



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

JUNE 2011

Presidents Message

It's a busy time for all of us and I want to thank all members who are helping Stephanie with the fair projects. She is doing a fantastic job of organizing and delegating such a big job. Stephanie can use all the help we can give her so if you haven't volunteered yet please do so soon. There is plenty of projects for everyone.

In case you missed my e-mail there will not be a printed fair book this year. We will have to go on-line for all the information. I hope this does not discourage any of you from entering the competition in the home arts building. It is just one more way we are moving on into the world of electronics.

I am happy to report we now have a beautiful gourd, 16 inches in diameter from the Wuertz gourd farm for our next collaborative club progressive project. This will be similar to the progressive gourd we did several years ago and we need your ideas. If you have a suggestion or idea for a theme or design bring it to the meeting this month and we can decide on how to precede.

While at the Leiser gourd festival I chose and brought back gourds for our Sept. challenge. This challenge will be a doll or figure of your choice. Any design is acceptable and the category is not limited to human interpretation. This project will not be collaborative, it is yours from start to finish and I can only imagine the variety we will have.

There is still time to contact Pat Lelie (805-807-3163) or the Moorpark Senior Center to secure your seat on the bus for the final gourd festival a Welburn Gourd Farm June 25th. This is a good way to go if you don't want to drive, and are not taking classes. This is an excellent place for our new members to find supplies and ideas. The gourd competition is always reason enough to make a day trip to the farm and see what other gourd artists are doing. The bus fee includes your entry into the festival and will return to Moorpark in the late afternoon.

At our June 15th meeting we are scheduled to have Mathew Woodward as our featured speaker. Mathew is the Moorpark Ninja and teaches self defense and safety, something we can all benefit from.

As always don't forget empty ink cartridges for Cathy and non perishable foods for food share. You did a really good job last month with three grocery bags of food going to the needy. See you at the meeting.

Charlene

Annual Gourd Festival



Norma Hogan, Chairman of the Gourd Festival, manning the raffle booth. There were some really great items in the raffle besides the wonderful gourds donated by our members.

(More pictures on page 2)

Gourd Class @ ARC Simi Valley



Pat Barbour works with one of the students at ARC during a class on May 20 in Simi Valley.

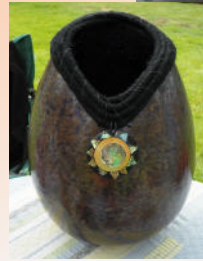
CIGS Annual Gourd Festival

The Annual Gourd Festival was once again a very successful event for CIGS. The Clubhouse grounds is the perfect place for our festival. Chairman, Norma Hogan and her committee did a great job of organizing, setting up the grounds and providing entertainment and vendors for the enjoyment of our members and the people who attended the festival.

Norma reported that we made \$200 on the raffle, \$157 on selling the raw gourds and \$80 on the pens that were sold in Elsie's booth. Everyone who had a booth sold something so it was a good day for everyone.

Anthony demoed on the porch and Pat Lelie and Charlene conducted demos inside the clubhouse. Eileen and Huei-Mei worked inside the clubhouse with the Display Gourds which were an excellent example of the talent in our patch. Fern & Pearl manned the information booth. Janie, Tammy and Stephanie worked at the kids craft table. Arline conducted the raffle.

The Santa Clara River Bottom Boys provided some great music and a sound system. I think we had some handy husbands who also helped out with putting up signs and setting up tents and we all really appreciate the muscle. So with all these folks hard work and our vendors and members who set up their booths we had a very successful day!



The Ninth Annual Greg Leiser Farms Gourd Art Festival and Sale

Elsie Cogswell

The Ninth Annual Greg Leiser Farms Gourd Art Festival and Sale, held on May 14th and 15th, was a huge success, thanks to hosts, Greg and Mary Leiser and the California Gourd Society. Visitors came from all parts of California as well as other states to enjoy the festivities.

Many attendees who were unfamiliar with what can be done with gourds couldn't believe their eyes. 26 vendors featuring over 100 artists, showcased and sold their gourd art. The quality of the gourd art was the best I ever seen. There were ongoing demonstrations, live entertainment, a children's crafting area, raw gourds for sale, plus The Third Annual Northern California Gourd Art Competition, sponsored by CGS.

For several years, Billie Pass from Moorpark, a talented gourd artist, has been painting a horse, free of charge, on any gourd purchased at the farm. This was very popular with the children as well with adults, as they learn first how to clean a gourd.

Sixty-eight gourds were entered in the Third Annual Northern California Gourd Art Competition sponsored by the California Gourd Society. The quality and beauty of these gourds was impressive.



Someone has a great imagination!!!



This is the backside of a gourd musical instrument. Very NICE.



Charlene and Elsie took these classes.



These gourds were done by the kids and were a hanging display at the festival.

For the fourth year, 160 students, K-8th grade, from the Robbins School, held their Gourd Art Competition. Each student received a CGS participation ribbon, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place ribbons. Jill Walker and Betty Finch were this year's judges. These students also had a booth selling desserts with all proceeds going to the school. The popular Childrens Gourd Crafting area benefited the Knights Landing Childrens Cooperative program.

CIGS Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2011

Meeting brought to order by Charlene Smith, President, at 7:00 pm

New members announced – Donna Perry and Shelly Loving

Visitors – Three visitors who learned about CIGS Patch from attending the Festival, no names were given. Two other visitors were Lucy Dodge and Joann.

Leiser Festival report – Charlene Smith and Elsie Cogswell attended. They spoke of classes they took as well as the unique gourds on display. While at the Festival, Gloria Crane offered to give our Patch a class. Pictures of 5 Gloria Crane finished gourds to choose from for a future class were passed for members to view and place a mark by the gourd of their choice.

Treasurer report – Elsie Cogswell. Routine report except there was a payment for a broken sprinkler that occurred during the Festival.

Patch Leader Meeting report – Elsie Cogswell. CIGS is the largest Patch in California. The Golden Gourd is requesting articles for October and several people agreed to send articles, good response. Welburn Festival was discussed and this will be the last year for the Festival. Welburn will have cash prizes this year. Membership dues will be due in January for everyone. A payment transition will be in effect for this change. Patch Leader meeting plus festival will be in April next year. CAGS project for Patches is to make a large basket from a gourd and members will decorate eggs (small gourds) to be placed in the basket. The basket with eggs will then be raffled at next years Patch Leader meeting/Festival meeting. More information will be in the Golden Gourd.

Festival Report – Norma Hogan. There were about 150 visitors. Sales were good in spite of the general feeling that there were fewer people attending than last year. The food served by the Food Vendor was viewed as good. Mac, tool vendor, had good sales. Tandy Leather wishes to participate next year. The Bead Vendor made sales to pay booth fee which was \$35.00. Lastly, CIGS will need seed packets to be given away at next years Festival.

Farm Day – Norma Hogan. Farm Day will be held on June 1 from 8:15 – 12:30 with Janie Knappenberger and Shirley Gorman participating. It will be held at a Los Primeros elementary school in Camarillo for grades K – 5. Janie has prepared packets of soil and has seed for the children for planting.

Fair Report – Stephanie Staie. The focus of the booth is the top 10 crops and ocean life. More gourds are needed and there are 3 deadlines for bringing them in. The deadlines will be at CIGS meetings on June 15 and July 29 and the day the booth is set up. We will be doing a project for children so chards are needed. Also needed is used paint in spray or can as well as baskets for produce made from gourds. The next Fair booth meeting will be June 11 from 3-5 at Cathy Agnew's. On July 9 at Cathy Agnew's we will meet to make "rocks". Newspaper will be need for this project.

Future Classes – Paula Lasiter. Kendra Jacqua, daughter of Camille King, will give a class on May 29 from 9 – 4 at Camille's home. Lunch and beverages will be provided. The gourd for the class was viewed last month. Camille will provide the gourds cleaned and ready use. Paint will also be provided. Irene Zanut will provide a polymer clay class, no date set. Irene will provide all the "stuff" except the clay. The project will be one in which we gain all the skills needed for polymer clay work. Kristy Dial will give a class in July, project to be chosen and date set at a future time. Gloria Crane will give a class in October, see description under Leiser Festival report. Date has not been set.

Fiddler's Festival – Cathy Agnew. July 16 at Constitution Park in Camarillo from 9 – 6. Cathy Agnew will email application form and flyer. Each booth will pay \$20 to participate. Vehicles cannot be taken across the lawn for unloading.

Living History Day – Karen Hibdon. Saturday, June 18 at Strathan History Park. Can show and tell gourds. Let Karen know by next week if interested in participating.

October Farm Festivals – Anthony Hepton. Passed a sign-up sheet for participation at Faulkner and Underwood Farms. Early sign-up to determine interest.

Show and Tell – One collaborative gourd that had not been shown. Paul Lasiter showed a gourd decorated with melted crayon. She may do a demo or a class.

Submitted by Shirley Gorman, Secretary

California Women for Agriculture (CWA) Annual Farm Day

By Janie Knappenberger



California Women for Agriculture hosted their annual Farm Day , June 1, at Los Primeros Elementary School in Camarillo, California. There were 27 vendors at the event, farmers, livestock owners, and such. This year The Channel Islands Gourd Society was invited to join as part of our Outreach Program to the local community.

Shirley Gorman, Outreach Coordinator for CIGS, and Janie Knappenberger, past Coordinator participated in sharing the history, horticulture and crafting of gourds. Eighteen groups of students; 317 total children and 54 adults experienced how CIGS's networks with the community. Students were introduced to how we have used gourds throughout our history and their purposes in our lives. The students witnessed gourds straight from the fields to creation of various utilitarian, musical, ceremonial and decorative crafts.

Each class was presented with a kit for starting gourd plants. Some students also participated in the "what do you know about gourds" game and won additional gourd items for crafting.

This event was very educational for the children and their teachers, and is why this event is so popular around our county. CWA's goal is to promote awareness of the connection between the produce we grow and the animals we nurture, and just how they effect our daily lives.

Channel Islands Gourd Society has already been invited back for next year's event!!

Living History Day Strathearn Historical Park in Simi Valley

By Karen Hibdon

Hi all,

Debbie Gutzman and I are planning to participate in the June 18 Living History Day at Strathearn Historical Park in Simi Valley. They plan to have Yesteryear dancers, Civil War and cowboy re-enactors, horseshoer, kids crafts and games, tours of historical buildings and a display of "sewcranky" crank sewing machines. So.... why not gourds?

This is a display and demo and so we plan to show uncleaned gourds to a finished product. In keeping with the theme of yesteryear, I'm hoping we can entice some of you who might have musical instruments, ladles, bowls, flasks, canteens or purses, etc. to either join us or consider letting us use your pieces for the display.

In order to respond via email to Karen regarding Living History Days in Simi Valley, email Karen at kmhJubilee@roadrunner.com.

Ventura County Fair

AUGUST 3 - 14, 2011



Everything you ever wanted to know about the Ventura County Fair is on line this year. You can register on line at venturacountyfair.org Go to 2011 Home Art Guide to get all the rules and divisions. Gourds are on page 15. They have the on line entry process which should make things easier when we go to turn our gourds in. This may be a challenge for some of you but I think if you print out the instructions before you start it will be easier to complete the registration information.

WHEN TO ENTER

Arts & Crafts, Clothing & Textiles and Preserved Foods
Friday, July 22, Saturday, July 23, & Sunday, July 24, 2011
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

GOURDS

DIVISION 551 – CARVED

DIVISION 552 – COILING &/OR PINE NEEDLE RIMS

DIVISION 553 – DECORATIVE PAINTED

DIVISION 554 – MIXED MEDIUM

DIVISION 555 – PYROGRAPHY BURNED

DIVISION 556 – STAINS & DYES

DIVISION 557 – PROFESSIONAL, ANY MEDIUM

Class

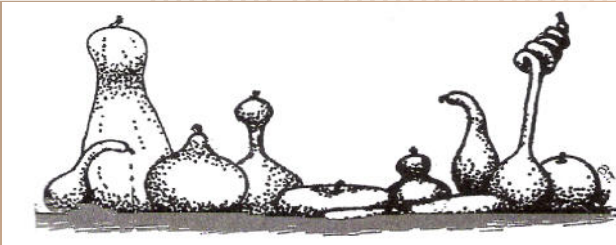
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Animal | 10. Jewelry |
| 2. Basket | 11. Lidded container |
| 3 Bird Feeder/ Bird House | 12. Mask |
| 4. Bowl | 13. Musical instruments |
| 5. Dream Catcher | 14. Native American Design |
| 6. Fair Theme | 15. Original Design |
| 7. Figurine | 16. Utility |
| 8. Holiday items | 17. All other |
| 9. International Designs | |

Every year at the fair CIGS has a demo table set up in the Home Arts Bldg and also do demos at our decorated booth in the Ag Bldg. If you would like to participate and do demos or just sit and man the booths and answer questions about gourds please contact:

Arline Erickson for the Home Arts Bldg at chanadwc@yahoo.com
 Stephanie Staie for the Agriculture Bldg at stephmft@sbcglobal.net

If you have never done this before it is a lot of fun and people are really interested in gourds and are amazed at what can be done with them. You can partner up with someone and make it a fun day at the fair.

Also, we need help with setting up our competition fair booth in the Ag Bldg. on July 29th at 9:30. If you can help please contact Stephanie.



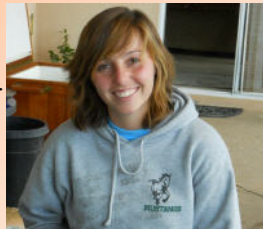
Gourd Shards Needed

We need help from all our members to make shard cut into shapes, flowers, butterflies, whatever you like, for our booths at the Ventura County Fair in the Ag. Bldg. as well as our demo table in the Home Arts Bldg. You can give these shards to Sharon Harvey at any club meeting or at the Moorpark Gourd Class.

Thanks for your help.

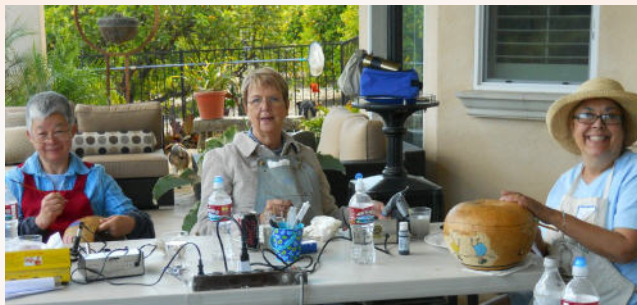
Dancing Ladies Gourd Class

Kendra and her mom Camille taught a "Dancing Ladies" Gourd class on May 29 at their home in Santa Rosa Valley.



CIGS members who took the class were furnished with a cleaned gourd and all the supplies necessary to create their dancing ladies.

We all look forward to seeing the finished Product at our next Meeting!!



CIGS members Huei-Mei, Margo and Paula.

Outreach Program

ARC of Simi Valley



CIGS members held two gourd basket making class at ARC in Simi Valley on May 20. The first class was from 11-12:00. We took a nice lunch break at Baja Fresh got to visit a little then we went back and did a second class from 1-2:00.



I want to thank our volunteers who helped make this a special day for the folks at ARC. They truly appreciate what we do for them and always want to know when we are coming back!!

Those who volunteered their time and talent were Luana Hunsinger, Pat Barbour, Stephanie Staie, Charlotte Hoyt, Karen Hibdon, Gail Sammons and Cathy Agnew.

FOOD SHARE

Remember to bring your non perishable food items to the meeting to be distributed to a local food pantry.

Upcoming Events

The **final Competition at Welburn Gourd Festival** will be held at Welburn Farms
June 25th and 26th, 2011
(see details for bus trip on page 6)

**California State Old Time Fiddlers Assoc.
Fiddle Festival Reunion**

July 16, 2011

**Constitution Park, Camarillo
Booth Space is \$20.00 per booth**

**To reserve a booth contact
Luana Hunsinger @
joe-luanahunsinger@sbcglobal.net
Or 661-513-9000**

CIGS Annual Summer Picnic

Aug. 20

Elsie's house

**Theme Patriotic, RED, WHITE, BLUE
More details later**

Scheduled Demos By Paula Lasiter

Here's what I have scheduled so far for demonstrations at our monthly CIGS meetings:

June 15: Matt Woodward martial arts

July 20: open

August 17: Debbie Guzman carving demo

September 21: open

October 19: Cathy Agnew beaded netting

November 16: open

December: Christmas Party @ Elsie's

I had space for more Gourd Festival Pictures. Don't want to waste one inch of space!!





Hand Pollination of Gourds

Hand Pollination will increase the chance of fruit set

When Lagenaria (hardshell) gourd vines reach a length of about 10 feet or more, they will begin to produce flowers. The delicate white blossoms open only in the late afternoon and evening. Some of these gourd blossoms get pollinated by night flying insects but others are passed by. Hand pollination will increase the chance of fruit set. The fruits will not mature and produce seed unless the female flowers are pollinated.

On every gourd vine there are two easily distinguished kinds of blossoms - **fruited or female and non fruited or male**. The illustrations below will help you distinguish the male and female blossoms. The small gourd fruit is visible beneath the petals of the female fruited blossom. However, Only the no-fruited male blossom produce pollen. This pollen must be transferred by hand to the female fruited blossom.

Take a tiny artists brush and brush it around in the center of the non-fruited blossom. You will see that the yellow pollen adheres to the hairs of the paintbrush. Now carefully transfer this pollen to the fruited blossom by brushing the pollen laden hairs onto the center of the fruited blossom.

It is advisable to try to find a non-fruited blossom on the same vine as the fruited blossom you wish to pollinate, since this often produces healthier fruits and pure seed. If pollination is successful, the fruits will begin to grow; if not the fruits will shrivel and drop off within a few days.

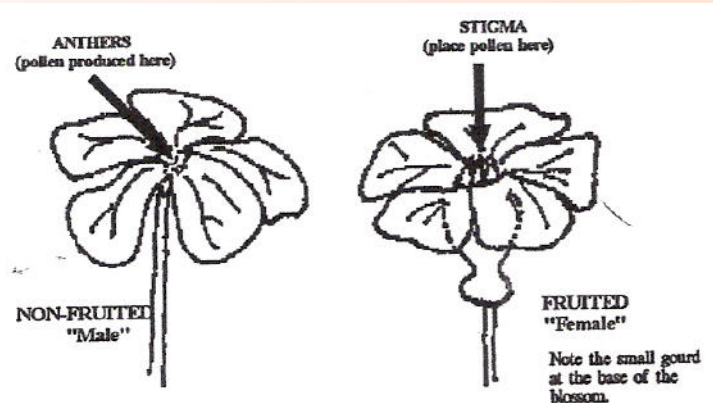
Some growers pick the male flower from the vine and dab the pollen laden blossom onto the female fruited blossom being sure to make a good transfer of pollen.

If you wish to try to establish a pure line of seed for a particular gourd, you may hand pollinate from the same vine early in the morning. Cover a male and female flower on the same vine in the evening before they bloom. A bag or the toe from your nylon hose works well. The bud which will bloom the next morning is full and has more color. In the morning take the male flower from the vine and transfer the pollen to the female. After the transfer, cover the female flower and leave it covered for a day or two. Mark this tiny gourd with a piece of yarn. It will remind you that this gourd was "hand" pollinated and should come true to type.

The yellow flowers of the ornamental gourds bloom during the day and are pollinated naturally by bees. This is fortunate since it would be inconvenient to hand pollinate a large ornamental gourd crop. However, the seeds from the ornamental gourds you grow in your garden should not be expected to breed true since the bees fly indiscriminately from flower to flower and thus cross pollinate many plants.

By Dr. Marilyn Rehm

Copied from American Gourd Society



Transfer pollen from male blossom to the female blossom

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

“THE GOURD VINE”

CHANNEL ISLANDS GOURD SOCIETY

JUNE 2011

YOU HEARD IT THROUGH

Upcoming Events

- June 25-26 Welburn Farms Gourd Festival
June 25 Bus trip to Welburn Farms
contact Pat Lelie
@garyandpatlelie@gmail.com
- July 16 CSOTFA Fiddle Fest. Reunion
Reserve your booth space now
- Aug. 20 CIGS Annual Picnic @ Elsie's
Theme patriotic red, white & blue

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
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