

Arizona Gourd Life

A publication of the Arizona Gourd Society Gamma Chapter of the American Gourd Society

Visit our web site at <http://www.arizonagourdsociety.com>

Officers of the Az Gourd Society

President

Judy Weinfurther 520-647-4753

judy_weinfurther@q.com

Vice President/Editor

Wanda Shirey 520-742-0973

wsjs1948@hughes.net

Treasurer

Lana Hinde 602-843-9015

llhinde@cox.net

Secretary

Carol Spiess 602-242-1026

happygal792@q.com

State Art Show

Arizona patches will be hosting
Committee Chair

Lynne East-ltkin 520-889-9910

lynneast@flash.net

Education

Shelley Fletcher 602-337-4496

laveenfletcher@msn.com

Website Coordinator

Bonnie Williams 623-214-8507

tonkabw@yahoo.com

Membership

Jan Cunningham 520-395-1918

roadrunnermsw@aol.com



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is almost the end of the first quarter of 2011 and what a first quarter it has been. Arizona winter weather has been a drama this year, everything from warm clear days to snow and cold and below freezing temperatures. As the weathermen say "if you don't like the weather you have today, wait tomorrow will be different". I can say it has been different!

Even though the temperatures were freezing the Wuerz Gourd Festival went off without a hitch. The Arizona State Gourd Society sponsored competition was as good as ever. Competition entries were less in number than last year, but the quality of the exhibits was as good as or maybe even better than past years. According to the Wuerz family the number of people attending the festival set a new record for attendance. Our People's Choice competition seemed to say the same thing. Almost 5500 ballots were cast by people viewing the art pieces and selecting the piece they liked most. When all votes were counted this year, we selected 2 pieces for People's Choice Awards. Each piece garnered the most votes of any and was within 20 votes of each other. The committee felt that both deserved the honor. The winners were Phyllis Sickles, of Old Pueblo Gourd Patch, Tucson, AZ for the Barrel Cactus with flowers and bird in the Master Division; and Heather Kinkcade, of Southwest Gourd Patch, Phoenix, AZ with a large gourd that looked as if leather tooled with silver conchos from the Open Division. Both of the pieces were beautifully designed and worked. Congratulations to both winners the pieces are outstanding.

I spent a lot of time talking with the individuals that came through the building to view the art pieces. It was fun talking with the visitors about the pieces on display and how the artist accomplished the work.

Most of the people I talked with were so amazed that this kind of thing could be done with a gourd. People who were attending for the first time were the most fun. I walked almost the entire line with 2 couples that asked a lot of questions about what the process was from start to finish. It was a most enjoyable time. The Arizona State Gourd Society wants to thank the competition organizing team for their hard work and thank all the volunteers that took time to work the various hours assigned. Due to the weather, this year was a little more strenuous than usual.

I will continue my goal to visit all the patches in the state. I had anticipated getting to all patches last fall, but surgery slowed me down a lot, so I will start up again in the spring. I will be contacting patch presidents to let them know I would like to visit and possible dates. The patches I have visited have been an inspiration for me to look at events the state can sponsor that will benefit every state member. An event the state would like to sponsor is a gourd retreat weekend and possibly some classes on techniques and design that could be offered to patches or groups of members as a traveling show.

However, we do have a problem in the state society that we must address this year. Each year we sponsor the competition at the Wuertz Gourd Festival, we are required to take funds from the state treasury to be able to have a competition that meets the standards we have set for ourselves. We have been told that our competition ranks with the best in the country and we surely want to keep it that way. The competition in 2012 will be a test to see what can be done with fewer funds. In the past the state society has depended on dues and advertising space in our newsletter to help fund the competition. This year with membership significantly lower and advertising spaces still open we anticipate a more difficult time sponsoring a competition than in the past. Shortly I will send an invitation for an emergency state meeting to help us determine what we need to do and how we can do it. I am asking all patch presidents to think of solutions to the funding problem and bring them to the meeting. I will send a note to each patch president with time and place for this meeting. I don't want our competition to come up short and lose its status as one of the best. Hopefully all of us can come up with ideas and solutions that will allow us to make the next competition better than the last.

I am looking forward to visiting all patches this year and seeing everyone at the next meeting. Please contact me if you have any questions or just want to talk about your concerns and the state society.

Thank you,
Judy Weinfurther
President of AzGS

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Please include names and locations for all photos and authors of any articles. We are hopeful that there are some new ideas and helpful hints out there in the Gourd World. They may not be news to you, but if you share them with us, they will be NEW and appreciated by all the new and experienced gourd enthusiasts here in Arizona.

Thank you
Judy Weinfurther
President of AzGS

ARIZONA STATE GOURD SOCIETY

February 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the Arizona State Gourd Society President Judy Weinfirther at 5:45pm. The meeting was held at the Pinal County Fairgrounds/Wuertz Festival. Ms Weinfirther introduced the State officers, patch officers. New officers for 2011-2012 are VP and Newsletter Editor, Wanda Shirey, Secretary, Carole Spiess, Treasurer, Lana Hinde, Webmaster, Bonnie Williams and Education Coordinator, Shelley Fletcher.

She introduced show chairperson Lynn East-Itkin who thanked everyone who participated and assisted with the show. She reminded us that the show would not go on without all of our help. She has also agreed to chair next year's show and to let her know if we thought of any ways to improve the show to please contact her.

Waylon and Leah Wuertz stopped by and also added their thanks and appreciation

to everyone. This year's attendance exceeded last year's again. It was a very successful gourd show.

Minutes of the November, 2010 meeting were approved as presented in the last newsletter.

We moved right to new business to pass and approve the changes to the Arizona constitution and by laws as presented at the last meeting.

Change 1 - Change in verbage to article 1 of the constitution. Approved.

Change 2 - Change in verbage to the Treasurer's responsibilities. Approved.

Change 3 - Change in verbage to the President's responsibilities. Approved.

Patch Presidents and members were introduced and invited to give a brief review of what have been happening their patches and their goals for the new year. Arizona is very lucky to have very active patches.

The President thanked Irma Brewer, past treasurer of AzGS, for all of her service and hard work. She was certainly appreciated by everyone.

Heather Kincaid won the People's Choice award. A second award was presented to Phylis Sickles. Both gourds were outstanding.

Motion to adjourn at 6:03pm for a wonderful Italian dinner. After dinner the presentation of door prizes followed

Carole Spiess,
Secretary

Old Pueblo Gourd Patch (OPGP) has a Board of Officers for 2011: Phyllis Sickles, President; Wanda Shirey, VP, Barbara Larkum, Treasurer, and Jan Cunningham Secretary. The Board asked that each dues paying member fill out a questionnaire that will give the Board an idea of interests, areas of expertise etc. From this information, the OPGP will create a Membership Directory for all members. Each member will be able to see who has similar interests and can form "shard groups" or play groups. Several times during the year, the Board will ask that these groups provide a Show and Tell for the membership so we can see what wonderful works of art have been completed.

OPGP did have a booth at the Wuertz Festival and did well, financially, both for the members selling their gourd art and for the patch. This was a new endeavor for the patch, and we definitely will be doing the same in 2012. From all that has been heard from our members, their impression of the 2011 Festival was "awesome", and to think that we had the best attendance, wow

OPGP has a full set of monthly challenges in place for our members to participate in, and a full schedule of demonstrations and workshops for 2011. Committee's have been formed for fundraising and for the booth at the 2012 Festival. OPGP will be coordinating the Gourd Art Competition for the second year in 2012 and already have many ideas and suggestions to work with for a bigger and better competition yet!!!

If you are in the area of Tucson, please stop in on the last Monday of each month, even holidays, at 6PM at the Church of Christ at the corner of Adelaide and Mountain Ave

Here at the **Yavapai Gourd Patch** we are beginning to work on our Traveling gourd and Gourd Quilt that we raffle off at the end of the year. This is our main source of money for our year's activities. We had a Play Day in late February to get the quilt squares prepared This year we have a new Vice President, Ruth Andress and a new Treasurer Sue Weiss. Because of the distance we had very few members that were able to attend the Festival. One member Miriam Sagan won a first place ribbon for her Gourd Jewelry.

I'm Cindy Maldonado the new President of the **Southwest Gourd Patch**. Last year some of our members came up with an idea for a fund raiser to make a "keeper of the pots" gourd. She was a large gourd made into a Indian maiden surrounded by decorated little gourd pots. Turned out so beautiful!! We sold raffle tickets at the Wuertz Festival and raised money for our patch. We did really well with the fund raiser. We did have our own booth at the festival. We were all happy to see so many people and people buying lots of art work!!

We had many members win at the Festival this year. A few are, Heather Kinkade (our new vp) she won people's choice and 2 judges awards and a 1st and 2nd. "Great job" Heather. Lana Hinde won a 2nd in the masters. John Rew, Karen Friend and Bettie Lake also won.

One thing we are trying this year is having demos and challenges of the month. It really gets us out of our comfort zone.

Happy Gourding

Cindy Maldonado

I'm Cheryl Kroll and the president for the second year of the **Northwest Valley Gourd Patch**.

We have been fortunate to find many great speakers and demonstrators to come to our patch to provide informative presentations about new techniques for working with gourds. Many of the demonstrators have also taught classes in the mornings before the patch meetings or the even the following day.

Our treasury was also meager so we made purchases at the Gourd festival and we raffle off the prizes to bring up the treasury. As well as small raffles we are also offering a big prize of a dremel with bits. This will be a long term raffle and we hope to draw for the winner at the Christmas party.

For the past two years we've had a "spring cleaning" swap meet which has gone over very well. Many people donated their profits to the club.

Last year we also took a field trip in May to Shelly Fletchers to see the farm and do a project on knotless weaving. This year we've decide that our May meeting will be a picnic in the park in Surprise.

At the Weurtz festival we had two winners in Reg McCormick won a blue ribbon and judges choice in the open division for carving. Also Jill Atwood won a third place ribbon in the same division.

Our patch did not have a booth at the 2011 festival but it is something we are considering for the next year. The festival, as always, was fabulous and we need to find a way to get more of our members to come and assist in monitoring. I personally saw quite a few of our members there but only a few of us actually worked.

In spite of the unusually cool weather this winter, **Spirit of the Desert** has been having a great time. Ten of our members sold gourds in our booth at the Wuertz Gourd Festival and were delighted with the sales and visitors' appreciation of our gourd work. Shirley Nesbitt, VP, even submitted an entry in the AZGS Competition – a beautiful fairy tale coach complete with princess – nice job, Shirley!

We've also been busy taking classes and learning all sorts of interesting techniques. Several members attended Maria Dellos' class in Casa Grande and were extremely happy with what she taught. So, those of us who couldn't attend her class decided it was time to see if she would teach a class in Sun Lakes, which I'm happy to say she will be doing in April. Miriam Joy is also teaching a class for our patch in March. Her wax technique is beautiful, and we're all looking forward to learning how to use it on our own gourds. One of our members, Babette Metheny, gave a great demo at our February meeting on Huichol beading, and also how to use foil as an embellishment on gourds.

Our annual Gourd Stuff Flea Market will be held during our April meeting. Gently used and no longer loved gourd related items will be for sale, and most everyone goes away delighted with something new to try out on a gourd. We will also be exchanging our "Brown Bag" gourd projects. Many of our members put a gourd and various embellishments in a bag, and then exchanged bags with another member to see what creative ideas would emerge. Everyone's looking forward to seeing what their original gourd looks like when they get it back in April!

Our next meeting will be held Thursday, April 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 in the Oakwood Arts & Crafts Center Sewing Room. Membership is open to anyone in the Valley who is interested in gourds. For more information, contact Barbara Crossland, 480-802-6891, or Sally Kiste, 480-895-7638. As several members leave the area for the summer months, our patch meets from October through May. If you're in the neighborhood, we'd be delighted to have you join us for a meeting. Happy gourdng!

Tolleson Gourd Patch (Tolleson) no reponse

New River Patch (New River, Anthern Area) no reponse

YOUTH

Category 1

1. Case Powell - Sponsors Choice - #25
2. Jessica Manchester - #210
3. Sophie Powell - #24

NOVICE

Category 3

1. Linda Points - #101
2. Marlys Peterson - #202

Category 4

1. Debbie Cain - #30

Category 5

1. Edward Matheke (Best of Division) - #180

Category 6

1. Cheryl Trotter - #189
2. Frances Ladrow - #203

Category 7

1. Bettie Lake - #40
2. Edward Matheke - \$181

Category 9

1. Sonja Steiner - #197
2. Shirley Prido - #201

Category 10

1. Joe Meyer - #193

Category 11

1. Edward Matheke - #182

Category 13

1. Adrienne Lewis - #176

Category 14

1. Bettie Lake - #41
2. Adrienne Lake - #177

Category 15

2. Velma Whittingham - #175

Category 18

1. Edward Matheke - #183
2. Sharon Roxier - #207

Category 19

2. Bettie Lake - #42

Category 21

1. Sharon Miller - #99
2. Cheryl Trotter - #190
3. Carol Frank - #26

Category 22

1. Linda Points - #103

OPEN – ADULT

Category 23

1. Carol Oberstar - #80
2. Denise Lown - #73
3. Linda Womble – Sponsors Choice -- #124

Category 24

2. Judy Jacoby - #67

Category 26

1. Francis Gatti - #118

Category 27

1. Dee Smart - #34
2. Jeanine Williams - #171
3. Liz Meyer - #194

Category 28

1. Reg McCormick – Judges Choice - #79
2. Liz Meyer - #195
3. Joyce Pasche - #104

Category 29

1. Denise Lown - #8
2. Margie Jordon - #47

Category 30

1. Karen Friend - #73
2. Denise Lown - #9
3. Jill Atwood - #240

Category 31

1. Gail Bishop - #88
2. Lyn Brown - #135
3. Judy Jacoby - #69

Category 32

1. Lyn Brown - #136
2. Kitty Larson - #77
3. Carol Elliott - #94

Category 33

1. Margie Jordon - #50
2. Carol Frank - #29

Category 34

1. Joyce Pasche - #105

Category 35

1. Judy Jacoby – Best of Division & Best of Show - #70
2. Gail Bishop – Judges Choice - #89
3. Joyce Campbell - #158

Heather Kinkade - Judges Choice - #12

John Rodrigues - Judges Choice

Doug Kyle - Judges Choice -#12

Category 36

1. Karen Friend - #74
2. Margie Jordon - #51

Category 37

1. Denise Lown – Judges Choice - #10
2. Linda Womble - #126
3. Michel Kyle – Judges Choice – #140

Category 38

1. Darlene Saucedo - #148
2. Joyce Pasche - #106
3. Prill Neagles - #178

Category 39

1. Denise Lown - #11
2. Michel Kyle - #141
3. Margie Jordon - #54

Category 40

1. Margie Jordon - #54
2. John Rew – Sponsors Choice - #131

Category 41

1. Liz Meyer - #196
2. Karen Phillips - #108
3. Margie Jordon - #56

Category 42

1. Linda Womble - #125
2. Barbara Larkum - #114
3. Pam Horn-Ross - #172

Category 44

1. Lyn Brown - #137
2. Margie Jordon - #58
3. Paul Gonzales Jr. - #84

Category 45 & 46 – no ribbons given

Category 47 –

1. Brenda Reid - #46
2. Gail Bishop - #90
3. Sandy Williams - #31

Category 48

1. Pam Horn-Ross - #173
2. Kitty Larson - #78
3. Lyn Brown - #138

Category 49

1. Miriam Joy - #86
2. Gail Bishop - #91
3. Carol Elliott - #96

Category 50 - No Ribbons given

Category 51 -

1. John Rew - #133
2. Heather Kinkade - #2
3. Karen Friend - #76

Category 52

1. Jeanine Williams - #123
2. Brenda Reid - #45
3. Dee Pfeiffer - #127

Category 53

1. Heather Kinkade – Judges Choice
- Peoples Choice - #14
2. Darlene Saucedo - #150
3. Dee Smart – Judges Choice - #35

Category 54

1. Joyce Campbell - #157
2. Jeanine Williams - #120
3. Sharon Miller - #100

MASTER'S DIVISION

Category 55

1. Bonnie Adams – Judges Choice - #4
2. Barbie Holton - #2
3. Reetsie Fuller - #204

Category 56

1. Hal Sager – Judges Choice - #191
2. Phyllis Sickles – Judges Choice
– Peoples Choice - #32
3. Bonnie Adams - #5

Category 57

1. Bonnie Gibson - #71
2. Lana Hinde - #3
3. Phyllis Sickles – Judges Choice - #33

Category 58

1. Reetsie Fuller - #205
2. Pierre Nichols - #39
3. Barbie Holton - #162

BEST OF SHOW:

JUDY JACOBY - #70

Advertisers to the Arizona Gourd Society Newsletter:

This past year 2010 our society had multiple problems maintaining a newsletter editor, which resulted in a sporadic publication of our newsletter. Due to these issues we did not bill anyone for advertising in the newsletter and published two newsletters with the advertisers getting free space in both those publications.

We now have a dedicated newsletter editor for 2011 and will be publishing four newsletters, one each quarter with advertisements. At this time we will take ad requests for the newsletters for 2011. Our rates are listed below for advertising in the newsletter, but we are extending a service to our advertisers this year that will put their web address on our favorite links section on our Arizona Gourd Society website. You must take a one year ad to be able to get this free service.

If you are interested in advertising in our newsletter please complete the form below and notify:

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_____ **1 year payment**

_____ **Bill by issue**

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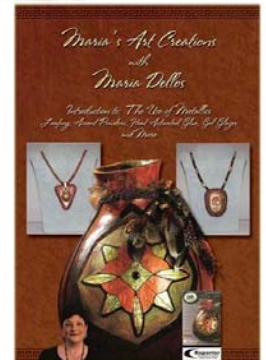
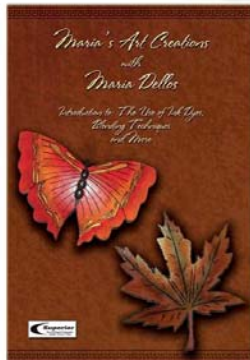
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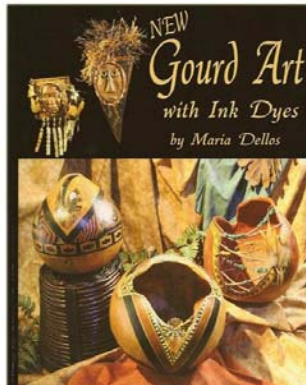
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The 4th annual Glendale Green Festival, to be held at the popular Glendale Main Library and Xeriscape Demonstration Garden (5959 W. Brown St. Glendale, AZ 85302) on Saturday, March 26th from Noon to 4 pm. Our festival last year attracted over 1,000 attendees eager to learn more about green-living.

<http://www.glendaleaz.com/green/documents/2010GlendaleGreenFestivalSlideshow.pdf>

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