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Arizona Gourds

Updates from the desert southwest...

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Welcome to the March issue of the Arizona Gourds newsletter!

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The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity between the Wuertz gourd festival and some classes held for groups after the festival was over. During this time, I sold out of several items but most of them are already back in stock again. Thank you for your patience during this time while I was trying to catch up on things!

I am pleased to report that the Raven Entanglement gourd received a winning bid of \$2500 and a donation check for that amount is already on the way to help sustain the AGS Artistry award for many years.



Just type what you are looking for into the search box below. *Can't see the search box? Please disable your ad blocker for the Arizona Gourds domain.

NOTE: I will be teaching and will not be shipping from March 21st - March 30th. Orders placed during this time will be shipped in the order they were received as quickly as possible starting on March 31st. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Class updates

I have started posting classes for 2018 and will continue to add more as they are set up, including some in Tucson. Keep an eye on the classes page for more offerings - they will be posted as soon as details are finalized. Here are some that are currently on the schedule:

March 22-25 Folsom/Amador (northern California) classes. Please contact Barbara Rippetoe for more information. bjrippetoe@sbcglobal.net Classes will include Basic Power Carving, Doodles and Glass, Fancy Filigree and Carved Textures.

March 27-28 Classes in San Jose, CA area. Please contact Jody Dingivan for more information adolplace@hotmail.com

May 7-8 Indiana Gourd Workshop. I will teach 2 day workshop on May 7-8 in Westville, IN. Please contact Ida Kennedy for more information. IKENNEDY5@msn.com Classes are Filigree/Spiral Carving and Pueblo Ladies.

May 18-20 3 day workshop in Boise, Idaho. Please contact Chris Peters for more information at bonniegclass@gmail.com Classes will include Basic Power Carving, Swept Ashore and Carved Textures.

May 27 - 28 San Diego Gourd Patch Classes (open to patch members) Contact Mary Lou Linton rezmom@aol.com

June 1-3 Temecula Gourd retreat (FULL)

August 1-5 Classes at the Texas Gourd Festival. [Classes to be announced soon](#) on the Texas Gourd Society page.

October 3 -4 Onalaska, WA Swept Ashore/Carved Textures. Please contact Stacy Annon for information. sannongourds@gmail.com

October 6 - 7 Portland, OR Spiral Patterns and NW Coast Pottery Shards Contact Joan Arens jjarens@centurytel.net

October 18 - 20 Page, AZ Raven Canyon Gourd / Woven Filigree Contact Marcia Krickhahn for information marciakrick@hotmail.com

Enter your email address into the text box, and hit the submit button to join the class updates notification list.

Submit



What's new on the [Arizona Gourds](#) website?

Copper concho designs include 1" Celtic, Flower, and Rope Edge designs as well as a small (5/*8") Rope Edge.

Back in Stock - Thunder drum springs with bead on one end - sold individually or in discounted packs of 5. In addition, you can find Kalimba (thumb piano) kits and drum

Also, many sizes and colors of decorative studs at a very low price! On the [Metals page](#).



skins on the [Musical Supplies page](#).



NEW: Single engraving burs on the [carving burs page](#)

Applicator Bottles with 10 tips are great for dyes and glues On the [Tools page](#)



Update: For the past several years, **rotary chisel burs** have been unavailable because the manufacturer was not producing them. The company is now under new management and is making them again. They no longer wholesale to suppliers, so to order you must visit www.rotarychisel.com. *For the Cholla Carving project shown here, you need the 1/8" shank "D" profile rotary chisel. The project instructions are available on the [Project Packets page](#).

The new "Native Treasures" and "Carving Burs Selection & Uses" Project Packets are now available on the [Project Packets page](#).

Question: What is the next project you'd be interested in seeing me offer?

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Arizona Gourds Newsletter Index
See all our old newsletters with indexed articles and tips from the past 10 years!
NOTE: OLD Newsletters are going to be gradually phased out and converted to PDF Files.
Please view soon while they are still web based! [Newsletter Index](#)

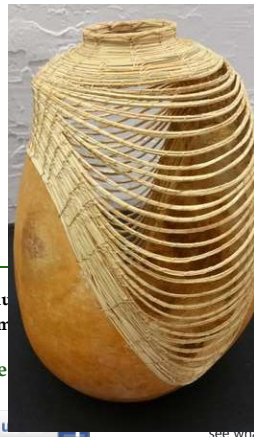
Feature: Highlights from the Arizona Gourd Society Competition

The Arizona Gourd Society holds its annual competition at the Wuertz gourd festival each year. Here are just some of the highlights from the show!



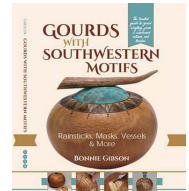






updated Gallery.

The book has changed a bit - including a new lower cover price! Also, it now has an added "Filigree Carving" chapter, and an updated gallery section with newer work. (The original edition received nothing but 5 star reviews on Amazon.) Gourds with Southwestern Motifs [on Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)



classes, and other gourdng updates. (Just a

tools and excess supplies. No fees to

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Feature: Video Review - Gunstock Carving by Roger Wolford

Many of you carve gourds, but there are gourd carvers who came from other mediums such as wood, eggs or glass. This is a common crossover because the tools and skills used for these arts often are very similar. Roger Wolford specializes in using high speed air tools (basically dental drill types) to carve wood, antler and gourds.



I recently got a copy of Roger's new digital video "Gunstock Carving - Whitetail Deer Scene" on flash drive format. It was easy to insert it into a USB port in my Windows 10 based desktop computer and immediately open and watch it. The video is presented in MP4 format; I don't know if it works on every computer or laptop as easily as it did on mine. It includes a PDF file that includes color reference photos, patterns and drawings, pictures of the dental and other burs he recommends, and some photos of the work in progress. The video is 90 minutes long, and takes you from a plain gunstock through the various stages of carving and finishing.

Roger uses a Vortex brand air tool as well as a micromotor tool for the demonstration, but you could do this project with other brands of air tools or with a micromotor or a dremel tool. While the basic pattern, tips and how-to info are geared towards carving on wood, the material can be modified a bit to work on gourds or using other tools. One item he mentions that I have not used is wood bleach. It would be interesting to experiment with this on gourd surfaces.

The design is a fairly basic relief carving and the principles of carving are well illustrated. You may choose to use different burs than those shown; bur choice often depends on personal preferences. The USB video is available for \$19.95 at www.rogerwolfordstudio.com.

Bonus Feature - Beaded Gourds by Bob Swendsen

I had the pleasure of running into Robert Swendsen at the recent Wuerz Gourd festival. He had entered two pieces in the gourd show (including displaying his 2015 Excellence in Gourd Artistry Award winner in the Grand Master's display) and he also showed me two other wonderful beaded gourd pouches he had made. I thought everyone would enjoy seeing these as well, they are so exceptionally well done and labor intensive that you can't help but to be amazed by the work! I took the photos of him holding the pouches so you could see the size of the pieces.



Readers Mailbag:

Hi Bonnie, ! I love your gourds and need to get better on carving. Here's a picture of one I just finished. My wife did the bead work and polymer clay face. **Ken Vining**

Tip of the Month: Cleaning tools and files

I get a lot of questions about cleaning burs and abrasives to extend the life of the tool and to make them work more efficiently. Cleaning hand files is also important - any cutting tool will do a better job if it is not plugged up with residue.

For cleaning burs, I recommend soaking them in a solvent if they are heavily clogged and then brushing the residue away with a brass toothbrush. For a quick clean, you can run the bur lightly over the brass brush while the tool is spinning, but wear eye protection and use low speed to prevent flying brass particles. This same brass toothbrush is what you want to use for cleaning small diamond or steel riffler files. *For more information on cleaning burs, check out the Tip of the Month in [the October 2015 issue of the newsletter](#).*

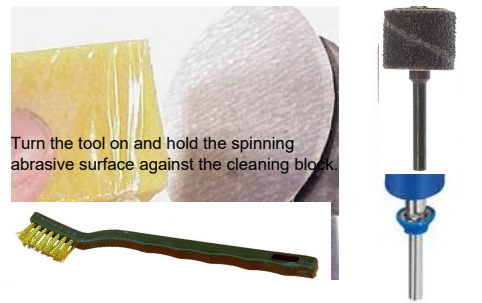


To clean sanding tools such as disc sanders, belt sanders, and drum sanders, use a rubberized cleaning block. Turn on the sanding tool and hold the spinning abrasive surface firmly against the cleaning block. The rubbery surface will lift out much of the embedded sanding dust and extend the life of the abrasive surface greatly. **NOTE: DO NOT use a rubberized abrasive cleaner on carving burs!**

The cutting teeth of carving burs will grind up the block and/or gum up the burs!

Tip: to save time, I keep 2 or more drum sanders in my carving bur box. That way, I can load each one with a different grit and not have to change the band when I want to switch to a finer or coarser grit. If you do have to change the band, try flipping the band end for end, because often one end is still good when the other has worn out.

It's difficult to change a band on a standard drum sander (above right photo) when using a micromotor tool, as there is no way to lock the handpiece. For those, you have to grab the sander shaft in a pair of pliers while changing the band. Instead, Dremel now makes an EZ pop-up head drum sander which makes changing bands much easier. (lower right photo)



**Featured Gourd of the Month:
"Riverside"**

This small canteen gourd was carved in one of my texture classes. The hummingbird was carved from basswood and painted with acrylics. The gourd has some acrylics and colored lacquers.



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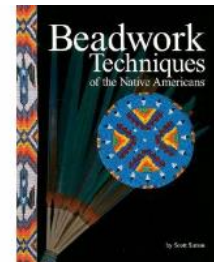
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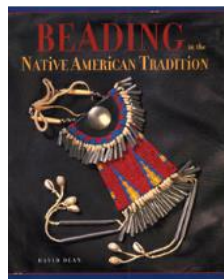
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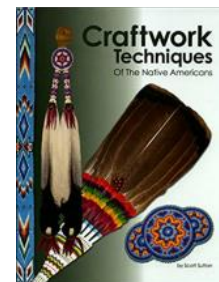
[Beadwork Techniques of the Native Americans](#)



[Beading in the Native American Tradition](#)



[North American Beadwork Patterns](#)



[Craftwork Techniques of the Native Americans](#)

I usually try to choose books that are new or are related to some of the subjects in the newsletter. Ultimately, some of these titles may give you the inspiration to try something new in your own gourd work.

Let me know if you have a non-gourd art book that you find especially useful to you (a technique, a product, an new skill - anything that helps you with your gourd projects.. I'd love to showcase some of your favorites in the next newsletter! Drop me a note with the title/author of the book, your name, and why you like the book.

*Want to see my listing of top gourd books? Here is my ["Listmania" listing on Amazon](#)

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I often get questions about shipping costs that are added to shopping cart sales. To clarify things, I've added a new page to the website, [Shipping Policies](#).

I am using a no-frills shopping cart program that has limitations and little flexibility. By not paying for expensive software, I can offer you lower prices on the website merchandise. **I'm not looking to make a profit on shipping; if you order lightweight items you will likely get a refund or some freebies to make up for it.** Please take a minute to look at the shipping policies page for clarification and explanation of how things work. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to email me directly. I value your business!

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