



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

MAY 2011

Presidents Message

Hello Everyone,
The month of May and wonderful weather is finally here. Those of you who grow gourds are out there tending your plants and planning for the harvest in the fall.

The rest of us are busy with the CIGS festival and working hard on the fair projects. We also have the CIGS pic-nic coming up so there is plenty to keep our hands busy. May also brings the Leiser Festival in Knights Landing May 14-15th and I hope some of you will be attending. In June the final Welburn gourd festival will take place June 25-26th. If you have never attended this festival you really should try. There is a bus trip planned leaving from Moorpark Sat. 25th for those who don't want to drive. Contact Pat Lelie for further information.

We were a smashing success at the Oxnard library and they wanted us to stay another month, but some of those gourds were scheduled for sale at our festival so we had to decline. There was a really great article in the Ventura County Star about Cathy and her team of outreach helpers and included in the article was a mention of CIGS and our festival. We were also in the newspaper with our display at the Moorpark Senior Center, so we have been very fortunate to have such good exposure lately.

This month is a raffle month, so bring those gourd related items you no longer use or want and share them with someone who can create something elegant. Be sure these are quality items, that have a use with our gourds. Those of you who missed last months meeting please bring your collaborative gourd and return it to the original person who started it. This was a fun challenge and everyone seemed pleased with the results.

Snacks will be provided by this month by Mark, Margo and Camille and we thank them.

Cathy can still use your empty ink cartridges which help pay for the newsletters we must print.

Food share (non perishable items) are still a part of CIGS and greatly appreciated so lets not forget to bring a few cans to the meeting.

(Pres. Message cont. above)

Are you thinking about our team collaborative challenge ? Something on the order of our progressive gourd. I will be bringing a LARGE gourd back from Leisers for this project so lets get a theme or ideas going so we can vote on it and get started. Don't forget your show and tell gourds and I will see you at the meeting 5/18.

Charlene

Moorpark Art Festival



Luana, Charlene, Shelly, Debbie

CIGS Members demo techniques at the recent Moorpark Art Festival. This is the 4th year that CIGS has participated in this event. A big Thank You to Charlene and Elsie for setting up the displays.

Welcome New Members

Dona Perry
11160 Breese Drive
Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012
(805) 491-2102
donaperry@earthlink.net

Shelly Loving
2424 Blanchard
Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012
(805) 443-0037
lovingliferanch@yahoo.com

Moorpark Art Festival 2011

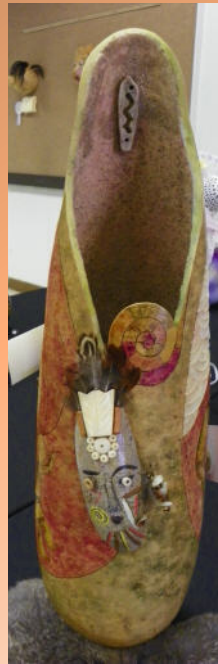
CIGS has been getting a lot of press lately and that's because we are getting more and more involved in Community affairs!! Fifteen or so members participated in the Moorpark Art Festival in April. There were approximately 80 gourds entered in the show.

Elsie and Charlene did a very nice job of setting up the tables to display the gourds so that it looked very professional.

Shirley won 1st Place, Leni won 3rd Place and Debbie Gutzman won honorable mention.

It was a great show and we got some press from the Star in the April 18 edition and they said "Moorpark Arts Festival verdict - 'It's Awesome'". So congratulations to all our members who participated!

If I know the artist on each piece I put their name and I apologize if your gourd is pictured and I didn't get your name on it.



Shirley Gorman



Karen Hibdon



Elsie Cogswell



Debbie Guzmann



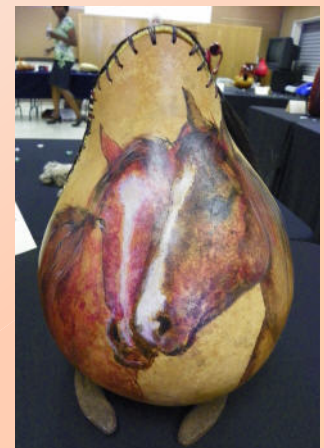
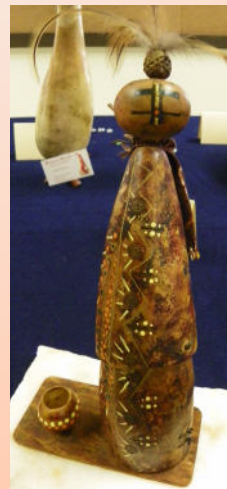
Charlene Smith



Cathy Agnew



Pat Lelie



Luana Hunsinger

Patch Leaders Conference Report

By Elsie Cogswell



Sylvia Nelson,
President of CGS

On April 27-29 I represented CIGS at a Patch Leaders Conference held at the home of Betsy Roberts in La Mesa. Charlene Smith and Anthony Hepton were both unable to attend.

Most of the 22 patches that make up CGS had a representative present. There are currently more than 400 CGS members. **Our patch which numbers 62 members is the largest and probably most active in the state. (Yeah, CIGS!)** It was stressed that all local patch members must be members of CGS. (All of our members are).

CGS and CIGS are switching over to a calendar year. ALL members will next be due on January 1, 2012. (CIGS has 3 members coming due in May and June so they will pay for a year and a half and won't be due again until January 1, 2013).

Other patches were very interested in our gourd festival and it was suggested that we advertise next years festival in the Golden Gourd. We were encouraged to submit more articles for the newsletter.

Lisa Toth is resigning as webmistress of the Golden Gourd and a replacement is being sought. The web site is being revamped.

There will be a gourd festival/patch leaders meeting in Visalia in April 2012. There is a new collaborative project in the works. Each patch represented was given a large gourd that is to be made into a basket.

Each member of every patch is asked to decorate a small gourd that will be placed in the basket. The basket and eggs will be sent to Visalia by March 31, 2012 and will be raffled off at the festival in April. There will be a prize for the best basket. More details will be in the next Golden Gourd newsletter.



Each patch representative was given a supply of tickets to sell for the finished baskets. Winners will be chosen in Visalia in April 2012.

Our patch was given 200 tickets for which I paid \$100. These tickets will be available for CIGS members to purchase for \$1.00 each between now and April 2012. If we sell all 200 tickets, we will keep \$100 for our patch.

April Collaborative Gourds Revealed

In February everyone was issued a challenge to start a gourd and only partially finish it. Then bring that gourd to our March meeting in a "plain brown bag". Each person who brought a gourd then chose a brown bag with someone else's gourd in it and the challenge was to finish something that someone else had started. The finished gourd was then returned to the April meeting and the originator of the gourd got to take home their finished gourd. Wooo, what a challenge. It makes you think differently because you don't know what the first person had in mind for their gourd!!

So here are some of the gourds that were returned to their original owner .



Pat Lelie finished Karen's gourd



Eileen finished Elsie's gourd
And what a story that was!



Huei-Mei finished Margo's gourd



Camille finished Leni's gourd



Karen finished Cathy's gourd

Janie finished this but I don't know who started it.



Camille & Judy's collaboration



Paula finished Charlene's gourd



Tammy finished Anthony's gourd



Margo finished Janie's gourd

CIGS April 2011 Meeting Minutes

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

Visitor introduced - Joan who lives in Ventura

Gourd class by Kendra Jacqua to be given during college break offered by Camille King, Kendra's mother. Class gourd was on display.



Treasurer's Report by Elsie Cogswell

Progressive Gourd project and Doll Challenge introduced by Charlene Smith. Progressive Gourd project was voted against and Doll Challenge postponed until after the Fair.

Seller's Permit discusses by Anthony Hepton. Club will not pursue the permit.

Festival update by Norma Hogan: Karen Hibdon is in charge of publicity, Janie Knappenberger is in charge of the food handler and took a class for Food Organization which was required, Arlene Erickson is in charge of the raffle, Leni Field in charge of collecting donated gourds, Pat Lelie in charge of the clubhouse display, Judy Ascheman in charge of the big canopy. Helen Howlett is providing a collapsible recycle container. Pat Lelie requests that raffle items for donation be brought to Pat the morning of the Festival.

County Fair update by Stephanie Staie. Stephanie will send an email for items needed for the Fair booth. Bring gourds in July that fit into the Fair.

Executive Protection Specialist speaker to speak at a meeting offered by Helen Hewlett. Members are interested. Helen will get more information.

Outreach: Cathy Agnew gave a class at ARC, physically /mentally challenged adults, that was very well received. She plans another class for May 20 and July 22. Times will be announced.

Shirley Gorman and Janie Knappenberger gave a class at Senior Concerns in Thousand Oaks. The seniors loved the display and handling of gourds. The Channel Island Woodcarvers Society hosted a show at Woodcraft that included gourds and Anthony Hepton won first and second place for his tortoise entries.

City of Moorpark hosted an Art Walk that included Gourd Art. Channel Islands Gourd Society winners of ribbons were Debbie Gutzman - Honorable Mention, Lenie Field - third place, and Shirley Gorman - first place.

Charlene Smith will contact Fillmore Senior Center for more information about presenting gourd classes to Seniors at the Center.

Show and Tell - Debbie Gutzman presented her recently completed gourd. The "collaborative gourds were displayed and each person talked about their part of the gourd and the originator of the gourd got to take it home!

Demonstration - Lenie Field demonstrated how to create Epoxy Jewels on gourds. Shirley Gorman demonstrated how to use embossing pen and powder to create a jewel.

Submitted by Shirley Gorman, Secretary

Welburn Farms Bus Trip

Here is the latest info for those who are interested in the very last Welburn Gourd Farm Festival:

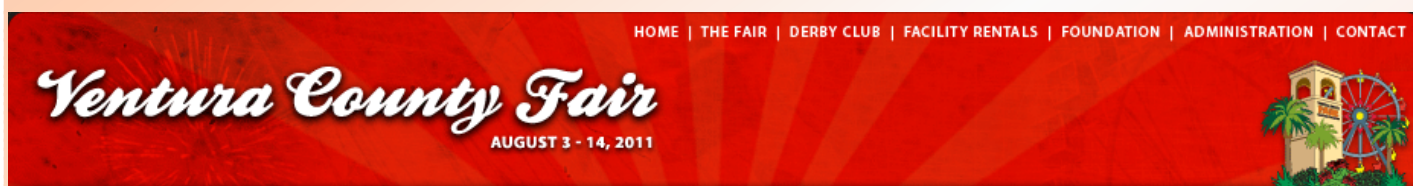
Date: June 25th, 2011
Time: 7:00 AM, from Albertsons parking lot, 475 W. Los Angeles Ave., Moorpark. Corner of LA Ave. & Park Lane, 1 block west of Moorpark Ave.
Return: Leave Welburn Farm at approximately 3:30 PM from Welburn Farm, (estimated arrival in Moorpark 6:30 PM)
Cost: \$56.00 per person, Festival ticket included. Cost may decrease, based on participation, but will not increase.
Food: No lunch provided - there will be vendors at the festival, or you can bring your own.
Shopping: There will be room to bring back gourds and other items from the festival.

The bus will be air conditioned, with a lavatory on board.

Steve at the Moorpark Active Adult Center talked to the Coach representative and you will have storage underneath the bus as well as overhead compartments. The Coach rep likened it to a greyhound bus where participants store their suitcases underneath.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Moorpark Active Adult Center or you can contact me via email. You will have to pay in full before June 10th. You can visit Welburns web site at : <http://www.welburngourdfarm.com> for additional info.

Pat Lelie



Stephanie Staie, Chairman of the County Fair Committee

Hello CIGS members

Here is a list with our needs for the fair booth. Thank you for your willingness to participate. **For the top ten crops to be displayed in bushel baskets we need crafted from gourds:**

nursery stock--these are 6-packs of starter plants such as potted plants, herbs, perennials, bedding plants, etc.

Judy A will make 1-2. we could use 3 more

celery--Leni F is making one.... we could use 2-3 more

cut flowers--if we could make these individual it would be nice. Some cut flowers that grow in Ventura County are status, aster, baby's breath, chrysanthemums, sunflowers, lilies, iris, and snapdragons. Then we could lay a bouquet with a variety of flowers in to the bushel basket

cabbage--Luanna is making one we could use 2-3 more

For the Ocean Side of the booth we need the following **critters crafted from gourds:**

garibaldi--Debbie G is making one

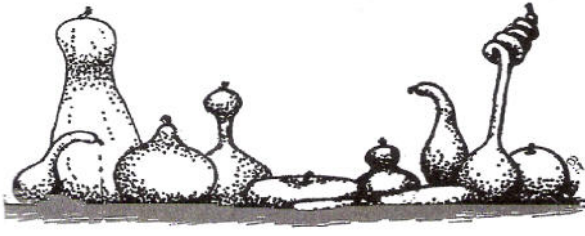
sculpin fish

opal eye fish

skipjacks-Anthony is making one

Janie K has a book with these local fish in it if you need a reference

If anyone has good information on lighting that will not heat up too much please let me know. If you are interested in helping contact Stephanie at stephmft@sbcglobal.net



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

May:
McLaughlin, Mac
Welnak, Mark

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.

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.

FOOD SHARE

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

Outreach Program



Bunnies, Bunnies and More Bunnies!!!

The April CIGS bunny rabbit gourd project was a huge success with the folks at ARC of Ventura in Simi Valley. We had 12 students and others wanting to take the class. They all had a great time creating their own bunnies.

Karen Hibdon made arrangements for a Star reporter to take pictures and do an article in the paper. It came out in the April 23 edition of the Star. It was a great public relations article for CIGS and a great promotion for ARC.

I want to thank the ladies who helped me with this project, Sharon Harvey, Karen Hibdon, Gail Sammons, Luana Hunsinger. These ladies are awesome!!



Because we are such a big hit with ARC, (thanks to Gail) we have scheduled 2 more classes for **May 20 at 10:45-11:45 and 1:00-2:00** so that twice as many folks can have the opportunity to play with gourds. Our May project will be a "May Basket". They have also asked us to do an educational presentation showing raw gourds, decorated gourds, etc.

If you would like to come and help with this project on May 20, please contact Cathy Agnew, 805-796-1612 or themimi@roadrunner.com

TO MY GOURD GROUP

I'd like to thank all of you for my sympathy card. It was greatly appreciated. And all the prayers went to good use.

Sincerely,
Tammy

Upcoming Festivals & Events

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
(see details for bus trip on page 6)**

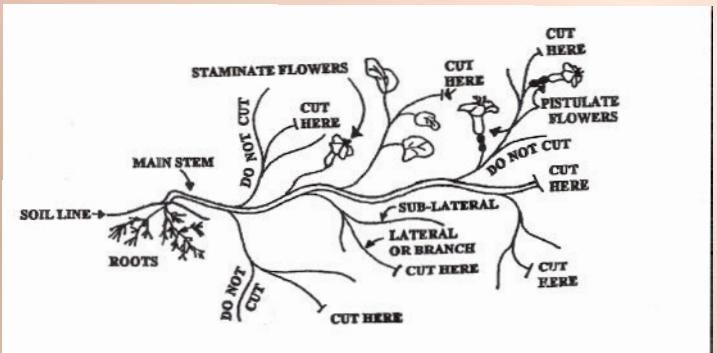
**California State Old Time Fiddlers Assoc.
Fiddle Festival Reunion
July 16, 2011
Constitution Park, Camarillo
Booth Space is \$20.00 per booth
To reserve a booth contact
Luana Hunsinger @
joe-luanahunsinger@sbcglobal.net
Or 661-513-9000**

Pruning Gourds

Pruning will increase the yield from your gourd vines. If a gourd is allowed to run as it would naturally, it would grow mostly one main vine with one or two short branches.

Most gourds are monoecious having male and female blossoms on the same vine. The staminate or male flowers which produce the pollen come on the main part of the vine. The pistillate or female flowers that bear fruit come only on the branches or laterals. From this simple description it can be seen that it is more desirable to have as much of the vine as possible growing in laterals or branches.

Allow the vine to grow naturally for a distance of ten feet, then nip off the growing tip. This procedure will force the vine to produce the laterals or branches. Let these laterals grow until they have 4 or more leaves and once again nip off the growing tip. The laterals will produce sub-laterals. Allow the sub-laterals to grow as long as they will. Do not nip the sub-laterals.



By using this method of pruning, you will obtain a great many feet of branches which will produce female flowers and increase your yield.

TIP: Usually a lot of male flowers come off the vine first. Do not be discouraged. With the proper pruning the females will soon form.

By Sterling H. Pool.

NOTE: Sterling Pool was the founder, organizer and first president of the Gourd Society of America, Inc. The year was 1937. The name was later changed to The American Gourd Society, Inc.

Spring Break with my Grandkids!!??

By

Cathy Agnew

Believe it or not this was probably one of the greatest experiences of my life. It will certainly be something I will remember for the rest of my life.

I know you think all teenagers do is plug in their headphones and listen to their music while they are texting their friends on their cell phones!! (Well, that's true part of the time)

I had the experience of going to Washington, DC with my oldest daughter Wendy, and my oldest grandchildren, Rachel, 16 and Jordan 14 over their spring break. And during this trip I learned a lot about my grandchildren.....they are smart, they are funny, they know a lot about politics and how it operates, they know about the different branches of government and what they do, they know who our leaders are, they know a lot of history, they are aware of what is going on in the world here in America and abroad, and they have an opinion about all of these things. (like should the U.S. be involved in the politics of foreign countries?) AND you can actually have a grown up conversation with them (as long as it's after 10:00 in the morning)

Of course we took in as many of the important places and museums in DC as we could possibly fit in. We were fortunate enough to get a great hotel right in the middle of George Washington Universities student housing which happened to be close to the Potomac River end of the National Mall. Of course Rachel, 16, thought that was fabulous! We were within walking distance to almost anywhere we wanted to go and if we couldn't walk the subway system was a great way to get to other sights.

We took one day to drive to Gettysburg to visit the Civil War battlefield. Jordan was doing a report for school on the Civil War and this was the closest he was ever going to be to have the opportunity to visit an actual battlefield. We spent a whole day driving the tour of the battlefield. I think we all learned a lot and were amazed at what all went on in such a small area.

The museums and art galleries were awesome. The National Archives and Arlington National Cemetery were very touching. My grandson was very impressed with the changing of the guards and we were all touched by the number of tombstones of those who sacrificed their lives for our country.

But the most exciting thing that happened was.....We went to Easter Sunday Services at Shiloh Baptist Church with the President of the United States and his family. REALLY! It turns out that the associate that my daughter was going to see in Washington DC was a member of the church and sang in the choir. He invited us to come to church. We told him all we had was "tacky tourist clothes" and didn't have any church clothes. He said not to worry and to please come. Soooo, we got up early Easter Sunday morning, dressed in our best "tacky tourist clothes" and called a cab. The cab got within 3 blocks of the church because there were police cars and big black SUV's blocking off streets so we had to walk the rest of the way.

When we got to the front of the church there was a big sign that said "Members Only". We spoke with one of the ushers and told him "Keith had invited us to church." He told us to go right on in where we were met by security, went thru a metal detector, had our bags searched and told we could not take pictures. We proceeded up to the balcony, three rows from the front and waited for the President and the first family to arrive. They entered with great applause and took a seat in the front row center of the church. The President got his "groove on" as the music was very joyful and up beat and happy for Easter Sunday. After the services and as the President left he shook hands and turned back and waved to the audience. He took two steps and turned and waved again. WE BELIEVE he did the second turn around and wave to make sure he saw what he saw.... BECAUSE THE 4 OF US WERE THE ONLY PALE FACES IN THE CROWD. Shiloh Baptist church is a black church whose music and choir were awesome and the people were very friendly and made us feel so welcome and right at home, even in our "tacky tourist clothes"! It was an awesome experience!!!!

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

“THE GOURD VINE”

CHANNEL ISLANDS GOURD SOCIETY

MAY 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

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:

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themimi@roadrunner.com

