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Arizona Gourds

November updates from the desert southwest...

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Welcome to the November issue of the Arizona Gourds newsletter!

Jack-O-Lanterns are almost behind us, and it's time to turn our focus towards Thanksgiving. Some of you that make a lot of gourd gifts for the holidays may even be thinking a bit further ahead towards Christmas gifts!

Right: Here's a nice turkey/Thanksgiving centerpiece made by GAE member Steph Ross of NM. (You still have enough time to create your own version!)

I've seen some great gourd turkey centerpieces made from green swan gourds that have been decorated with fall leaves - this is a tradition in some parts of the US. The YouTube video below shows you how you can make a simple version. This crafter used a dried gourd, you can make yours from either a dried or fresh green gourd.



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Update: Gourd Classes

I will be teaching two classes at the Wuertz Festival in February 2014. I will send out a note to the class updates list the day before the registration begins. Classes will be announced soon. (I have no control over the registration process, it is handled by the Wuertz Festival, through their website.)

[Join The Class updates List](#)

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

New to the website A limited supply of clear faceted crystal studs are available on the [Metals page](#). These are the



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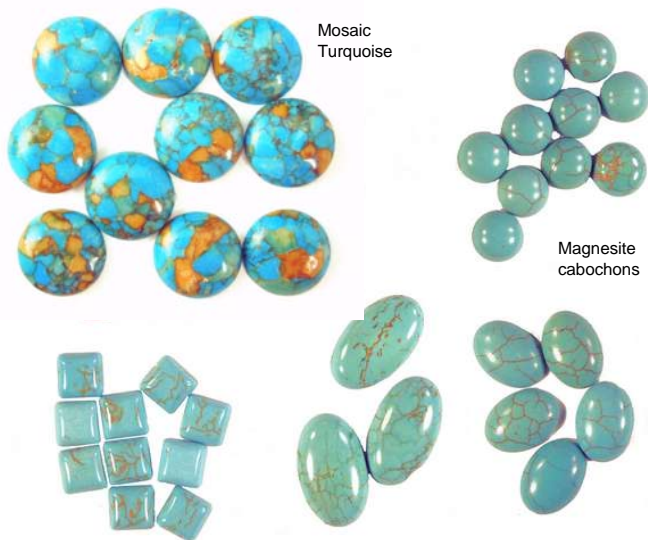


same type of studs as the turquoise ones that many people are using to accent their leather tooled look gourds, but these are perfect for those that want to add a little "bling"!



New to the website Bundles of African Porcupine quills. These quills are priced far less than when buying them individually. Limited supply. The 4-6" size are thick, while the longer quills are thinner. The ones shown here are the actual stock available. Available on the [Special Embellishments page](#).

New to the website - I've taken 10 of my favorite gourds and turned them into postcards! These are high quality, glossy cardstock and are designed for mailing, but you may have trouble parting with your personal favorites! These are available on my gourd art ["For Sale"](#) page. Also, a new tutorial, "Fancy Filigree Carving" is now available on the [Project Packets page](#).



Mosaic Turquoise

Magnesite cabochons

Back in Stock! Magnesite turquoise cabochons are real stone with natural matrix patterns. These are a cost effective replacement for turquoise, but they look good because they are real stone!

Special this month - buy 5 packs of any size or shape of the magnesite cabs and get a free pack (my choice) for every 5 that you buy!

Mosaic turquoise cabochons are also back in stock, and now are available in two different sizes. Available on the [Inlay Supplies page](#).

Thank you! Your purchases made from Arizona Gourds and from our Amazon links enable us to keep these free newsletters and the Gourd Art Enthusiasts site available. **We sincerely appreciate your business.**

Doing some holiday shopping? Please use our Amazon Search boxes (located at top and bottom of each newsletter) to start your search.

Feature - Inlay on Gourds

Inlay is a decorative technique of inserting pieces of contrasting materials into depressions cut into a base object. In gourdng terms, that simply means cutting a groove or depression into the gourd surface and filling it with some other material. Sometimes inlaid materials are not flush with the surface; added cabochons, heishi or bead strands, glass, and other objects are inset into the gourd but protrude above the surface. (Items merely glued to a gourd surface are usually not very secure and may fall off with handling or as the glue ages. By setting the item into a carved depression, the item is attached much more securely.) Other materials such as Inlace resins and other materials that can be ground down may be finished flush with the surface. Both flush and raised above the surface inlaid items are great inlay techniques and can really add a lot of interest to a gourd piece. **Many thanks to the artists that participated below!**



Below: Glass Inlay

Crushed glass and dichroic glass cabochon inlay by **Sharon Wright - KY**





Eggshell inlays

Left: **Claire Cassan - France**
Right: **Rhonda Kesner - KS**

Claire has written a nice tutorial on using eggshells for inlay. You can visit the webpage with the instructions at: <http://www.artisanart.biz/Tutorials/Rankaku.html>

Below: Inlace Resin Inlays

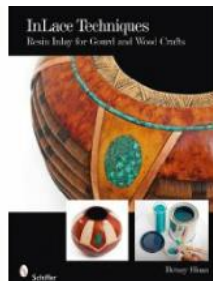
Left: Elaine Linton of CA took my Inlace inlay class a few years ago and this was her class project. She placed the eagle over a light spot on the gourd and then added metallic blue glitter to make the inlace stand out.

Right: Mask by Suzanne Lacy of Texas



Left: Egyptian gourd by **Sharon Beasley - MS** Sharon's gourd also has a large inlaid cabochon.

Right: **Pinky Mitchell - CA**



[Inlaid Techniques](#)

Below: Inlaid Stone, shell and fossils

Left: **Leigh Hill - AZ** Leigh inlaid aquarium gravel into the turtle design on the back side of this gourd. She said it seemed to be the appropriate material to fit the subject.



Mary Curtis of Utah made these gourds with inlaid cabochons.



Stella Brand of OK added inlaid shell to this gourd.

Below: Ammonite fossil inlay gourds by **Betty Banks of OK**

Note: Ammonites available on the [Embellishments page](#).





Ron Poole of Utah did these gourds with stone and fossil inlays. The lamp has an inset piece of translucent stone that glows when the lamp is lit. The other piece has an inlaid fish fossil.

Below: Inlays with other materials

3 Gourds by **Betty Banks of OK**. One piece has a sand coating and an inlaid cabochon. The two leather tooled style gourds have inlaid conchos, with one having a strip of inlaid coarse sand and a metal rim, and the second with inlaid cactus fiber.

**Note: Conchos and metal rims are available on the [Metals](#) page. Cactus fiber instructions are available on the [Project Packets](#) page.*



Did you know: "Cabochon" is a stone or gem cut in a convex (domed) form that is polished but not faceted and is flat on the back side.



Left: **Rhonda Kesner of KS** made this mask with a sand and embossing powder inlay.

Right: **Gayle Dumas of VA** said that this is her first and only inlay project. This pencil cup she made for her husband has inlaid beads.

Below Right: **Paul Buhrmester of KY** sent in this very unusual inlay





He sent in this very unusual inlay project. He said this was his first attempt at doing inlay. "One of my coworkers found the bottom part of a turtle shell in front of her mailbox and didn't want it to go to waste. She brought it to me, and I dreamed this up."

"This was a pretty complicated project for someone to attempt when they had never done any inlay before!"

Below Left: **Chris Pawlik of MI** did this very unusual inlay project. This piece has inlaid watch and computer parts within a drilled filigreed area. The outside collar texture was done by adding cheese cloth in a gel medium.



Above: Stamped clay inlay by **Kathy Badrak - CA**

Below: Stamped Apoxie Sculpt clay inlay by **Joyce Pasche of AZ**. The bottom piece has inlaid copper wire and a set in handle made from desert debris. (Looks like some kind of cactus skeleton)



Marlene Hubbard of Iowa offers this interesting idea for inlay. "I have just started trying something that will bring back memories. Remember shrinky dink making with your kids, or perhaps you did this yourself? Shrink film, the kind used to make thunder gourds can be decorated and used as an inlay on a gourd. Shrink film by Grefix comes in colors too."



on a gourd. Shrink film by Grafx comes in colors too. I made my sample with ink on a stamper on white shrink film. Just stamp on the shrink film and put in the oven per directions on the package. It will shrink 50%. Before completely cooled after you have taken it out of the oven the inlay can be molded to the gourd curvature. Coloring the design can be done before or after the shrinking process. If done after shrinking spray with a fixative. Original art can be put on the film or use stencils. Besides being used as an inlay the pieces can also be used for embellishments of your making and design.

I haven't done much of this as I just came up the idea when making thunder gourds. I had pieces of shrink film that I didn't want to go to waste and thought it might be worth a try. I had purchased white shrink film rather than the clear that most people use on their thunder gourds.

Hope people have fun with this. The film can be cut before shrinking into rounds and ovals or like my example a leaf shape. It takes some practice to get the oven part figured out. Smaller toaster and clay ovens work best. There is a learning curve on the shrinking process but the package directions give great hints."

[Shrink Film](#)



There are many different commercially made clay stamping texture molds on the market.

You can experiment with different types of clay, [Apoxie Sculpt](#) does not have to be baked and it holds a nice crisp impression.

[Clay Stamps](#)



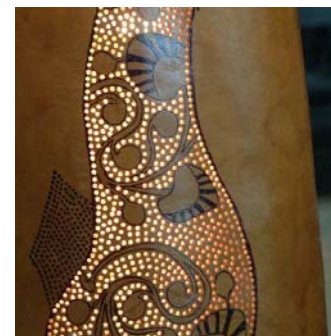
Embossed copper inlay in gourd shard jewelry by **Tamsen Fox - Hawaii**

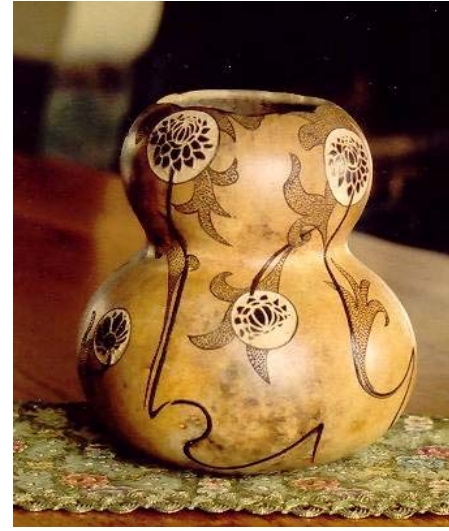
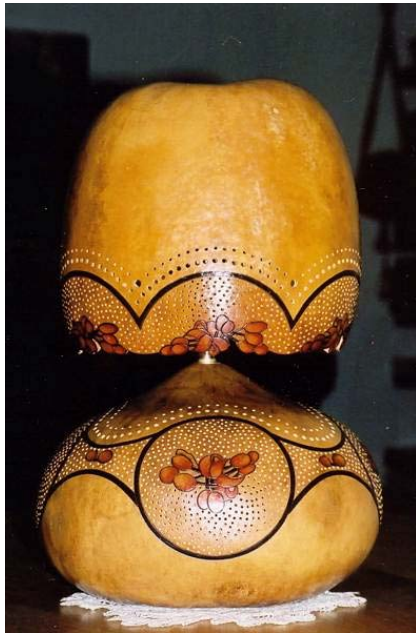
Reader's Mailbox

I live in France and my country is the Bretagne. I work the gourd for ten years and I know your art from internet and books which I possess. I am very impressed by your réalisations! **Chantal Decroix - France**

Chantal sent these photos of her gourd work - it's interesting to see how different (and in some ways similar) gourd work is all around the world. Most European gourd artists in the northern climate zones have to buy their gourds from Africa; Turkish gourders are able to grow their own. A lot of the Europeans are influenced by the pierced designs of the Turkish lamp makers.

The gourd car to the right has wheels made from sea beans





Gourd Artist Yair Blashtein of Israel takes a gourd on a parasailing adventure!

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The [Gourd Art Enthusiasts site](#) continues to grow! We have almost 3600 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 gourdging question! [Check out our two GAE T-Shirt designs!](#)

Do you get inspired seeing art of all different types? I post one or more art photos a day on the Arizona Gourds facebook page. Whenever possible, links are provided to the original artist's page. Remember - these are for inspiration - use them to come up with your own spin on an idea but please do not just copy other people's art.

"Like" Arizona Gourds on Facebook to get special offers, up to the minute news about new products and classes, and other gourdging updates. (Just a note - I don't add gourd friends on my personal page, I save that for family and non-gourding friends.)

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See all our old newsletters from the past 6 years! Articles and Tips are indexed.

[Newsletter Index](#)

Reader's Mailbox

Dear Bonnie, I ordered new bits from you and I must say...I love them! They have made my carving go to the next level. I have admired your work for years and I remain in awe of your talent! One of my items on my bucket list is to attend one of your workshop retreats and hang out with you. Having the opportunity to share your space would be so inspirational for me.

I wanted to share one of my latest commissions that I used the Saburr Tooth Large Cylinder bur and the Fine Filigree bur on. I also found the How to Filigree Carving so helpful. The commission is entitled "Addiction". It was commissioned by a local Doctor who is opening a Addiction Clinic in Tupelo MS. I feel very fortunate to be able to create a gourd storyboard piece to help heal the horrors of addiction. The attached photos are progression shots. I hope to complete it soon.

Thank you for being you. Thank you for sharing your knowledge. Thank you for all you do for American Gourd Society. :) Sincerely, **Missy Miles - Alabama**





Tip of the Month - Surprising Art Uses for Cleaning Products

Judy Gorrell of Washington wrote to say that her husband wanted to take off ink and metallic paint from a gourd that had already been sealed. He used [Goof-Off](#). He said it took a lot of rubbing but it took it off down to the natural gourd underneath. I haven't tried this myself but it is something to think about before I toss out my next disastrous project.



[Citra Solv](#) is good for cleaning paint brushes, carpets and clothing after a messy art session, but the most exciting use for Citra Solv is in the creation of art itself! Use with toner-based copies, magazines or prints to create stunning image transfers onto paper or fabric. Watch the short video to see it in use. I hope to see some gourd projects that use this technique!



Click on above photos for more information on these products



[Creative Embellishments for Gourd Art](#)



[Miriam Joy's Wax Design Technique](#)

Upcoming new book releases of interest to gourders:

From Marianne Barnes: *Creative Embellishments for Gourd Art*. This book is scheduled for release in January 2014.

From Miriam Joy: *Miriam Joy's Wax Design Techniques*, scheduled for release in November 2013.

Coming Next Month: Gifted Gourds

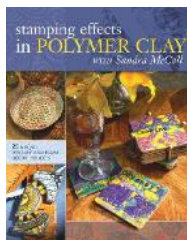
Next month we will feature "Gourds for Gifting". If you make gourd Christmas ornaments, functional gourds such as remote control holders, candle holders, kitchen utensil holders, etc., gourd music boxes, or ANYTHING made from gourds that makes a great gift, please send in photos! The more unusual, the better! If you have some tips, techniques, a tutorial or some photos to share, please send it to: bonnie@arizonagourds.com Thanks to all of you that participate - your content is greatly appreciated and makes the newsletter shine!

Featured Gourd of the Month:

Sand Ripples and Inlay - This older piece fits the monthly topic. It has an added lid with an inlaid handle. This piece is inlaid with turquoise inlaid and nuggets, and has some small turquoise cabochons inlaid into the burned design.



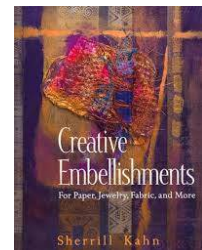
Featured Books of the Month:



[Stamping Effects in Polymer Clay](#)



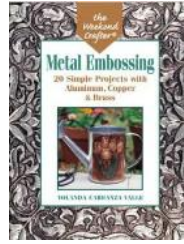
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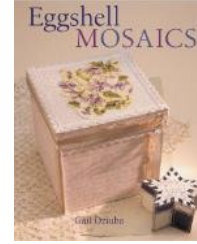
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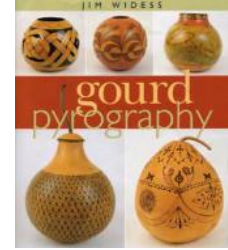
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[Metal Embossing](#)



[Eggshell Mosaics](#)



[Gourd Pyrography](#)

Here are some inlay related titles. Some of these are out of print but you can still buy used copies for very little through the links.

The final book, **Gourd Pyrography**, is a classic book filled with lots of ideas and examples from established artists. This is not specifically a project or how-to book, but does have some of that kind of material.

Thanks for checking out the latest news! Feel free to pass the newsletter link along to your friends. <http://www.arizonagourds.com/November2013.html>

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

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If your email address changes, just sign up again with your new address - no need to email me the change, as I purge non-working addresses monthly.



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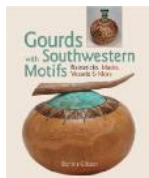


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Gourds with Southwestern Motifs by Bonnie Gibson

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

All copies I sell are autographed.

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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](#).

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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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