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Arizona Gourds

Updates from the desert southwest...



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Welcome to the April issue of the Arizona Gourds newsletter!



Spring arrived very early in the desert this year. I feel a bit guilty for enjoying our warm weather when other parts are still snowbound - but in July and August we will be the ones envious of their weather! I try to go out for a walk each day in my neighborhood, and I've enjoyed seeing the spring wildflowers. Cactus flowers bloom a bit later in the spring so we enjoy 2-3 months of color. The air is also heavily perfumed with the scent of blooming citrus trees, so it makes my walks enjoyable. Here are a couple of our local blooms - penstemon and fairy dusters.



Class updates

Tucson classes will be offered again at the beginning of April. Keep an eye on the [Classes page](#) for more info - or email me with your requests for specific classes. Anyone interested in a pine needle weaving with a cabochon class?

Scheduled classes with openings:

3 day gourd retreat in Temecula, California April 28-30 OR May 2-4 2017 Information on the classes page. Leather Tooling, Inlace Inlay, and Added Handles/Patinas and Textures. Supplies are included except for your own tools and gourds. You'll even get a chance to try real leather tooling on leather! Please contact me to register or for on-site lodging information. There are still a couple of spaces in each session. **NOTE: This will probably be the last year for this retreat for a while, as I prefer to teach in new areas periodically to serve a new group of students.**

3 day gourd retreat in Page, Arizona October 21st - 23rd. Information on the classes page. Please contact Marcia Krickhahn at marciakrick@hotmail.com to register. Retreat will be a hummingbird gourd project and the Native Treasures gourd project. **NOTE: This is an all inclusive retreat with lodging, food, gourds and instruction for an extremely low package price, plus, if you have never been to Page, you'll be amazed by the gorgeous location and things to see and do in the area.**

Enter your email address into the text box, and hit the submit button to join the **class updates notification list**.

Submit

*Please consider doing some of your online shopping through our Amazon link. 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.



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



NEW - Saburr Tooth Concave Cylinder bur. This bur is perfect for quick rounding over of gourd rims, faux basketry and more. It has a safe end so you can cut cleanly up to borders and edges. On the [Carving Burs page](#).

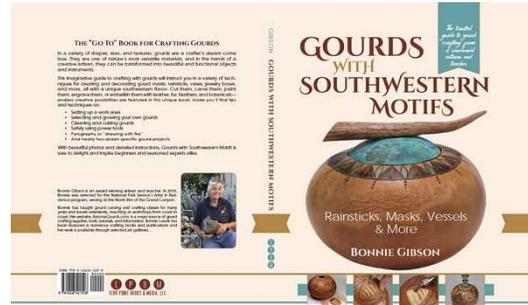
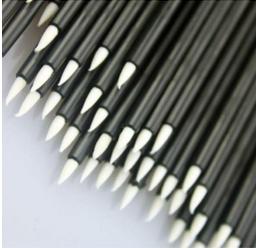
NEW - Sanding Stick 4 packs - Now you can color code the grit of each sanding stick and have 4 different grits at hand for quickly changing from one to another. This special set contains one each of 120, 180, 240 and 320 grit sanding sticks, PLUS you get 20 replacement bands (5 of each grit). Buying them this way is more economical per piece than buying sticks and bands individually. On the [Tools page](#).

I am pleased to announce that you can now order the revised edition of my "Gourds with



Southwestern Motifs" book which has been re-released by Echo Point Publishing!
The book has changed a bit - it now has an added "Filigree Carving" chapter, and an updated gallery section with newer work. (The original edition received nothing but 5 star reviews on Amazon.) Here is the link on the Echo Point site - it is also available as a pre-order from Amazon - with a release date of April 7th. [Gourds with Southwestern Motifs on Echo Point Site](#) OR [on Amazon.com](#)

New to the website - packs of 25 fine tip applicators for use with ink or alcohol dyes or even paint. **Coming soon:** Small squeeze bottles with 10 tips of varying sizes for applying glue, alcohol, dyes or other liquids.



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.**

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Feature: Fine Art Gourds by Bill Colligen

I have known Bill Colligen of Camp Verde, Arizona for many years, and have admired his innovative and meticulously done gourd art since the first time I saw them. Bill is a full time gourd artist and sells through galleries and at fine art shows. He has won many awards for his work and has an avid collector base. Bill's work is quite distinctive and he does some wonderful things with paints and [patina finishes](#). You can see more of his beautiful work by visiting his website at www.billcolligen.com.

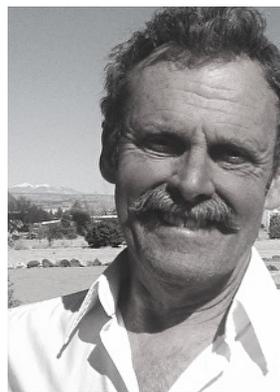
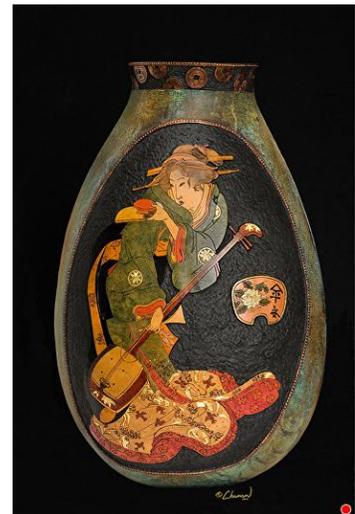


Above- Some details from his recent work.





Bill groups his work in collections - Relics, Intention Vessels, Geometrics, Zen, etc. Most works feature patina finishes, dimensional dots, wood burning and some carving for texture, and the addition of added elements as handles and accents. Bill is a self taught artist who grew up in the midwest but spent his adult life in the west. He currently resides in Arizona.



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

The [Gourd Art Enthusiasts site](#) has about 5250

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

NEW GROUP on Facebook - "Gourding Destash". This is the place to sell your used gourd tools and excess supplies. No fees to sell your surplus supplies and raw gourds.



members, with gourd enthusiasts from all over the world! The site also has state groups, event listings, a Q&A forum and a chat feature.

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Special Feature: Book and CD Review

"Kaye's Original Pine Needle Creations - Stitches, Techniques and Tips" by Kaye Burlason

Many gourders are also weavers, as the two skills complement each other well. Kaye Burlason of Florida is a pine needle basket weaver first, but also does weaving on gourds. She has been making pine needle baskets for many years, and has been collecting notes and photos on her work since 1985. With some help from talented friends, she has compiled her weaving wisdom into a lovely spiral bound book (lies flat when open!) that is fully illustrated with color photos and diagrams. The book also includes a DVD that is filled with short video clips on different stitches and information. If you prefer, you can purchase the book in pdf format on a DVD (includes the videos as well) at a lower cost. Watching Kaye's videos and reading her book is like sitting down with the artist and having her guide you through each step by actually doing it and explaining along the way. The information she provides begins with collecting and preparing pine needles, storing, dyeing, and materials needed for basket weaving. The focus of the book is on weaving pine needle baskets, but almost all of the material translates to weaving on gourds with pine needles. She shows with videos and diagrams how to start baskets, starting and ending threads, adding needles to the coil, and some basic teneiff weaving. If you want to make more traditional pine needle baskets, she shows you how to create decorative rings filled with teneiff weavings for use as basket starts.

Next, there are many chapters on the different weaving stitches including wheat, diamond, chain, fern, Indian wrap, popcorn and variations of some of these. The full color photos clearly illustrate the stitches, and the videos clearly show you how the stitches are done. This type of teaching is great for those who are more visual learners and do better actually seeing something done. Another section deals with filler stitches - teneiff style weaving that fills gaps when coils are decoratively separated and there is a space to fill between them. These include the smock, fagot, fish net, and caning style stitches.



The next section of the book includes a lot of small but valuable techniques for working with pine needles, adding stitches, shaping the basket and more. She also discusses ideas and materials for embellishing projects, how to make lids, and materials for knobs and handles.

Finally, there are directions for making specific basket projects. There is a gallery section that shows many different styles and projects made from pine needles, including a couple of gourd weavings. Faye's wish is to keep this traditional craft alive, and this book should help to do so.

The book is 80 pages, spiral bound, includes a DVD of instructional videos, and costs \$30 plus \$7.20 for shipping. The book in DVD format plus the videos is \$20 plus \$3 for shipping. Both are available directly from the artist. Her email address is bobcatburl@aol.com, phone is 352 669-4097, and her mailing address to order and send payments is:

Kaye Burlason 20802 South Rd., Altoona, FL 32702.

Readers Mailbag:

Hi Bonnie, My recent order of drum skins arrived on schedule and I'm pleased with their quality; also thank you for the gift of a 14" skin. It's much appreciated and I want to say "Thank You".

I joined the Az Gourd Art Enthusiasts last spring and also look at the Minnesota website, too. I've learned so much from computer videos and tutorials. I've been "gourding" for 4 years.

Readers Mailbag:

Hi Bonnie,
I'm just finishing a fully carved gourd and need to know the best way to dye or paint it. I read somewhere you said to seal it first and then dye or paint it, is that right?
Cliff Mozeter - WA

Cliff is correct - I usually seal carved areas with a light spray of lacquer sanding sealer. The sealer won't lift the gourd fibers like many other finishes so the surface stays smooth and clean. I mostly use wood dyes or acrylic paints; if you use other finishes you should

I live in the very rural area in MN and feel like I am pioneering decorating large gourds. Our growing season is short but I try raising them in my garden. The shells are too thin to carve or cut without collapsing.

Again, Thanks for your good service. Bonnie Anderson

**Are you looking to hook up with gourders from your area? The GAE website is a great resource - you can search by state and find other that may be close by.*

*experiment first to see if your color is compatible with the lacquer.
Check out Cliff's fantastic carving/sanding job on his gourd!*



Tip of the Month: A Cupholder/Trashbag Tool and a M

One of my students showed up with this cool little gizmo at a recent retreat. The [ScrapMaBob](#) is a cup/mug holder and trash bag all in one, and it clamps to your work table for easy access. The cup holder can hold a 32 ounce drink but also has a slot on the side so it can hold a coffee mug with a handle. The trash ring has a cloth bag included and is detachable if you only want to use the cup holder part. Don't want to use it to hold a drink? It makes a great holder for a cup full of pens, files, pencils or any other small tools you want to keep handy and easy to find while keeping the space on your working surface free. You can also order added rings/bags as accessories to add onto the cup holder.

Another handy little tool is the [Ring Ruler](#). It is especially helpful for laying out designs where measuring and distances are important.



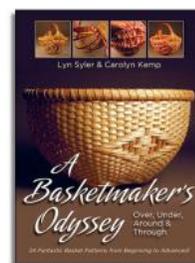
Featured Gourd of the Month: "Crown of Thorns"

This gourd is carved, painted with acrylics and wood dyes, and has inset vouta heishi and a carved basswood hummingbird. The cactus fruit is made from small gourds, and the thorns are actual barrel cactus thorns that were from a dead cactus and are inset into the gourd. Each thorn was carefully snipped to remove the sharp point.

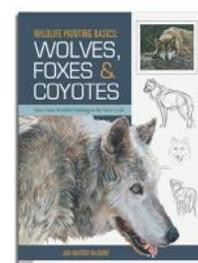
Featured Books:



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ass the
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bscribe

Or his work on his F
using a high speed drill for your art, this is one of the only
resources available.

The second two books in the top row are out of print books that
have been picked up by Echo Point Books and have been re-
released, in most cases for a lower price than both the original
book and the older used copies shown on Amazon.

The last 3 books are older (probably out of print) books on Wildlife
art. These are listed at extremely reasonable prices on Amazon
and are great technique books and reference material. I have
these in my personal library.

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*The current issue is always available from our home page.

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



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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.](#)

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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