

Do you enjoy the newsletter? We appreciate when you share it with your friends! Bookmark and Share here:



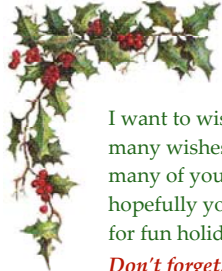
# Arizona Gourds

December updates from the desert southwest...

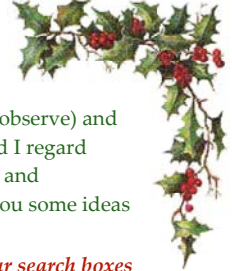


[November2013.pdf](#)

Printable PDF File



## Welcome to the December issue of the Arizona Gourds newsletter!



I want to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas (or whatever holiday you observe) and many wishes for a happy holiday season. The gourdning community is a close one, and I regard many of you as family as well as friends. Enjoy your time spent with your loved ones and hopefully you can sneak in some time for gourds. Our articles and photos may give you some ideas for fun holiday projects!

*Don't forget, if you plan to order holiday gifts from Amazon.com, please use one of our search boxes or links. Your purchases through our links help to support our free newsletters and the Gourd Art Enthusiasts website. It doesn't cost you a thing, and you help us at the same time. Thank you!*



### For the holidays - we also offer gift certificates!

Want to give a gourd related gift?

Give an Amazon.com gift certificate,

[Amazon Gift Certificates](#)

OR

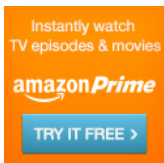
Give an Arizona Gourds Gift Certificate!

[Buy Gift Certificate](#)

(Purchase and redeem on our website with Paypal.)



To get you into the mood for the holidays, here is a YouTube video with a very simple gourd snowman that would be a great project to do with children! If you are more ambitious, you can try your hand at creating one as lovely as this snowman made by Beverly Notaro of Illinois.



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

\*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!

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.*



### Update: Gourd Classes

I will be announcing some new spring classes soon. Tentative Tucson dates will be around the first weekend in March, but I may add some in late February or later in March as well. Sign up for the class updates list if you want to be the first to hear about new offerings before they are listed on my website. My classes at the Wuertz Festival are full.

[Join The Class updates List](#)

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



### Looking for an inexpensive gift for a gourd friend?

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.



### Coming soon!

#### New spinning bur cleaning tool

While you can easily clean carving burs by soaking them in a solvent and then scrubbing them with a brass toothbrush, sometimes you might be in a hurry and want something that works fast. With this new cleaning tool, you leave the bur in your tool, turn it on LOW speed, and hold the moving bur against the brass brush in the middle of the cleaning tool. The spinning bur will rotate the brush, which will clean the bur. Brass brushes are replaceable.

Watch the website home page for a notice of their arrival sometime in December. When available, they will be listed on the "[Rotary Tool Accessories](#)" page of the website.



\*Update on carving burs: Several people have written me to ask about the availability of a few carving burs that have been out of stock for a while. I have been working the last couple of months to bypass some third party suppliers and become a direct dealer for Dremel. I should have plenty of both Dremel carving burs and accessories (including flexshafts and repair parts) as well as Saburr Tooth and Dura Grit specialty burs sometime this month. Thank you for your patience.

### Musical Instrument supplies

After checking out our feature on the Musical Instrument Museum please stop by our other pages to buy supplies to make your own instruments! Drum skins, Kalimba kits, and decorative metal tacks are all available on the [Musical Supplies](#) page. Left - **Barry Sholder of Georgia** uses our skins for his gourd banjo creations.

## Special Feature - Gourd Instruments at the Museum of Musical Instruments ("MIM")

Last month I had the fun experience of spending a day at the **Museum of Musical Instruments**, located in Phoenix, Arizona. I personally do not play any musical instrument nor have a particular interest in them, however I found this museum to be a fantastic experience and well worth the visit. The museum is one of the best I've experienced. Upon entering you are provided with an audio box and headphones that interact with the displays, so that you can see video clips of the instruments being played and hear the sounds of each one. The museum is broken down into several huge galleries (plan on spending the day!) that are at first geographically separated, and as you move along, some of the galleries deal with specific artists, genres of music and even an interactive gallery where you can play some of the instruments yourself. The building houses a concert/workshop venue as well. If you are ever in the Phoenix area, it is definitely worth the time. You can find more information about the Museum on their website at: <http://mim.org/>

So why am I mentioning this museum in a gourd newsletter? When I began touring the museum, I thought it would be fun to take photos of some of the gourd instruments to share in the newsletter. Hours later, with 75 photos and a dead camera battery, I still had not photographed all of the gourd instruments! It's amazing how many cultures use gourds in so many different ways. Some of the instruments may look similar but have different names and slightly different construction in different countries.

If you can't visit the museum, but would like to hear some of the instruments pictured below, I recommend Jim Widess and Ginger Summit's book, "Gourd Musical Instruments". This small volume has photos of the instruments and also a CD so you can hear them being played. (We've had some fun at classes playing this CD in the background!) The same authors have also written "Making Gourd Musical Instruments, which is another great book and has directions to make some of these more unusual instruments.

### Museum Overview



[Gourd Musical Instruments](#)



[Making Gourd Musical Instruments](#)



Most of the galleries were broken into continents and countries with examples from each area.

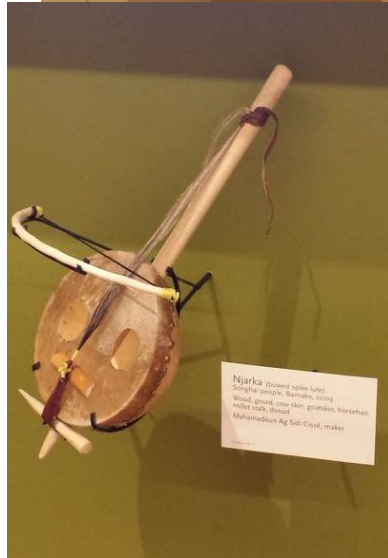


### Gourd Instruments!



Most displays were accompanied by a video feed with several examples of music from a region. Some displays focused on a particular instrument such as thumb pianos or bagpipes.





Njarka (Dorand kabe lube)  
 Senghar magin, Barmata, Jang  
 Bawa, gourd, cow skin, gourd, hornbill,  
 white teeth, string  
 Muhamadoun Ag Sidé, maker

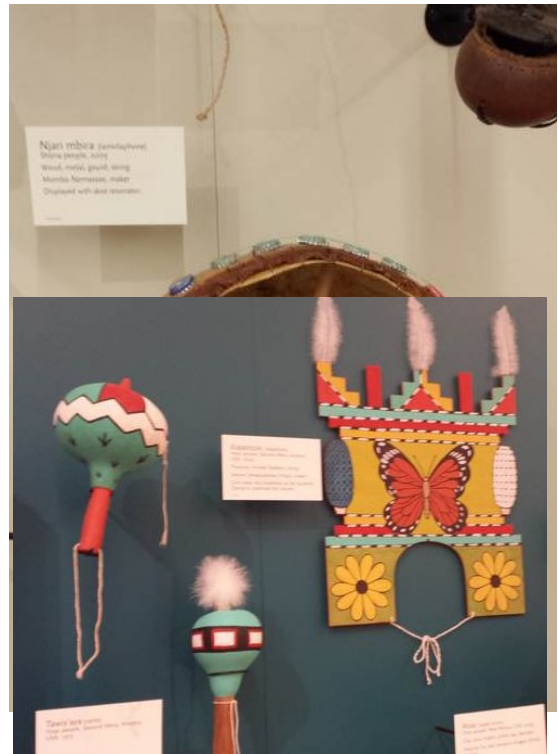


...  
 ...  
 ...



...  
 ...  
 ...

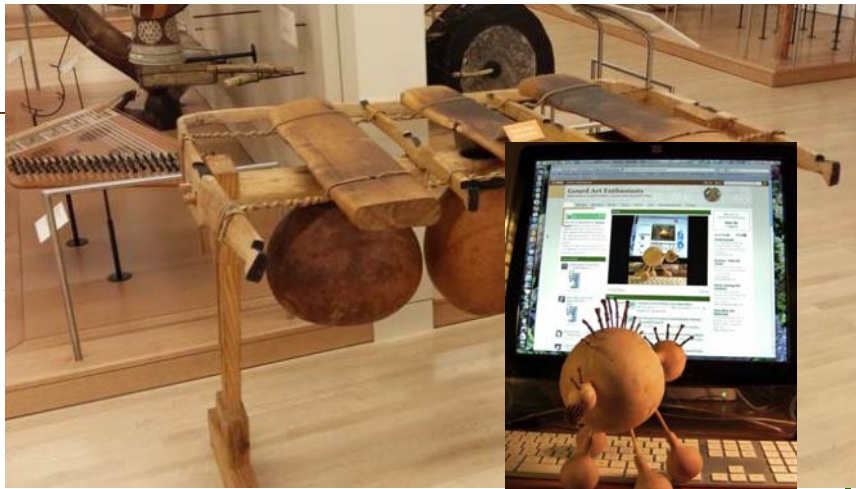






If you liked this feature and want to learn more about these instruments, please visit the [August 2006](#) newsletter for a drum making feature, plus articles on musical instruments in the [October 2010](#) and [November 2010](#) editions.





Follow us on 

Like You, Kristy Kalt Dial and 4,379 others like this.

Gourd and photo by GAE member Bill Watkins of NC



to grow! We have **almost 3650 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 a quick answer to a gourding question. [Check out our two GAE T-Shirt designs!](#)

**Arizona Gourds Newsletter Index**  
See all our old newsletters from the past 7 years! Articles and Tips are indexed.  
[Newsletter Index](#)

### Gourds for Gifting!

Thank you to the folks that sent in these great ideas to get you into the holiday spirit of handmade gifts!



This cute gourd bank was made by **Linda Ashmore of Arkansas**. The gourd was for a lady to give as a shower gift for her new grandson. His nursery was sporting themed so she requested this duck pond scene along with the name of the baby. (This would also make a great Christmas gift!)

Below: Some gourds by **Merril McHenry of Kansas**. The little critter was made as a gift for his 5 year old grandson. He used wooden spools for the legs and added glass eyes.



Buffalo or Coyote gourds, also by **Merril McHenry**. Each fall, Merrill gathers these wild gourds and green scrapes them while they are green.

He pencils on original designs and wood burns and paints them for Christmas ornament gifts. To the right is his "12 days of Christmas" series



Left: Brenda Smith made this Santa ornament. She needed a gift for her friend who can't clean his gourd with a potato peeler. It will eat off the hard wood skin and scrubby was for the refinishing.

Far Left: Julie-Anne made these in Saskatchewan, Canada. This multi-tiered gourd ornament is a gift for her sister. She says these ornaments are popular and she makes a few each year for gifts. They are a fun way to use smaller gourds and she hopes to one day have a tree with only these ornaments as decoration. The maple leaf is Canada's national leaf and she is proud to use them on many of her creations.

**Coming in January: Related Crafts**

Where do artists get inspiration? Many gourd artists get ideas from looking at other artistic media such as wood, eggs, ceramic and more. I'll be looking for photos that have related skills that work well with gourds; woodcarving, pyrography on unusual surfaces, weaving, painting, etc. Have some suggestions? Please send your ideas and photos to: [bonnie@arizonagourds.com](mailto:bonnie@arizonagourds.com)

**New Feature: Gourd Artist of the Month**

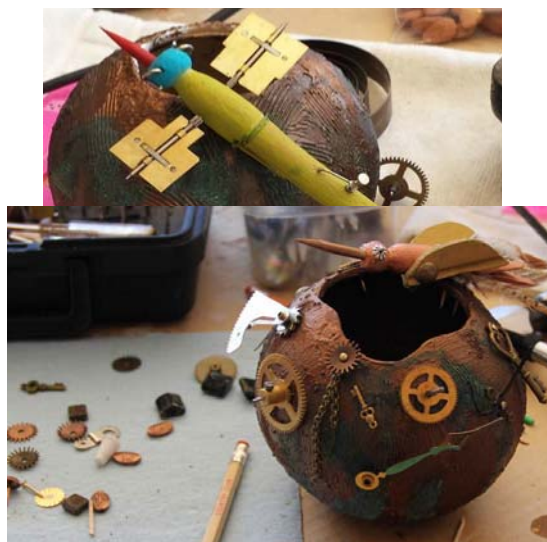
I'd like to feature some gourd artists that are deserving of recognition! I want to showcase both US and International artists, and make this a regular monthly feature. If you would like to be considered, please send some info about yourself and at least 6 high quality photos of your best work. (If I get a lot of responses, your pictures may possibly be used in later editions.) Put "gourd artist of the month" in the subject line and send to: [bonnie@arizonagourds.com](mailto:bonnie@arizonagourds.com)

**Reader's Mailbox**

Below: Steampunk style fun from some students in a recent class. They were provided with clock parts, keys and gears and materials to make a funky bird. Every one turned out different!







**Reader's Mailbox** *\*This email was sent to one of my local gourding friends, and is posted with the writers permission.*

"Next time you get together with Bonnie for a play day, you might let her know that my husband would like to have a word with her. My "gear head" husband now has gourds hanging from the rafters in his shop....and I have actually taken over a corner (next to the pellet stove, of course).....as well as one room in the house.....not to mention, gourds hanging from the pinon trees to dry. And all because of HER.

SHE is actually responsible for my gourd addiction. I knew that gourding was in my future the minute I saw the beautiful "cover gourd" on her book..."Gourds...Southwest Gourd Techniques". I wonder how many other husbands would like "a word with her"??!!!

I, on the other hand, would like to thank her for introducing me to this wonderful art form. Gourd art seems to attract down to earth people who love nature, love to laugh, and are warm & generous. Working with gourds, and my gourding friends has truly enriched my life." Linda P.

PS My husband is really understanding and has become very involved with making cleaning tools, stands, etc.....also helps when I am "stuck" with a design & is very good w/glues, paint, & finishes. I think I'll keep him!

**Reader's Mailbox** *\*I don't usually like to post "testimonial" type emails, but this one really made me smile.*

Hi Bonnie, I got my order this week and was thrilled at the "extras" included, it was such a treat! And I want to thank you for responding to my Amazon search box question. My carts do seem to have a way of expanding and it is nice to know I am contributing to the gourd cause in a small way. I also want to thank you for your incredible generosity of spirit in sharing your gourd knowledge. I have never been able to attend a class so am self taught. I have purchased instruction gourd books in the past to learn a specific technique, only to realize that keys bits were missing so you couldn't accomplish what you wanted. I refer to your book and website on a regular basis, and have the thrill of seeing the quality of my work improving. When I get an e-mail or questions at a craft fair, I always give you credit and direct the inquirer to your website. I don't normally write e-mails like this, but as a retired lady my gourd work has become important to me and you are a huge contributor to my enjoyment. **Debra Paddack**

**Tip of the Month - Simple Paint Drying Rack Solutions**

Have you ever painted or varnished a gourd and then stood there wondering where you could put it so that it would dry without the finish being damaged? Sometimes it works fine to just put the gourd upside down onto a broom handle or similar item, but it is easy to make a simple drying rack that won't accidentally fall over and damage your gourd.

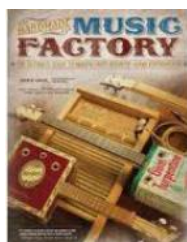
Start with a piece of stiff cardboard, and push three upholstery tacks through the cardboard in a triangular pattern. Spread them far enough apart so that your gourd will sit on the 3 exposed points and the gourd does not touch the cardboard below.

A more permanent rack can be made by pounding a few nails into a board and then snipping off the nail heads, leaving a sharp point. Or, for a more flexible solution, use a base made from a small piece of pegboard, and insert stubby roofing nails into the holes from the back side of the board. (You can pick the placement that is appropriate to the size of the gourd.) Flip the board over so the nail points stick upwards, and place your gourd on top. The few tiny places where the gourd rests on the nails will never show on the finish.

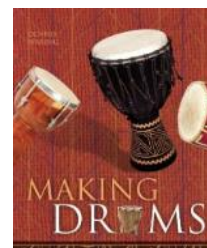
**Featured Gourd of the Month:**

Starfish ocean drum. Because ocean drums are played with the skin side down, the gourd shell is usually the focus of the decoration. This gourd was thick enough for carving and also has a design added to the drum skin.

**Featured Books of the Month:**



[Handmade Musical Factory](#)



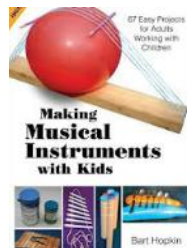
[Making Drums](#)



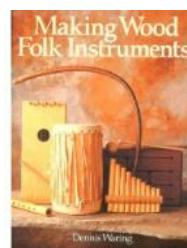
[How to Make Hawaiian Musical Instruments](#)



All photos and designs copyright © 2013 by Bonnie Gibson and may not be used without express written permission.



[Making Musical Instruments with Kids](#)



[Making Wood Folk Instruments](#)



[Creative Embellishments for Gourd Art](#)

Here are some musical instrument related titles. A couple of these are out of print but you can still buy used copies for very little through the links.

Coming soon: Marianne Barnes' new book, ***Creative Embellishments for Gourd Art*** is scheduled to be released at the end of January. You can pre-order now and lock in the guaranteed lowest price and it will be shipped out just as soon as Amazon has it on hand.

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

<http://www.arizonagourds.com/December2013.html>

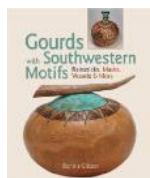
Not receiving the newsletter? You can join the newsletter mailing list by clicking on the envelope icon. If you are receiving duplicate mailings, or want to unsubscribe from the newsletter list, please send me an [email](#).

**Note: Not getting the emailed notices about the newsletters? The current issue is always available from our home page.**

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.

  
[Click here to join our newsletter mailing list](#)

[Recommend This Site](#)



(Click on book cover for ordering information.)

**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.

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



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.*

- Gourds - General
- Patterns and Designs
- Gourds - Misc.
- Musical Instruments
- Pyrography Books
- Carving Books
- Weaving
- Decorative Painting

Newsletter Index - article and tip index from all the past newsletters

[Newsletter Index](#)

[Arizona Gourds HOME](#)

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!~~

[Home](#) [Amazon Search](#) [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](#) [Metals](#)  
[Misc Supplies](#) [Patina Paints](#) [Apoxie Sculpt](#) [Tools](#) [Woodburners](#)  
[Mini Saws](#) [Carving Burs](#) [Foredom Tools](#) [Rotary Tool Accessories](#) [Micro-Pro Carver](#)  
[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](#) [Newsletter Index](#)  
[Shipping Policies](#)

0006