

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>

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all our state members and welcome back to all our snowbirds. I have seen RVs coming down I-10 ready to enjoy the sun. I won't guarantee the weather, but according to the guru's in the weather service we are supposed to be warm and dry this winter. I am looking forward to another year of fun and excitement gourdng with all of you.

We had our November meeting at Tohono Chul Park and all members present had an enjoyable day.

We elected officers: Lana Hinde – Treasurer and Carole Speiss – Secretary.

Business Discussion:

Most of the meeting was business related and referenced several changes we need to make to our Constitution and by-laws.

Due to changes in IRS rules taking effect in 2011 we must make changes regarding non-profit status

Our Constitution states that we are a **non-profit organization**. We are not a registered non-profit organization and after review last year it will not benefit the state organization to go through the process and spend the money to become one. In order to comply with the IRS rule we will be changing the wording of our Constitution. Patch presidents will be receiving the language change with further instructions in a separate communication with instructions on what each patch needs to do.

*Merry
Christmas*

This year we created a new position – **Membership Coordinator**

This new position is a position appointed by the president and will be responsible for maintaining and coordination the membership listing with the Treasurer. This person will also act as a central communication link with members, patches and the state officers. In the past this was the responsibility of the treasurer. With membership above 200 and the need to easily communicate with our members, we felt this position was critical as we move to create a better way to communicate with the patches and our members and required a dedicated person to maintain the listing.

In order to recognize this new position, we are required to make some language changes to the by-laws in two places.

1. We must remove the language for the Treasurer's job description.
2. We must add language to the president's job description for the appointment responsibility.

Patch presidents will receive this language change to these areas of the by-laws in a separate communication with instructions on what each patch needs to do.

Wuertz Gourd Festival:

The team organizing the state competition to be held at Wuertz festival has been doing a fantastic job. Lynn East-Itkin has hustled her team to get things done. Now the security team is looking to get people to volunteer for security and other jobs specific to days and events. Members and patches will be receiving letters asking for volunteers. Please volunteer to work for 2 or 4 hour session. Each patch is responsible to help in this effort, there is also a reward for those that participate. So when the letter arrives please volunteer, let's see which patch sends the most volunteers. Who knows there may be a patch award too.

Website Redesign

Bonnie Williams is in the process of redesigning our website to have a different look and some added features. Any one who has any ideas on items you would like to include, send Bonnie a note and she will add them to the list. We are asking each patch to look at their information on the website and correct any information that is wrong or misleading.

Bonnie and I will let you know when the site is ready for review. Let us know what you think.

Fun event

At our meeting I asked those present if they thought a state sponsored Gourding Retreat would be something our members would like to attend. I got a resounding YES!! I am in the process of organizing a team to help put a plan together. If you would like to be involved or have ideas on what to include send them to me and we will organize an event that is fun and informational. Let's see how exciting we can make this event, maybe we can make it a yearly celebration for our members.

Judy Weinfurther

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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

November 20,2010

The meeting was called to order by President Judy Weinfirther at 10:03 am at the

Tohono Chul Park in Tucson. Officers and members introduced themselves

Irma Brewer presented the treasurer's report. The bank balance as of October 31, 2010 was \$3,383.51. A motion was made, and seconded to accept the report as presented. Motion carried. Current membership stands at 236 as of October 31, 2010. A new computer was purchased in June. The old one was unable to handle the new programs needed for the Newsletter Editor. A member asked if the old one could be sold. It was decided that it could and one of the members present offered to purchase it.

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and approved as presented in the last newsletter.

New Business: The President informed us of new rules and changes announced by the IRS. These rules are subject to fines if not followed. The state does not have to be a non profit organization, but patches can be nonprofit. The IRS fee is \$400 at this time. This may change. A motion was made that we amend the constitution to show that we are not a nonprofit organization. Seconded and carried.

Judy is looking for a way to have more communication with all members. She asked for a new position and a new volunteer membership chairman. Jan Cummingham volunteered for the year. She will communicate with all members on the roster. Motion made to change bylaws article 5 of the state bylaws to add the new position, of membership chair. Motion seconded and carried. The membership chair is now a new appointed position to the board. This change will require a verbiage change to the duties of the President to accommodate the appointment process. The treasurer will no longer do membership. This change in duties for the Treasurer requires a verbiage change to the by-laws. The required changes to the by-laws and constitution will require discussion by patches. Documents will be coming to patch presidents with new verbiage and information on what needs to be done at the patch level to make the changes.

Each patch should have a communication liaison with the membership chair and the board. This usually is the secretary of that patch who has membership records. That information should be sent to Jan Cunningham. Jan will also be sending requests to validate and verify membership information for the listing we maintain for state records and filings with the American Gourd Society.

Next item was Wuertz Festival. The categories and rules are on line now. There will be 12 judges this year and each judge will have their own clerk. Each gourd will have a number and there is a slight adjustment to rule 7.6. A judge can give an award if merited. They want to bring the \$5.00 coupon back for volunteers.

Dinner for the meeting at the festival is finalized. It will be an Italian food with salad. The members will not have to set up and take down tables or clean up this year. Ticket requests will be on the website in late December.

Judy would like to sponsor a gourd retreat next year for members sometime in the fall of 2011. Bonnie Gibson will assist in this project. Judy is also interested in recruiting a gourd artist to work with people who have special challenges. Several areas have schools through out the state that could use this type of help.

Bonnie Williams announced that the state website is being redesigned and would like feedback after it is up and running. A few pages will be added and a few new links. She wants to set up a separate page for newsletters with a password for members. When the website is ready an announcement will be sent to the patch communication liaison.

Elections of officers followed. The new treasurer will be Lana Hinde and Carole Spiess offered to continue as Secretary. Both were elected unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 11:40 am.

Carole Spiess, Secretary.

ARIZONA GOURD SOCIETY

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Judy Weinfurther
President AzGS

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.

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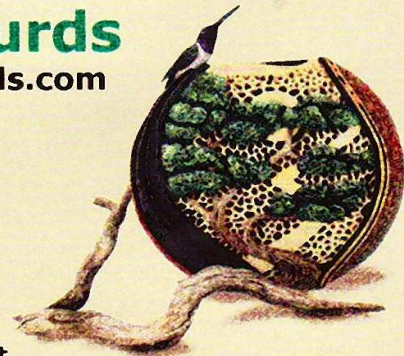
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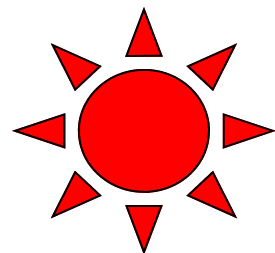
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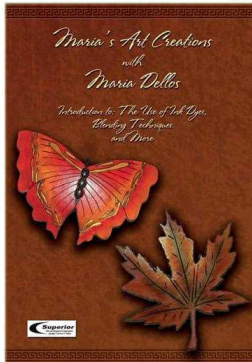
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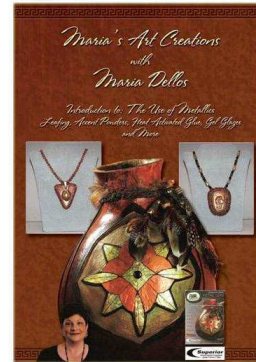
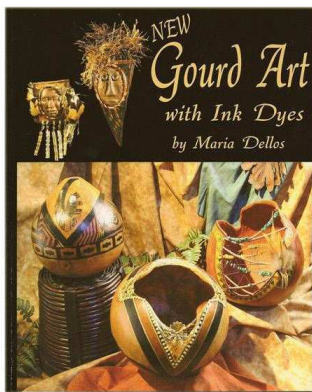
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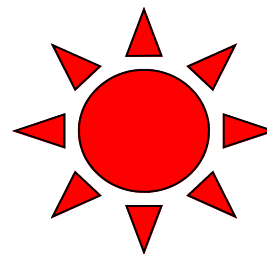


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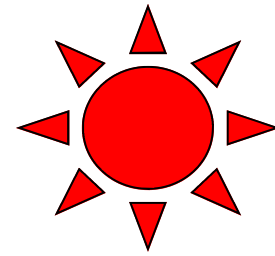
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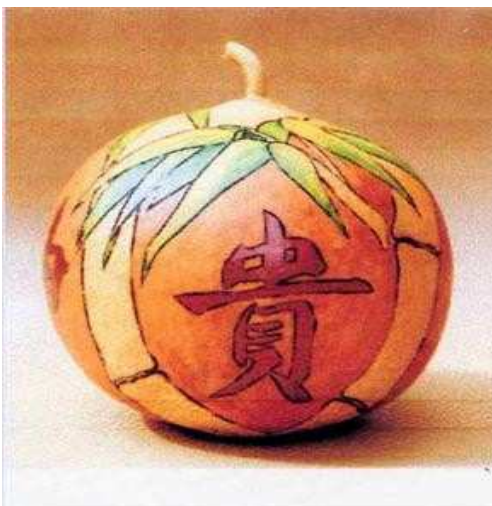


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