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# Arizona Gourds

January updates from the desert southwest...

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

Happy New Year to all my gourding friends! I hope 2013 brings you bumper gourd crops, fantastic new experiences and plenty of finished new gourd art pieces. Our New Year's resolution should be to bring more awareness to gourds - let's all share our fantastic hobby with others and bring it more exposure. **Theme for 2013, "A Gourd in every home!"**

I'm looking forward to another busy year, and it's already started out with some excitement. The **Crafts Report magazine** interviewed me in November, and they've published the article as the "Profile in Success" feature for the month! It's in the February 2013 issue (cover is shown to the right) and should be available on the newsstands. You can also subscribe to the magazine through Amazon at a discounted price, or get a digital subscription or single issues through the publisher.



[Crafts Report Subscription](#)

*Not familiar with the magazine? The Crafts Report is a business resource for artists and craft retailers. Each issue includes articles on topics such as photographing your crafts, ethical business practices, how to sell your craft effectively, booth setups, etc.*

## Update: Gourd Classes

**Wuertz Festival Update:** My class sessions are full and have waiting lists. *\*I plan to offer more class sessions here at my home during February/March. Watch for new Tucson classes to be posted SOON. Please sign up for the class updates list (link is below to the left) if you want to hear about new offerings as soon as they are posted.*

Next **April 26th -30th**, I will be teaching at the annual art retreat at the [After Midnight Art Ranch](#) in Sonoita, Arizona. Classes will be announced soon - watch the After Midnight site or sign up for the [class updates list](#).

**May 18th - 19th**, I will be teaching in **Vista, California**. Watch for details to be posted on the classes page SOON.

The **June Raymondville, Missouri** workshop is now full. Please contact [Sophia Delaat](#), to join the waiting list.

I'll be teaching at a June 7-9 workshop in **Colorado Springs, CO**. Please contact [Merle Dallison](#) for information.

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

**Exciting news** - Last spring I published a review of the new Micro-Pro Champion micro motor tool in the May issue of the Arizona Gourds newsletter. I purchased and tested one of these units and compared it against some of the older models and against some other brands that were being used by students in my carving classes. I had not been impressed by some of the micro-motor tools I had seen in the past, as they had very little torque (power) for heavy carving, and the units tended to overload when used for heavy carving. This unit was the first one I had tried that was priced reasonably and still delivered a good amount of power.

While I still use my Foredom and Dremel tools for carving, this tool has some definite advantages, especially for ladies with smaller or arthritic hands. The handpiece is easier to hold as it uses a small flexible cord for power instead of a flexshaft. My favorite use for the tool is filigree carving, as I can hold the tool vertically for hole piercing for a much longer period of time before my hand becomes fatigued.

After recommending this tool to students for the last year, I've decided to start offering it on our website, along with the optional foot control. *(I don't use a foot control myself, but some people like that option.)*

Tools should be available sometime in January. **\*Email me** to place a pre-order to be picked up at the Wuertz Festival. Look for these on the new "[Micro-Pro Carvers](#)" page.

### From the Manufacturer:

Compare Micro-Motor Tools Grinders / Carvers based on quality, features and value: The MICRO-PRO by MASTERCARVERS® High Performance Tool with Micro Motor Tool comparison...



MICRO-PRO by MASTERCARVER® High-Performance Tools wins micro-motor Tool comparisons to: FOREDOM, RAM, TPS, NSK, Gourd Master and more!

**Compare component quality:** The Micro-Pro features top quality components like NSK bearings and CNC manufactured high precision stainless steel collets.

**Compare Micro-Motor Tool Grinder warranties:** the Micro-Pro covers the handpiece and control box for 1-full year.

The new Micro-Pro Champion features an 11% increase in torque (power). With higher torque & speed up to 46,000 rpm, the Micro-Pro™ has the power, speed, superior features & quality you want, priced far less than others! For better control, power flows to the handpiece by a 6' flexible cord. The dial varies speed from 0 to 46,000 rpm! Control box features: dial speed control knob, lighted power indicator, on/off switch, overload protection, 6-burr storage holes, 110/220 Volt selector, forward/reverse switch (directs chips away from you or for left-handed carvers). Handpiece features high torque, fan cooled micro motor, sealed NSK ball bearings, solid grip turn-ring for hands-free bit changes (1/4 turn releases or locks bits & collets). Handpiece specifications 46,000 rpm: L. 6", diameter 5/8"-1", weight: 7.3 oz. Set includes: handpiece, 3/32" & 1/8" quick change collets, variable speed power supply, table top and box mounted handpiece holders, long-life motor brushes, instructions & 1-year warranty.

Note: burrs not included. For hands-free control add optional on/off foot pedal.

**\*January Sale - web only**  
Structured Tooth Bur -  
Cylinder shape is on sale  
while current supply lasts.  
\$3 off the regular price!  
On the [Carvings Burs](#)  
[page](#).



**Lots of unusual Mask  
Making supplies on the**  
[Metals](#), [Embellishments](#)  
and [Special](#)  
[Embellishments](#) pages!



### Feature - Masks and More

Years ago, I was introduced to gourd masks by master gourd mask maker, Dave Sisk, who also lives in Tucson. At the time, I had not seen others making such wonderful masks - although there were other people (including Robert Rivera and Doug Fountain and a few others) doing them before that. I have to admit that I was slow to appreciate gourd masks; they just weren't something I was particularly interested in making myself. Fast forward to today..... I've ended up making quite a few masks of my own, and now when you visit a gourd show (especially those in the southwest) you will see a ton of lovely and creative masks.

One really nice thing about masks is that you can often use gourds that are damaged on one side or less than perfect in other ways. I've found several ways to use small cut off gourd pieces to create gourd mask shadowboxes, wall hangings, and masks on stands. Some people use whole gourds, others use half gourds, while others use pieces and parts! **This month on the Gourd Art Enthusiasts website, we invite all our GAE members to participate in our monthly challenge - for January it's Gourd Masks.** Not a member? Its easy and free to join, and you can create your own gourd page that can be shared with friends and family. Thanks to all the artists that shared their photos!

To get you started, here are some masks from current GAE members and gourd friends. \*If you want more information, you may enjoy two of my project packets - "Masquerade Vase" and "Mask Making Techniques". (They are on the [Project Packets page](#) on the Arizona



Above: Gourd masks by Dave Sisk of Arizona. His website is

[www.gourdmasque.com](http://www.gourdmasque.com)

Below: Distinctive and unusual masks by Bill Decker of Missouri. Bill is noted for his expert pyrography skills and renderings of feathers



Below: 3 Gourd masks by Margaret Sullivan of Arizona. The top mask has added ram's horns.



Above: 2 Gourd masks by Jack Thorpe of CA. It'd always fun to see masks that are a bit different than the typical Southwestern designs.





Pottery painted deer mask by Darla Hines of Texas.

Three masks by Karen Phillips of AZ.



"Uga Booga" Gourd Mask by Gail Bishop of CA.



Zendoodle style tribal mask by Kathe Stark of NM.



\*Interesting Story....This was one of the first masks I ever made. I entered it in the very first Arizona Gourd Society competition 10 years ago - where it was stolen from the exhibit! (Needless to say, the show now has fantastic security.) A few months later, the mask showed up on ebay - but I couldn't prove it was the same piece or just a copy made from a photo taken at the show....

I finished up 2012 by holding some classes at my home in December. Thanks to Lollie Yancey for sharing these class photos!



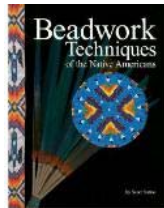
Cholla Carving class results - the carving is done and the gourd is ready to paint!



### Bonus Feature - Seed Bead Applique by Dusti Lockey

In the [September 2006 newsletter](#), we featured a seed bead rim tutorial by Dusti Lockey. Dusti has expanded and improved her tutorial and has graciously shared her beading technique with the gourd community. The tutorial is below in PDF format for easy download. *(If you need assistance in viewing or printing PDF files, please [click here for free Adobe Reader software.](#))* **\*Important: Please be sure to read the notes at the end of the article as to rights of usage of this material.**

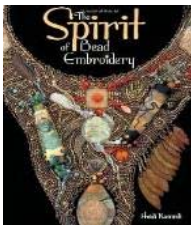
Dusti is a member of the Gourd Art Enthusiasts website. You can see more of Dusti's work and contact her via [her page on GAE](#). Many thanks to Dusti for sharing her skills with us!



[Beadwork Techniques of the Native Americans](#)



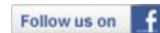
[SeedBeadEmbroideryTutorial.pdf](#)



[The Spirit of Bead Embroidery](#)

The [Gourd Art Enthusiasts site](#) continues to grow! We have about **2950 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 gourd question! [Check out our two great new GAE T-Shirt designs!](#)

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



### Reader's Mailbag

At my last class, Natalie Ashburn of Arizona showed me this lovely gourd angel that she had made from several gourd pieces.



"Like" Arizona Gourds on Facebook to get special offers, up to the minute news about new products and classes, and other gourd updates.

*(Just a note - I don't add gourd friends on my personal page, I save that for family and non-gourding friends.)*



**Reader's Mailbag**

Hi Bonnie, I had a wonderful time yesterday at your two classes. I love learning new techniques. Now I'm set up with some better equipment in order to use my dremel tool. I am so thrilled that you had your inventory out for us to purchase items we need. I am sending you a picture of one of my canteen gourd purses. I had trouble steadying the saw as I had several coatings of polyurethane semi gloss spray on the outside before I decided to make it into a purse. But I really like how it turned out and the person that bought it loves it too. *Diane Fleming - AZ*



**Tip of the Month: Staybowlizer**

At a kitchen supply store, I stumbled across this interesting product that you may find handy for gourds. The "Staybowlizer" is made of silicone rubber, and while it was designed to hold a bowl firmly in place while mixing goodies in your kitchen, it can also be used to hold a gourd steady on your workbench. The surface isn't sticky, but the silicone rubber grabs items and holds them in place. The Staybowlizer retails for about \$24.95.



*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](mailto:bonnie@arizonagourds.com).*

**Featured Gourd of the Month:**

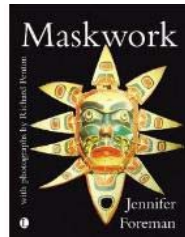
**"Wild Brothers" Gourd Mask**

Canteen gourd, antlers, turkey, macaw and pheasant feathers, horsehair, copper cones and deerkin legs

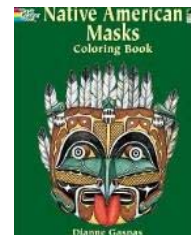


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**Featured Books of the Month:**



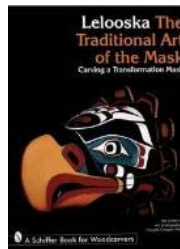
[Maskwork](#)



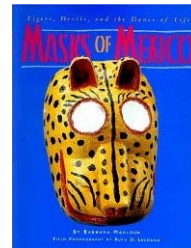
[Native American Masks](#)



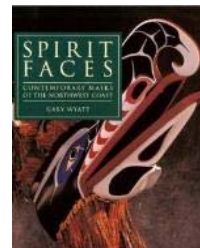
[American Indian Horse Masks](#)



[The Traditional Art of the Mask](#)



[Masks of Mexico](#)



[Spirit Faces](#)

Everything MASKS! Books above include coloring books, educational books, and even one that shows fabulous beaded American Indian masks for horses!

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

<http://www.arizonagourds.com/Jan13.html>

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

[Newsletter Index](#)

[Arizona Gourds HOME](#)

- [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](#) [Tools](#) [Woodburners](#) [Mini Saws](#)
- [Carving Burs](#) [Foredom Tools](#) [Rotary Tool Accessories](#) [High Speed Air Tools](#)
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- [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](#)

0009