of scrimshaw into a gourd design, or added it to antler gourd stands.



The antler that holds this gourd has a small scrimshaw turtle with a turquoise shell inlaid into the antler knob.

Right: A combination of scrimshaw and miniatures - a dollhouse sized scrimshaw "Whale's Tooth".



Another interest was kaleidoscopes. Of course, I felt compelled to try my hand at gourd kaleidoscopes - combining small kaleidoscope kits with small gourd shells.

Woodcarving was another of my favorites - I bought my first good woodburner 25 years ago so that I could burn feather barbs on duck decoys. Woodcarving is the one skill that has benefited me most in gourds. The same techniques and skills that are used on wood are also great for gourds. Woodcarving is still one of my favorite things, so in the last few years I've been combining small carved birds into my gourd compositions.



Basketry is another hobby that goes well with gourds. Pine needles and reed can both be used.



I think you can see the pattern emerging here - there are ways to combine almost any other craft or hobby with gourds! Last month, our featured tutorial was from an artist that combined stained glass and gourd. In previous newsletters I've shown how I use similar designs on both gourds and ostrich eggs. Whatever skills you have or hobbies you enjoy, there is probably a way you can combine them with your next gourd project. Do you have a box of old rubber stamping



fabric, beading supplies, or macrame cords? Instead of putting these items into your next garage sale, consider the ways that you can turn your old supplies and past interests into new gourd creations. Got a great idea for combining crafts? Send me a photo of your finished piece and I'll publish some of the best designs in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Special Feature - Artist: Diane Calderwood

*(*No funny business here, this article was written long before Diane won the ALS gourd raffle drawing!!)*

As a special feature for this month, I'd like to share the art of another "Crossover Artist". Diane has been a student in some of my classes, and does beautiful gourds. In fact, a carved gourd of hers recently won first place in the Professional Handcrafters Division at the Orange

County (California) Fair, and she had several ribbon winners at the California Gourd Society competition held at the Welburn Gourd Festival in June. On my recent trip to California, I had a chance to see some of Diane's other art work. Diane makes terrific rope baskets out of retired rodeo lariats!

Diane Calderwood is a self-taught artist who has been working with gourds for more than ten years. What started out as a hobby turned into a small craft business to earn some extra money while she stayed home with her daughter. About six years ago, Diane started teaching a variety of gourd classes at Piecemakers Country Store in Costa Mesa, California. Her love of gourds combined with her enthusiasm and willingness to share her ideas have made her classes very popular, and she will be a featured artist and teacher at the 2007 Los Angeles County Fair. Along with teaching and selling her artwork, her gourds have also won many awards. Five years ago, Diane became intrigued with Cowboy Rope Art. She began making and selling her baskets in Southern California where they have been well received and also award winners. You can contact Diane at mountainwind@sbcglobal.net or check out her current classes at www.piecemakers.com.



Cowboy rope baskets



"Sea Sisters"
1st Place,
Professional
Handcrafters
Division
Orange County
Fair, CA



Some of Diane's gourds.



Epilogue: Diane graciously taught me how to make rope baskets - here is my first!

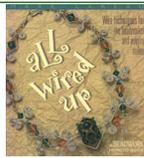
Tip of the Month - Waxed Linen Thread Color Reference

This month our tip comes from Susan Vyskocil of the SE Texas Gourd patch in Houston, Texas. Susan recently started trying her hand at gourd art, and is currently working on adding waxed linen coiling on the rims. After ordering various colors of waxed linen, she was having great difficulty selecting combinations for each project. She tried using a sample card but that didn't help much, as the color combinations she wanted to try were too far apart on the card (and way too small) to get a good idea of what they would look like together. Then, she tried holding the spools together but still wasn't happy. Finally, she came up with wrapping the linen on bamboo skewers (used for cooking) and it worked great!! It gives her a better "visual" of what the finished product might look like, and the wrapped skewers are just about the same size as the wrapped core that she is using on her gourds. Small dowels should work just as well. She has written the names of the colors on each skewer for easy reference.



**Do you have a tip, tutorial or other idea we can feature here? Please [contact me](#).*

This contemporary piece is a bit of a departure from my normal style. This is a small cannonball gourd embellished with bone discs and hematite beads. The lid is an added piece from another gourd with a chopstick handle and a couple of bone beads.



[All Wired Up](#)
by Mark Lareau



[Innovative Adornments](#)
by Jane Persico

Here are two books for all of the budding "crossover artists" that are also interested in fused glass and jewelry making.

All Wired Up has great wirewrapping and jewelry techniques for beginners, and using gourd shards instead of cabochons is one way to incorporate more than one hobby passion into your life.

Despite mixed reviews on Amazon, my recent students liked **Innovative Adornments** for the combination of fusing information and wirewrapping techniques. This was the first fusing/jewelry book I purchased and found it to be a valuable resource.

If you find this interesting, you'll enjoy the Fall issue of "The Gourd", the publication of the [American Gourd Society](#). The fall issue's crafting contest features gourd jewelry.

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<http://www.arizonagourds.com/Aug07.html>

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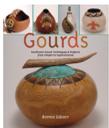


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