



# Arizona Gourds

## Special September Grand Canyon Edition

Printable PDF File

Welcome to the September issue of the Arizona Gourds newsletter!

I hadn't planned on putting out a September issue of the newsletter, but my time as **Artist-in-Residence at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon** was so wonderful, that I want to share it with all of you. For the 300 or so of you that signed up to be "Fans" of Arizona Gourds on Facebook, I hope you enjoyed seeing my daily updates and photos. (If you aren't currently a fan of Arizona Gourds on Face, it's not too late to visit my Facebook page and read the previous 3 weeks of postings and photos - just visit <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Arizona-Gourds/91905791901>). Thanks to all of you that responded to my photos and messages, it made sharing my adventures even more fun!

facebook

Check below for photos from my adventure!

**Special Notice:** I will be teaching classes at the Florida Gourd Retreat from September 22nd through the 28th. Orders placed during that time will be held and shipped out as soon as I return.

### Update: Gourd Classes

Last chance to sign up for the [September Florida Gourd Retreat classes](#). You can see them and register through the Florida Gourd Society class information pages. This gourd retreat will be held at the Deerhaven Retreat Center in Paisely, FL - [click here](#) for retreat general information.

Sign up now for classes at the 2009 Lone Star Gourd Festival in Fredericksburg, Texas from October 16-18, 2009. Check the [Texas Gourd Society Events page](#) for class descriptions and registration information. (PDF links towards the bottom of the page.)

**\*Note: I'm trying to cut back my teaching schedule and perhaps visit some new locations, so this may be the last time I'll be teaching in Texas and Florida for a few years. If you are interested in my classes at these events, please plan on attending them this year.**

#### Grand Canyon Tours

Bus & Air Tours to the Grand Canyon Monument Valley, Bryce & Zion  
[www.GetAmericaTours.c](http://www.GetAmericaTours.c)

#### Grand Canyon Bus Trips

Grand Canyon Bus Trips For All Budgets. Book Online and Save!  
[www.grandcanyoncoach](http://www.grandcanyoncoach)

#### Carving Patterns

Find it Fast & Easy. Resources for Carving Patterns  
[starwalkofdallas.com](http://starwalkofdallas.com)

#### Gourds

ClipArt - Pictures Gourds  
[www.Bing.com](http://www.Bing.com)

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

\*Join my class updates list if you want to receive advance notice of classes. Get the news first and have the best opportunity to select your classes!

**September SALE:** All \$3 heishi strands are on SALE until September 21st for \$2.25 per strand - that's a 25% discount! Good only while current supplies last. (Sale applies to internet and mail order sales only.) New color heishi for this month - Purple Sugilite.



Join The Class updates List



Fetishes - Animal, bird, fish, and Native designs



I picked up a few new items during my recent travels. You'll find these on the [Bone Beads and Embellishments page](#). Limited supplies on all of these items.





**Shell and Bone Earring pairs** are great to wear but also make wonderful accents for gourd masks. .

## September Feature: Grand Canyon Artist Residency

I had a wonderful time at the Canyon! I was encouraged to spend lots of time hiking and exploring and soaking in the beauty of the surrounding area. In return, I did 3 demonstrations and one evening program for the Canyon visitors. The weather was perfect - mostly sunny with only a few cloudy or rainy days. I was provided with a nice cabin and wore a Volunteer uniform when I presented my programs. The rest of the time I hiked, explored, took photos and worked on gourds. I did 3 projects while I was there; two smaller projects and one large piece which I left behind as my gift the the National Park. It is my understanding that eventually this gourd will be incorporated into the visitor center's display area.



Passing the Vermillion Cliffs on the way to the North Rim.



Driving through high plateaus and expansive meadows heading into the Park.



Wild Turkeys in the meadows.



An early morning hike on Saddle Mountain over the Nankoweep trail.

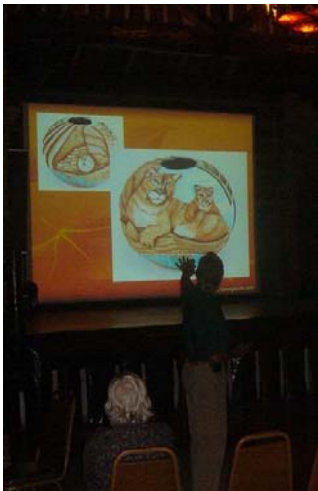




There were deer everywhere!! Lots of does and fawns.



There was lots of evidence of wildfires - both past and present. This is a controlled burn of debris from a fire that was still ongoing when I arrived.



Putting on an evening presentation for Park Visitors.



Carving in front of my cabin. The canyon was only about 50 feet to my left!



Sunset over the Canyon



Artist in Residence Cabin



Some of the many beautiful panoramic views of the canyon.





Lots of Aspen forests- especially in areas that had been burned at some point.



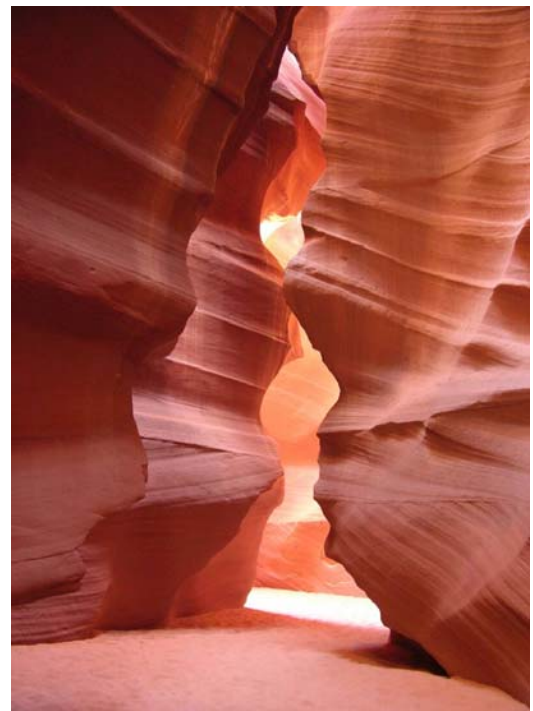
Older burn area near Point Imperial



Above and below: Side trip to Lee's Ferry - where the Colorado River starts to enter the Canyon. Arizona Beachfront Property!!



Side trip to Lake Powell, where the Colorado River exits via the Glen Canyon Dam.



Side trip to Antelope Slot Canyon, on Navajo land just outside of Page, Arizona and close to Lake Powell

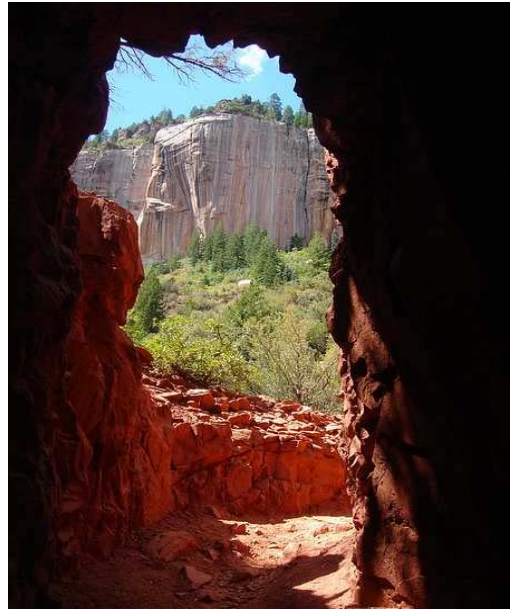




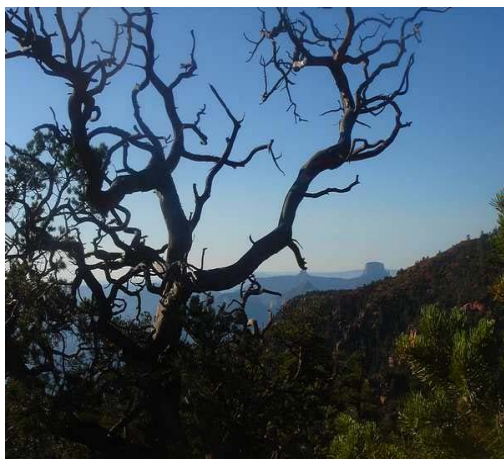
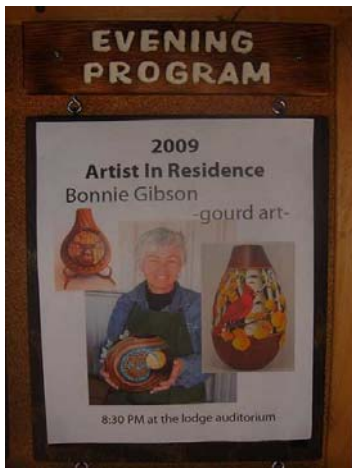
View of Lake Powell from nearby hill. Lake Powell is twice as big as Rhode Island and has more shoreline than the western coast of the US!



Doing a demo in the Sun porch at the Lodge



Looking back up the Kaibab trail through the Supai Tunnel. **Below:** Bridge on the Kaibab trail. This was about the only level place on the hike!



Early morning view at Bright Angel Point





Wall plaque made from a 12" gourd top. I did the pine needle weaving as part of my demos. This has Hopi style eagle and hummingbird designs.



This is the gourd I eventually finished and donated to the Park. You can see a photo of one of the three different bird designs on my home page.



Overlooking the Canyon from Uncle Jim Point



The Canyon view changes constantly, depending on the time of day, weather, and cloud cover.



Now Available through Cafe Press - A variety of shirts with my Grand Canyon design (see below for a large image). You can see all of the products on this page:

<http://www.cafepress.com/ArizonaGourds>



**Fun Fact:**

The black bodied and white tailed **Kaibab Squirrel** is only found on the North Rim. His relative, the grey colored **Abert's squirrel**, is on the South Rim. They are isolated by the surrounding deserts and the canyon, and evolved into two different squirrels.

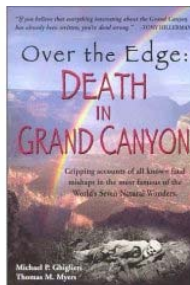
**Featured Gourd of the Month:**

**Guardian of the Canyon Skies**

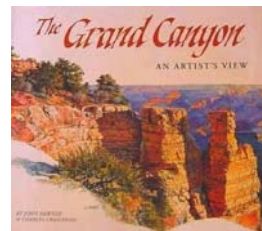
This gourd was the first project I completed during my residency at the Grand Canyon. It features one of the old, gnarled and twisted junipers from the canyon edge and a raven, as well as the colorful canyon in the background.



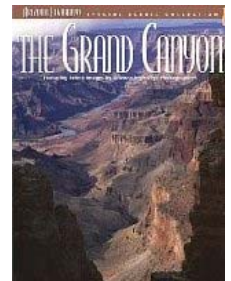
**Featured Books of the Month:**



[Over the Edge: Death in the Grand Canyon](#)

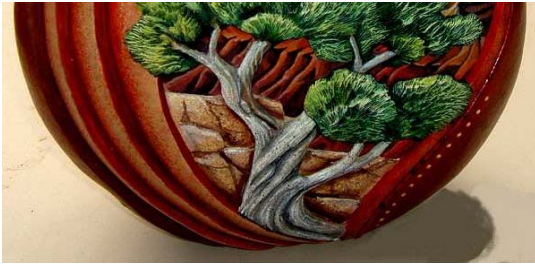


[The Grand Canyon: An Artist's View](#)

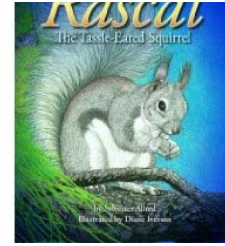
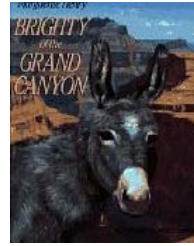


[Arizona Highways: The Grand Canyon](#)





[Brighty of the Grand Canyon](#)



[Rascal, The Tassel-Eared Squirrel](#)

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**Note: It is important that you add [bonniegibson@qwest.net](mailto:bonniegibson@qwest.net) to your "safe senders" list, as many emails bounce each month due to spam blockers.**

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.

[Arizona Gourds HOME](#)

Here are some good Grand Canyon themed books. Next to "**Brighty of the Grand Canyon**", (a children's classic that is just as entertaining today as when I read it as a child) the book "**On the Edge: Death in the Grand Canyon**" is the top selling volume at the Park Visitor's center. It's amazing that a whole book could be devoted to the stupidity and unfortunate accidents that have caused so many deaths in the Grand Canyon.

I loved the book "**The Grand Canyon: An Artist's View**" and even bought a copy to bring home. Lots of sketches and observations that make this a beautiful book. Arizona Highways can always be counted upon to put out volumes with photographs of extraordinary beauty, and their "**Grand Canyon**" book is no exception.

**Rascal the Tassel Eared Squirrel** is a beautiful children's book with a nice story and great artwork. Wonderful for young readers. Finally, **Brighty of the Grand Canyon** was written for 9-12 year olds, but my husband and I both enjoyed re-reading it. Much of the story is factual and includes history about the development of the National Park.



You can use this Amazon search box link to find all kinds of books and other products. I appreciate those of you that do so; Amazon purchases made through the links on this website help to support this site.

*\*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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- Musical Instruments
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**Previous Newsletters:**

- ▶ July 06
- ▶ August 06
- ▶ September 06
- ▶ October 06
- ▶ November 06
- ▶ December 06
- ▶ January 07
- ▶ February 07
- ▶ March 07
- ▶ April 07
- ▶ May 07
- ▶ June 07
- ▶ July 07
- ▶ August 07
- ▶ September 07
- ▶ November 07
- ▶ December 07
- ▶ January 08
- ▶ February 08
- ▶ March 08
- ▶ April 08
- ▶ May 08
- ▶ June 08
- ▶ July 08
- ▶ August 08
- ▶ September 08
- ▶ October 08
- ▶ November 08
- ▶ December 08
- ▶ January 09
- ▶ February 09
- ▶ March 09
- ▶ April 09
- ▶ May 09
- ▶ June 09
- ▶ July 09

- Home Site Map About the Artist Classes
- Links Gourd Art for Sale Gourd Books Project Packets
- Drum & Musical Bone Beads Special Embellishments Glass Supplies
- Inlay Supplies Misc Supplies Patina Paints Tools
- Woodburners Mini Saws Carving Burs Foredom
- Rotary Tool Accessories High Speed Air Tools High Speed Dental Burs Tutorial - Carving/ Inlay
- Tutorial - Drum Making Tutorial - Lids Tutorial - E B Ornament Tutorial - Resin Inlay
- Tutorial - Candle Holder Tutorial - Gold Leaf Tutorial - Luffa Gourd Soap Tutorial - Step by Step
- Tutorial - Photography Tips Tutorial - Workspace Tutorial - Yerba Mate Images - Gallery A
- Images - Gallery B Gourd Puzzles Images - Before and After Images - Gourd Magic

0010