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Arizona Gourds

(Somewhat irregular) news from the desert southwest...

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Welcome to the March issue of the (irregular) Arizona Gourds newsletter!

Many thanks to all of you that stopped by my booth at the Wuertz festival or took classes from me at the festival. It was great to see so many familiar faces and to meet new people. I have to apologize though, as I picked up a nasty head cold during the event and I wasn't feeling all that great by the time the weekend concluded. I hope all of you came home germ free.

Usually, the festival is so hectic that it is difficult to see things or to even remember what I have seen. My trip to the competition area lasted about 5 minutes and I wish I had more time to really enjoy some of the wonderful entries. I did take a few photos, which I will share below. I usually go around the building and quickly snap photos of whatever catches my eye and I don't even notice if they are ribbon winners. The fun thing is to look at the photos later and realize that I don't even remember the piece - so I'm glad I have the photos to remind me.

The Arizona Gourd Society publishes a DVD of the winners from the show which includes the Grand Masters category as well. The cost is \$6 and you can find out how to order your own copy by visiting the [Arizona Gourd Society home page](#).

Below: This was what we saw early each morning on the drive from our hotel to the festival.



*Join the class updates list to receive advance notice of upcoming classes. Get the news first and have the best chance for popular classes!

[Free 30 day trial of Amazon Prime!](#)



Update: Gourd Classes

NEW - I will be teaching in Blue Diamond, Nevada (just outside of Las Vegas) on April 30th and May 1st. Registration is now open - check the [classes page](#) for details.

Submit

*Enter your email address and hit submit to join the class updates notification list.

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

*ALL Amazon purchases made through site links and the search box help support Arizona Gourds and the Gourd Art Enthusiasts websites, and it costs you nothing extra!

New on the embellishments page: Imitation eagle and bear claws, large stone fans and more.







The [Gourd Art Enthusiasts site](#) continues to grow! We have about 3780 members, with gourd enthusiasts from all over the world! Membership is free and easy. The site also has state groups, event listings, a Q&A forum and a chat feature if you need an quick answer to a gourdning question! [Check out our two great new GAE T-Shirt designs !](#)



[Share our Newsletter on your Facebook page!](#)

"Like" Arizona Gourds on Facebook to get special offers, up to the minute news about new products and classes, and other gourdning updates. (Just a note - I don't add gourd friends on my

personal page, I save that for family and non-gourding friends.)

Tip of the Month: Hoof Knife Cleaning tool - Rubber Grip Material

Lesley Orr of Georgia sent in these great tips:

"My husband is a horse shoer and his hoof knife (pictured) is one of my most treasured tools for cleaning out gourds. It works similar to a potato peeler but with only one blade and the curl at the tip helps get those stubborn veins out.



[Amazon link](#)

Also, I bought some of that waffled rubber stuff that is sold to put under throw rugs (it keeps throw rugs from slipping around on hard flooring). When sitting, I put one rectangle of that rubber stuff on each leg. The rubber grips my slacks and the gourd for a non-slip grip." * Note: you can buy rolls of this shelf liner type material at dollar stores - sew a large piece onto the front of your apron for a non slip work surface.

Do you have any helpful tips? We'd love to share them with our readers, and we'll be sure to give you proper credit. Please send them to: bonnie@arizonagourds.com.

Featured Gourd of the Month:

"Harmony in Gold"

Golden autumn ginkgo leaves and an Anna's hummingbird are on this carved, lidded vessel. 10" canteen gourd.

Thanks to Gary Bradley for this photo which was taken at the Arizona Gourd Society competition at the 2014 Wuerz Festival.



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Thanks for checking out the latest news! Feel free to pass the newsletter link along to your friends.

<http://www.arizonagourds.com/March2014.html>

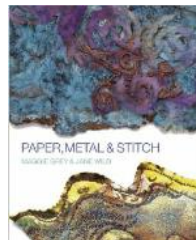
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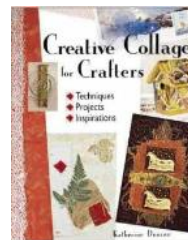
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Featured Books of the Month:



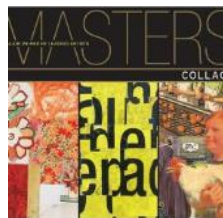
[Paper, Metal and Stitch](#)



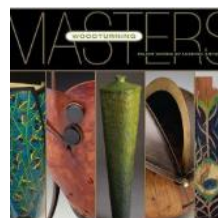
[Creative Collage for Crafters](#)



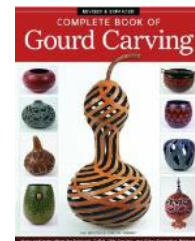
[500 Handmade Books](#)



[Masters of Collage](#)



[Masters of Woodturning](#)



[Complete Book of Gourd Carving, Revised & Expanded](#)

I have a good friend whose favorite pastime is visiting bookstores to find interesting art and reference books. One of her passions is exploring the use of collage and other unusual materials for use on her gourds and other art projects. I was able to look through some of her favorite books on the subject and have listed a few of them here.

The "500" and "Masters" series from Lark Publishing are some of the most inspirational books for artists. They feature works from some of the top artists in their fields. I own several of them including the *Masters of Woodturning*. While I'm not a woodturner, the ideas for surface decoration carry well over to gourd art. Definitely worth a look!

The Complete Book of Gourd Carving is a new, revised publication with expanded material including a gallery section from top of the line gourd carvers. (I have some more material in this version as well). You can preorder it now to guarantee the best price.

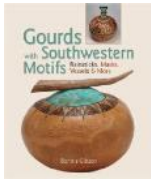
*Want to see my listing of top gourd books? Here is my ["Listmania" listing on Amazon](#)

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Arizona Gourds HOME



Gourds with Southwestern Motifs by Bonnie Gibson

The hardcover edition is now out of print. This is the paperback version of my "Gourds" book.

All copies I sell are autographed.

(Click on book cover for ordering information.)

**Please visit the book page links shown at right to view collections of related titles. Each topic includes a variety of suggested books about each subject.*

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