

Arizona Gourds

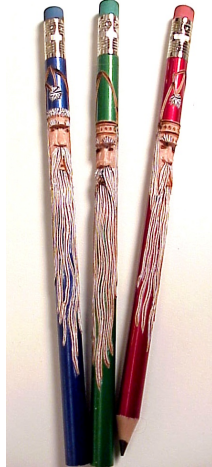
November updates from the desert southwest...



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Welcome to the November issue of the Arizona Gourds newsletter!



Handcarved and burned Santa Pencils - remember these big fat pencils from kindergarten?



Everyone is probably enjoying the cooler fall temperatures (and maybe some snow?) and starting to get excited for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Now is the time to get to work on those unfinished gourd projects or to start new ones so you'll have some wonderful homemade gifts for friends and family this year.

Last year I made a gourd turkey as a gift for my Stepmom to enjoy for Thanksgiving (it was the least I could do since she hosted and cooked most of the dinner!) This year I'm going to give my friends and family a hand carved Santa pencil, thanks to instructions from Cecil Walley at the Florida Gourd Retreat. Cecil also showed me how to make a handcarved twig rooster - it was a fun change to carve with knives instead of power tools.

I recently came across an interesting website that has some gourds from South Africa and central African nations. Many have intricate wire work or are elaborately beaded. The site is [Galerie Ezakwantu](#). It's always interesting to see how gourds across the world draw us all closer. Also, check out this gourd dress - it was made by a Nigerian dress designer for a 2008 "Fashion for Peace" fashion show held in Kenya. If you are interested, you can read more about the event and see more photos of other wild fashions on the [Reuters news page](#).



Update: It's now easier to find articles in past Arizona Gourds newsletters!

With over 3 years of newsletters, it was becoming time consuming find a specific article or tip in old issues. To make things easier to find, I've compiled a new "[Newsletter Index](#)" page complete with a list of the main articles and tips. A link to the index is available at the bottom of all newsletter pages, on the home page, and on the site map bar at the bottom of each page.

Note: I will be traveling to teach classes in Indiana, and will not be shipping orders from November 12th to the 16th. Orders placed during that time will be sent out in the order they were received just as soon as I return.

Update: Gourd Classes

Join me for classes at the second Gourd Retreat at the After Midnight Art Ranch in Sonoita, AZ next April.

There will be 5 days of gourd classes, including two with Maria Dellos, author of the book *Gourd Art with Ink Dyes*, and three days of classes with me. The stay-onsite retreat spaces are now full, but there are plenty of spaces in all of the classes. Register for classes on the [After Midnight website](#). If you need lodging nearby, contact [Linda Hanson](#).

I will be teaching two days of classes next September 11-12th in Cape Cod. This mini retreat is sponsored by Marcia Rothwell and will be held on the grounds of her Bed and Breakfast. There will be some spaces for people to stay on site, or you are welcome to take individual classes and commute or stay nearby in other lodgings. You can see photos of the retreat site [here](#). You can also [email Marcia](#) or call her at 860-563-8180. Class signups and more detailed information to follow soon.

*Join the 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!



Join The Class updates List

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

October Glass Giveaway Winners

Last month, people that placed an order had a chance to win a special piece of dichroic glass, each valued at \$7 - \$12. Congratulations to the randomly selected winners of last month's prizes:

Madeline Rodriquez - Vista, CA
 Stella Tinker - Brownwood, TX
 Kimberly McEachin - Hawthorne, FL
 Carolyn Hawze - Conover, NC
 Cheryl Lewis - Oswego, KS
 Debra L. Burckhard - Rapid City, SD
 Joyce France - West Plains, MO
 Mary Oliver - London, KY
 Ed Rettig - Blodgett, OR
 La Verne Romano - Yerington, NV



NEW - Bone Kokopelli beads on the [Bone Beads and Embellishments page](#).



Back in stock - nice quality Ammonite Fossils. These vary in color and size, but most of the peices are about 1" to 2". Each fossil is split into a matched pair, and each piece is beautifully polished. You'll find these near the bottom of the [Inlay Supplies page](#).



NEW - I have modified the Nightlight kits so they are now more affordable! Several people indicated that they would prefer to use their own gourds to create the nightlight shades. The instruction sheets have been rewritten to include additional patterns, photos, and directions for cutting and preparing a gourd shade using your own small gourd. The price of the kit has been cut substantially, just in time to start making holiday gifts! You'll find these on the [Kits and Displays page](#).



NEW - Bone Feather earrings **on sale** on the [Bone Beads and Embellishments page](#).



November Feature: Florida Gourd Retreat and the Texas Gourd Festival

I have really enjoyed my opportunities to travel and meet gourders from all over the country. I had a fantastic time at the Florida Gourd Society's Fall Retreat in late September and at the Texas Gourd Festival in October. It's always a great inspiration to spend time with others that are excited about gourds! Below are some photos from the Florida and Texas trips, and some pictures from the Texas gourd competition.





Spanish Moss - something we don't see in Tucson!



Above: Photos from the Florida Retreat
(Want to see more? Here's [a photo slideshow](#) from the retreat.)

Below: Photos from the Texas Gourd Festival and Competition

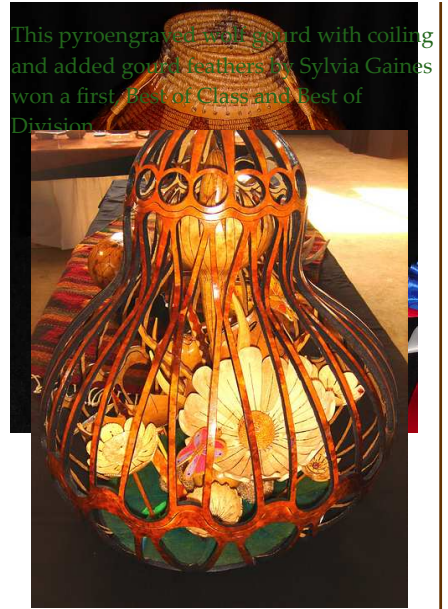


Above: Texas Gourd Queens show off their gourd crowns!

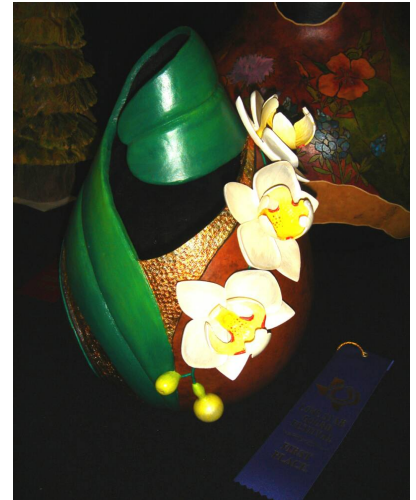


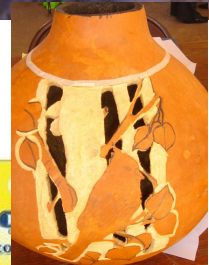


Judy Richie's Ram gourd was carved, burned, and had added coiling and ram horns. This piece won a first in the fine arts division, Best of Division, Best of Show and Best of Class.



This pyroengraved gourd with coiling and added gourd feathers by Sylvia Gaines won a first Best of Class and Best of Division.





Fun at the carving classes!



New view of the Grand Canyon Gourd on the [Arizona Gourds home page](#).



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Follow Arizona Gourds on Facebook and Twitter!



Gourd shirts, sweatshirts, mugs and other products in 4 different designs available at my Cafe Press store: <http://www.cafepress.com/ArizonaGourds>

Special Feature - Completed Carousel Horse Carving

In the [August newsletter](#), I showed the start of a large carousel horse carving. Some people asked to see the finished results. Here is the horse all painted and assembled with brass poles. I used double poles underneath, so that a child can actually sit on it safely. The horse measures about 32" long and the same height to the top of the pole. All decorations have been carved from the wooden block, nothing has been added.

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: Carving and Burn Marks

er tools? (Most of the time will not cause any problems, as you usually
ence, here are some of the common causes and solutions:

in a small jar with some acetone or similar solvent and soak for a bit.
le for all burs. CARBIDE burs ONLY may be flamed with a small
the bur and will not hurt the bur. Brush away the ashy residue with a
use great care to avoid burning yourself. DO NOT use this method on
ld a sharp edge. When in doubt, use the acetone method.

last a long time, but with heavy or improper use, they can become dull.
s apples, cannonballs, and gourds grown in harsh desert conditions are
skin. They are fine for carving, but your burs will clog quickly. Clean

ne bur in one place for too long. With practice, you will be able to more
ce the heat build up caused by friction.

5) Your tool is running at an inefficient speed. Try adjusting the speed up or down to see if this eliminates the burn marks.

More information about burs available on the [Carving Burs](#) page. Brass cleaning brushes available on the [Rotary Tool Accessories](#) page.
**Do you have a tip or tutorial we can feature here? Please [contact me](#).*

Reader's Mailbag

In your news letter you did a piece on gourd lights and different lighting. I am sending you a picture of a night light I made from a banana gourd, turkey feather, arrow heads and sanded paint with a piece of turquoise; and a cowboy rope with a small Christmas light with a double AA battery pack placed in the bottom of the light. I am also sending a picture of a piece I did that St. Marys Hospital bought to be put on display there. This is kind of nice because both my children and grandson were born there. I still have a long way to go but your classes, patience, and tools have really helped me to get this far. THANK YOU Clint Appelt - Reno, Nevada



Left: Piece by Betty Banks of Leedy, Oklahoma. Betty started this in some of my classes. The eagle feather stand is a ceramic bowl!

Right: Shiela Guidry started this at a "Carving with Cutouts" class in Savannah, GA. She did a wonderful job with the carving and painting!



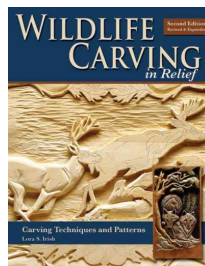
"Leather Tooled" gourd by Denise Lown of Tucson

Featured Gourd of the Month:

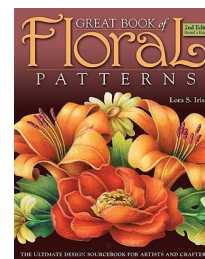
Contemporary Mini

This cannonball gourd has an added lid with a handle made from a chopstick. The gourd has turquoise cabochons and gold leaf accents.

Featured Books of the Month:



[2nd Edition Revised - Wildlife Carving in Relief](#)



[2nd Edition Revised - Great Book of Floral Patterns](#)



[Power Carving Manual](#)



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[mailing list](#)

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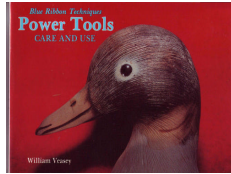
<http://www.arizonagourds.com/Nov09.html>

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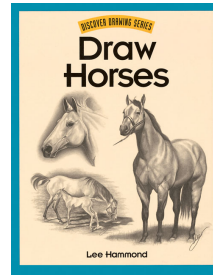
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If your email address changes, just sign up again with your new address - no need to email me the change, as I purge non-working addresses monthly.

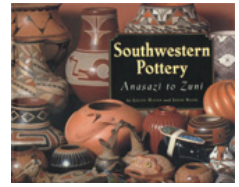
[Arizona Gourds HOME](#)



[Power Tools Care and Use](#)



[Draw Horses](#)



[Southwestern Pottery from Anazazi to Zuni](#)

Lora Irish has revised two of her most popular books and they are available for pre-order now. **Wildlife Carving in Relief** is probably one of the best books out there for people that want to learn relief carving. The information transfers to gourd extremely well. Her **Great Book of Floral Patterns** book is full of patterns, and this revised edition has even more than the first issue.

Woodcarvers books often have lots of great carving info. If you have any interest in basic techniques, these Power Tools and Techniques books are good resources.

Draw Horses is another good drawing book for a popular subject, and **Southwestern Pottery** is one of the best resources (and at a very reasonable price) for those that want reference photos of southwestern Native pottery. This is one of my favorite books.

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- Decorative Painting

NEW - Newsletter Index - Article and tip index from all the past newsletters!
[Newsletter Index](#)

A note about emails:

Many of us have come to rely on email correspondence in our personal and professional lives. However, unlike traditional mail, email has a much greater tendency to become lost without anyone ever knowing it. Email can be sent and simply "disappear" into cyberspace. The worst part is - you won't know it, and neither will anybody else. There are a lot of variables that play into email transmission, including your Internet service provider, your computer anti-virus and spam software, and even your email application. Sometimes we think that as long as we have our own junk mail filters set appropriately then everything will come and go just as we intend it. But once you send an email, it has to pass through several different portals and filters before it reaches its final destination. Not getting the newsletter? **Be sure you have added messages from bonniegibson@qwest.net to your safe sender list.**

If you have sent me an email and have not heard back within a few days, then the chances are I never received your correspondence. Even when traveling, I try to be very diligent with all email communication and I even scan the junk mail filters for legitimate emails that slip by. If you have tried contacting me and have not received a timely response, you may reach me at 1.520.444.8330. Be aware that I am on Mountain Standard time (the correct Tucson time is displayed on my home page) and that I may not answer the phone if I am outside carving gourds, but I will return your call if you leave a message.

Don't want to use the internet shopping cart? I can only accept credit cards through paypal but I'm will gladly accept your check if you prefer to place an order by email or phone.

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