



YOU HEARD IT THROUGH THE GOURD VINE

CHANNEL ISLANDS GOURD SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA AND AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETIES

Visit our website at
www.channelislandsgourdsociety.com

FEBRUARY 2011

Presidents Message

Hi Everyone,
First of all I would like to thank all of you who volunteered to chair a committee for this year. We have some really good members with great leadership qualities that will make CIGS a success with our up-coming activities. There are still a couple vacancies I hope to fill soon.

Don't forget that Elsie will demo a beaded pin this month and all who signed up will go home with a nice finished piece. She might even have enough supplies for a few who missed the Jan. meeting, so come join the fun.

Have you all got your coyote gourd project ready for show and tell? What kind of imagination will we see come of this first challenge? Will it be whimsical, dramatic, plain or elaborate? If you enjoyed this project please let me know as we have several more planned for this year and are always open to suggestions and ideas. Thanks ahead of time for your participation, I am anxious to see what everyone created.

Keep in mind the Leiser Festival is in May and the Welburn Festival is in June, both worth your time and effort to attend. This year will be the last festival for Welburn but they will continue to sell gourds and have some classes on the premises. If you attended the Wuertz Festival in Casa Grande Arizona last week end let us hear about it at the meeting.

The CIGS festival is scheduled for May 7th with Norma Hogan as chairman. She will have a meeting March 8th looking for your suggestions and input, so lets get excited about our involvement in this fun activity and give her lots of help.

Stephanie Staie is chairman for the fair booth this year to be held Aug. 3-11 with a theme of "THE BOUNTY OF THE COUNTY" so lets all give her lots of help and encouragement with this project. The fair booth is a lot of work and your participation is what makes it successful.

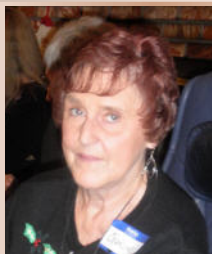
As always don't forget your canned food donation and your empty ink cartridges for Cathy.
See you at the meeting 2/16/11
Happy Gourding
Charlene

February Meeting Demo



At the February meeting I will be showing members how to assemble the above pictured gourd shard pins. If you want to make one of these pins and were not at the January meeting to sign up for which one you'd like to make, please contact me so I can make up a kit for you containing all the supplies needed. Just let me know which pin you want – Doll, dark blue cat face or light colored cat face. **The only 2 things each person must bring are NEEDLE-NOSED PLIERS and an AWL OR LARGE NEEDLE.**

MEET OUR 2011 CIGS OFFICERS



**Charlene Smith
President**

I am a California native born and raised in Santa Paula. I currently live in Ojai in the home we bought in Dec. 1977.

My first experience with gourd art was at a Pow Wow at Lake Casitas. There I met a lovely Native American lady who wood burned animals on a gourd. She was inspired by the natural markings on the gourd, and I was hooked. I bought seeds and grew some gourds with minimal success. Soon after that I found CIGS and have been a member ever since.

I enjoy many different techniques like pyrography, carving, painting and dying methods. New products, festivals, patterns, ideas and techniques are always interesting and there never seems to be enough time to try all of them.

As an officer of CIGS this year I hope to encourage our new members to enjoy this art form, be an active part of our organization, encourage our experienced members to participate in our many activities and mentor our newer members and bring some fun and excitement into our organization.

**Charlene
CIGS President**

Smith



**Anthony Hepton
Vice President**

I was born near Coventry in England, but grew up in Wales. I now live in Lake Sherwood with my wife Estelle.

It all started in the fall 2007, when I participated with the Ventura County Master Gardeners in the pumpkin patch at Faulkner Farm in Santa Paula. The Channel Islands Gourd Society exhibited and gave demonstrations at the event. When it was over, the gardeners offered leftover gourds to the society. Charlene Smith invited about a half dozen of us to their meeting, and then she invited us to her home and showed us the basics. I joined CIGS and took gourd classes at the Moorpark Active Adult Center.

When I found gourds as a medium, I found it was an outlet to my crafting skills and my artistic interests. The other things I have done artistically were related to my gardening more than anything else.

They say I am a constructionist. For me it's a challenge to make it look like the object I want it to be — to have people recognize it as the object before they note it's a gourd. When people recognize the object I feel I have met my goal.

As a child, I enjoyed drawing pictures with crayons, but soon discovered I was colorblind. Because of the colorblindness I did better if I just did pencil. I didn't do a lot in the way of active art. My wife helps me with colors in my gourd art.

I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in horticulture and a doctorate in vegetable crops and plant sciences at Cornell.

My career with Dole took me to Hawaii, the Philippines and San Francisco, then to Thousand Oaks in 1992. I retired in 1999. The gourds and tools are not expensive. But the hours, you can't put a price on the hours. There is a lot of time involved. That is what we who do gourds enjoy — we see the emergence little by little.

Anthony Hepton, Vice President



**Shirley Gorman
Secretary**

Born in Denver and moved to California at age 8. I graduated from High School and Mercy College of Nursing in San Diego. Graduated with a Bachelors in Nursing from Fitchburg State in Massachusetts 30 years later..

I have lived in San Diego, Fairfax, VA., Chile, Uruguay, Fairfax again, Williamsburg, VA., Miami, Boston and finally Ventura.

I retired from my Nursing career here in Ventura. I discovered GOURDS at a Street Fair in Ventura when I picked up a brochure.

Two years after attending my first meeting I had the courage to work on a gourd!

Gourds provide a freedom of imagination as an art medium that is wonderful. They have led the way to the Fair, Festivals, education of public and so on as well as to a whole group of gourd enthusiasts.

**Shirley Gorman
CIGS Secretary**



Elsie Cogswell
Treasurer

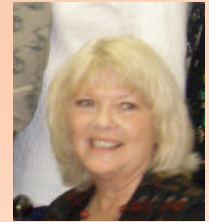
I was born and raised on a farm in Calgary, Alberta. We always planted a large vegetable garden and I continued that tradition after moving to California. When Ray and I bought our home in the Santa Rosa Valley in 1993, I had enough space to plant anything I wanted. I bought a packet of gourd seeds that I saw in a catalog and thought they'd be interesting to grow. I had a bumper crop the first year and at that time had no idea what to do with them.

Several years later I heard about a gourd class being offered at Learning Tree University and I found out what to do with that pile of gourds I had saved. The instructor told me about Pearl Reece and Fern Wesley who were interested in starting a Ventura County Chapter of the California Gourd Society. We had our first meeting in October 1999 at McGrath Farms in Ventura.

I have continued to grow my own gourds. I use a variety of techniques when working with them and always like to try something new and fun. The ideas are endless. In between working on gourds, I like to spend as much time as I can with my family. I have 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandsons.

I would like to see our patch do more group participation projects. We have a wonderful and talented group of artists and we need to keep things interesting and challenging. We can all learn from each other.

Elsie Cogswell
CIGS Treasurer



Cathy Agnew
Director/Editor

“Proud to be an Okie from Muskogee” where I was born and raised. I now live in Moorpark, CA.

In 1988 my husband Wayne and I transferred to California with Rockwell International and in 2003 I retired from the Boeing Company.

I had seen gourd art at the Cherokee Nations Festivals in Tahlequah, OK but never dreamed I would be able to do anything like that.

After we moved to CA Wayne thought it would be fun to try to grow some gourds where we lived in Simi Valley. So we proceeded to plant some seeds and successfully dried about 50 gourds. Well, I drug those gourds around for about 7 years until we moved to Moorpark.

I saw an ad in the newspaper about a “gourd class” at the Active Adult Center and thought this was finally my chance to do something with those gourds. So I called my friend Luana and asked if she wanted to take a gourd class. Her first response was, “what is a gourd class”??

Well, it only took one class and we were hooked. After several months of classes we attended a CIGS meeting and joined the first night.

Besides Wayne, my husband of 47 years, my 2 daughters and their husbands and my 4 grandchildren, I've found that gourds make me happy! I love the natural look & feel of the gourd and since I am 1/8 Cherokee, I love doing Indian art in acrylics and inks. I love learning new techniques like coiling, beading and burnishing, carving and woodburning. I also love teaching gourd projects to children and special needs adults.

I hope that every month at our meetings we can teach our members something new or a new technique to spur the imagination so that we can all grow and improve as artist in whatever form or technique we choose.

Cathy Agnew
Director at Large/Editor



2011 Ventura County Fair August 3-14.

The theme is "The Bounty of the County". Start thinking about those fair entries .

There will be a **Fair Committee Planning Meeting** on **March 8** at Cathy Agnew's house at 12:30 p.m. If interested in helping plan the fair booth please contact Stephanie Staie at stephmft@sbcglobal.net or call 805-231-6176

Upcoming Festivals & Events

Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild
CLASSES IN THE GARDEN
San Diego Botanic Garden
Saturday and Sunday April 30 & May 1, 2011
<http://baskets-gourds.com>.

Channel Islands Gourd Festival
May 7, 2011 on the Clubhouse Grounds
Contact Norma Hogan
n-hogan@usa.net

9TH ANNUAL GOURD ART FESTIVAL
MAY 14TH & 15TH, 2011
GREG LEISER FARMS
21886 Knights Road,
Knights Landing CA 95645
(530) 735-6677
www.GourdFarmer.com

The **final Competition at Welburn Gourd Festival** will be held at Welburn Farms
June 25th and 26th, 2011.

Special Discount for CIGS Members

Tandy Leather on Main Street in Ventura offers a 20% discount to CIGS members who are signed up. I will have a sign up sheet at the February meeting and more information.
Shirley

2011 Proposed CIGS Events

Scheduled Club Events:

May 7

Spring Festival

July 16

Old Time Fiddlers Fiddle Festival

August

Ventura County Fair

CIGS Picnic

October

Faulkner and Underwood Farm Fall Festivals
may extend to McGrath

December

Woodcrafters

CIGS Christmas Party

Collaborative Events

Moorpark Art Show twice a year
Old Time Fiddlers - summer

Outreach Speakers Committee to speak at Garden Club invitations and Assisted Living situations upon invitation.

Outreach Classes Committee to conduct gourd crafting classes for children, seniors & special needs adults upon request.

As outreach coordinator my goal will be to streamline the events we already have. I also hope to reestablish the talks given at Garden Clubs, an easy and fun thing to do. We also need to reestablish our Gourd presence at the County/Private libraries. We need a Chairperson and then volunteers from each City to work with the local library. Cathy as outreach coordinator will be concentrating on outreach to children, seniors and special needs adults.

The events listed are above a nicely spaced and offer a variety of opportunities for member participation or non-participation.

Outreach Coordinator,
Shirley

FOOD SHARE

Remember to bring your non-perishable food items for our food drive.

CIGS January 19, 2011 Meeting

Meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by President Charlene Smith.

Judy Ascheman's sister was introduced as a visitor.

Financial Report was read to members by Treasurer Elsie Cogswell, hard copies of the report were passed out to Board members.

Jan Jones announced a Drum Circle in Thousand Oaks every third Sunday from 2 - 5. Call Jan for information.

Paula Lasiter discussed upcoming classes and workshops: Workshop by Miriam Joy Saturday, March 26 for \$45.00. Class will be from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Elsie's, limited to 12. All materials will be provided with the exception of a gourd. Members will supply their own gourd. Elsie will provide a class for the February meeting, making a Pin. She will provide needed materials.

Chairs for Committees were read to members as follows:

- Club Programs - Paula Lasiter and Helen Howlett
- Advertising - Karen Hibdon
- Festival Chair - Norma Hogan and Janie Knappenberger
- Home Arts Chair - Christine Watte with Arlene Erickson being an alternate
- Picnic Chair - Elsie Cogswell
- Fair Booth Chair - Stephanie Staie

New CIGS Brochures logo was approved. Paula Collins will make necessary changes and Mark Welnak will print new Brochures.

"Gourd Art Enthusiasts" website has monthly challenges so is an interactive gourd site. To find it "Google it".

Challenge to be completed for the February meeting is to create something using 3 Coyote gourds. Gourds were provided.

Show and Tell by members Luana Hunsinger, Norma Hogan, Stephanie Staie, Anthony Hepton, Charlene Smith, and Charlotte Hoyte.

Webmistress, Lisa Toth, was introduced. Reminder to those sending pictures to be posted in the CIGS gallery to please let Lisa know they are from CIGS.

This month's class was presented by Anthony Hepton and involved methods he used to construct a large gourd Tortoise. Raffle was fun and successful.

Submitted by Shirley Gorman, Secretary

Gourd Seed

Secure and test your seed in advance

Get your gourd seeds ready for spring planting early. Winter snow makes spring seem a long way off but it is just around the corner, so it's time to start planning. Most of the last fall's gourds are dried and ready for opening to sort out those seeds that look good and solid. If they are unusually light in color and weight they should be discarded or saved for another purpose. They make lovely decorations on gourds or use them to make necklaces.

If you don't have any dried gourds of your own, perhaps you can buy dried gourds or gourd seeds from someone you know. The Chapters usually have a gourd seed exchange among their members at their spring meeting. Seeds are also sold through "The Gourd", published by the American Gourd Society. There are some seed companies that sell both lagenaria and cucurbita seed. These are all fine methods for getting a star tin gourd or for getting different varieties of gourd seed.

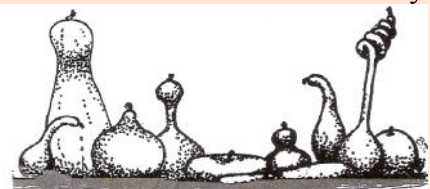
There are two general varieties; Lagenaria & cucurbita. Lagenaria or hard shell varieties include the dipper, birdhouse, caveman's club, dolphin, bushel and many more. They all have a white blossom & are usually a solid green color. The cucurbita or ornamental gourds are generally seen in the stores in the fall. Examples of this variety are spoon, egg, pear, warties, apple and many other shapes with great variation of color. Their blossoms are yellow.

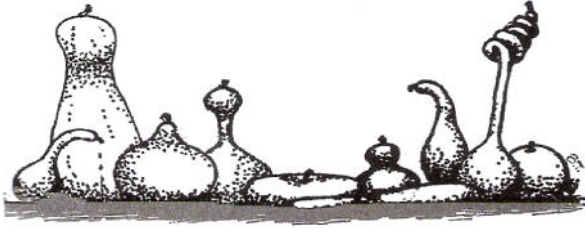
Test the seed you save. Testing will save many disappointments. How often have you watched and waited for your gourds to show their first two leaves but waited in vain because your seeds did not germinate? By the time you realize you have a problem, it is too late to replant and expect to get mature gourds by fall. Testing is very easy and rewarding. Place about 6 seeds from each gourd that you want to test on a piece of old bath towel, other heavy cloth or several layers of paper toweling. Cover the seeds with more of the same material and keep moist and warm. After two or three days some should be sprouting, others may take longer. At least eighty percent germination (eight out of ten seeds) is necessary to assure a good percentage of seedlings. Gourd seed can also be soaked in water for one or two days before planting to hasten germination. When planting directly into the ground seed should be planted close together. It is better to have too many plants & thin them out rather than have few or no plants because of poor germination.

Planting time in Ohio where we live is late April or late May. Adjust the planting time for your local accordingly. If fall frost come earlier than late September in your area, it may be wise to start hard shells in pots as they take longer to mature than the ornamental. One very satisfactory method we have used is to fill a large pan with peat. Place the pre-germinated seeds far enough apart so that when you are ready to transplant to the garden a scoop of peat may be lifted up with the seedlings, being careful not to break the root ball. The pan should be kept in full, open sunshine so they become acclimated. It may be covered with glass or other material on cold days and at night if there is a frost danger. Several weeks of valuable time may be gained by using this method. The plants become very sturdy & will continue to grow without the usual transplanting setback.

If wonder & excitement are your purpose for growing gourds, mix several types of hard shell or ornamental seeds and watch for the results. You will get beautiful shapes & sizes that you have never seen before & may never see again. If hand pollination is practiced, it does not matter if the gourds are grown together. It is fun to think that you may have produced some new and unusual gourds; something different. This is one of the many attractions of growing gourds in your garden!

By Mrs. O.C. Stevens
Mrs. Leslie Miller
Copied from the American Gourd Journal





It's time to **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES**. You don't want to miss out on what's goin' on in the Gourd Society. So please, pay Elsie at the next meeting or mail a check for \$25.00 (\$30.00 for a family membership) payable to Channel Islands Gourd Society to:

Channel Islands Gourd Society
Elsie Cogswell, Treasurer
11030 E. Las Posas Rd.
Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012

January Dues:

Debbie Gutzmann

February Dues:

Judy Ascheman
 Julie Lovejoy
 Suz Rawn
 Cindy Ray

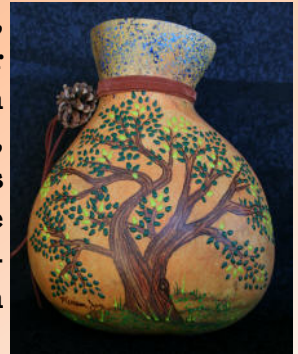
NOTE: It is the policy of the Channel Islands Gourd Society that renewal dues must be paid within 30 days of the month due or the member will be dropped from CIGS membership as well as the California Gourd Society.

Bus trip to Welburn Gourd Festival

If you would be interested in a **day trip** to Welburn Gourd Festival on Saturday June 25, 2011 please contact **Pat Lelie** for more information at **garyandpatlelie@gmail.com** or **805-807-3163** The cost will depend on how many sign up to go and how big of a bus they have to charter. The bus will leave around 8:00 a.m. and return that evening around 8:00 p.m.

Workshop **March 26, 2011**

Workshop by Miriam Joy, Saturday, March 26 for \$45.00. Class will be from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Elsie's, limited to 12. All materials will be provided with the exception of a gourd. Members will supply their own gourd.



Miriam heats crayon and then uses a kistka, which is a Ukrainian egg tool, and pours it onto the gourd. The gourd does not absorb the melted crayon wax, which creates a type of three-dimensional bas-relief design.

For more information & to sign up contact Paula Lasiter at paula_c_lasiter@hotmail.com or call 805-708-5800



Outreach Opportunity **ARC of Simi Valley**

CIGS has been invited to do a class for the folks at ARC of Simi Valley again. This is a day facility for special needs adults. They love having the gourd society come and do projects with them.

The date is Feb. 25 at 10:00. The facility is located at 5143 Cochran Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063 It's just off of Stearns and the 118 on Cochran.

If you would like to participate in this fun opportunity to share your love and talent for gourds, please contact Cathy Agnew at **themimi@roadrunner.com** Or call **805-796-1612**. You will definitely receive a blessing!!

Channel Islands Gourd Society
Elsie Cogswell, Treasurer
11030 E. Las Posas Rd.
Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012

YOU HEARD IT THROUGH

“THE GOURD VINE”

CHANNEL ISLANDS GOURD SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2011

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 16 CIGS monthly meeting. Demo by
Elsie - Gourd Shard Pin
- Feb. 25 ARC of Simi Valley Class 10:00
Contact Cathy Agnew to help
805-796-1612
- Mar. 8 Fair Booth Committee Meeting
If interested in helping Contact
Stephanie Stait 805-231-6176
- Mar. 26 Miriam Joy Workshop At Elsie's
See info on page 7

Channel Islands Gourd Society is dedicated to the education and instruction of those persons interested in the culture, use, history, horticulture and/or crafting of gourds.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Valley Community Clubhouse 11701 E. Las Posas Road, Santa Rosa Valley (Camarillo) CA

For more information contact:

**President: Charlene Smith, 805-649-9868 or
ojairedhead@hotmail.com**

**VP. Anthony Hepton
heptonpac@aol.com**

**Editor: Cathy Agnew 805-796-1612 or
themimi@roadrunner.com**