



MARCH, 2021

Idaho Gourd Society



From Our President

Greetings Fellow Idaho Gourd Society members and friends.

Winter was relatively mild this year. Now that the days are starting to warm up, I just can't wait to spend more time outside. I'm so excited about spring again as I am every year this time! I've purchased my gourd seeds already, my greenhouse is up from last year, and I've got lots of work ahead of me for this growing season. However, my excitement about the warmer weather also includes the hope that this year we(as in Gourd Society) get to spend some more time together. I've seen a few of you at some patch meetings in Nampa, others on our online meetings, and have had the opportunity to talk with many of you over the phone as well. Despite all the setbacks with COVID and the lack of our monthly gatherings with our full membership, we are still holding strong as an organization. We have an amazing Board of Directors who love our IDGS. I might add our plans for hosting our IDGS Festival this coming October is moving forward and is right on schedule, I've created my fair share of gourd dust so far and I hope you are doing the same! If not, join us in the upcoming meetings and we'll help you get your "Gourding" back on before it's too late. Well, it's never too late!

Seriously, we miss you; I miss you! We have made reservations for our Annual Picnic in June and I hope you will be able to join us there for some gourd fun! There is plenty of information on our website and Facebook page to keep you up-to-date, so no more excuses; right?

Just keep on Gourding!
Your President, Ron Swank

Your IGS Officers

President - Ron Swank

Vice President - Bill Tarlton

Treasurer - Corlis Kent

**Membership Secretary- Madlen
Tarlton**

Secretary - Sue Kostka

**Directors - Steve Kiser, Liz
Meyer, Christy Pletcher**

**Facebook Curator - Chris
Peters**

Website Manager -Chris Peters

**Newsletter Editor - Carolyn
Frazier**

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**Kuna Veletta Murphey &
Liaison- Bill Tarlton**

Sunshine Liz Meyer

**Dancing Dog Gourdin' Lorrie
Ferris**

American Gourd Society Magazine

Chapter News Bill Tarlton

AGS Treasurer Chris Peters

**IDGS Festival and IAW Show
Reviews**

Carolyn Frazier

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Mark Your Calendars!

**The IDGS Annual April 10
meeting will be held
outside at Tully Park in
Meridian! Check your
email, Facebook and IDGS
Webpage for more
information.**

GOURD TRANSFORMATION!

Our cover photo of Steve Kiser holding the amazing nature scene carved gourd began its life somewhere. I haven't a clue where it started out although I believe Alan Sweeney said he'd had this particular gourd for a decade or more in his shop waiting for it to speak to him! He probably told me who grew it and I have forgotten the details. That's what happens when you have a forgetful newsletter editor. Anyone out there want to help me?



Back to topic! So Alan had this enormous gourd (in two pieces) on a shelf in his shop when IT finally spoke up. No, NOT to Alan! No indeed! Mr. Gourd had to have called out in a particular frequency that only Steve could be tuned into!

I remember Steve asking casually about this gourd as I was busily playing in paint. Grabbing my phone-camera I watched Alan answering him, telling about waiting for the gourd speak to him. Sometimes I believe my pictures can capture something. You can't see his whole face but look at Steve's eyes as he is asking about the gourd. It already has spoken to him!



Alan so generously told him the gourd was his. Now, look at those eyes.

Alan, forever so generous with his teaching, his supplies, his listening, just handed this baby over to Steve!

So now I wondered when I would see what happened to this great ground in two pieces.



It was perhaps only two or three weeks later Steve came into Alan's with this delicately carved woodland scene, incorporating the natural deer antlers.

A Gourd's History- Steve Kiser

I was in Alan's shop one day when I noticed this gorgeous cut open gourd tossed to the side on a shelf. I got to talking with Alan about it and he told me its sad story. He grew it several years ago and it cracked a bunch after drying. He cut around the cracks leaving an interesting rim but then spent years looking at it and never could see what to do with it. I told him it was beautiful and true to his extremely generous nature he sent it home with me and said to see what I could do with it. No wonder my wife deemed him our "Gourd Father" Editors Note: So glad Steve knew the gourd's history! He also mentioned to me that he spent more than three hours painting the intricate black trim around all the carved details and less than 2 hours carving. He loves to carve and says that once he starts to carve the carver flies!





The February Second Wednesday Project held at the Sunshine Patch in Nampa, was a beginning class (or an update) on carving taught by Liz Meyer. We learned not only the carving techniques but about other products/techniques as well. Below is Liz's metallic paste finished gourd that was used to demonstrate the various carving techniques explained during the class.



Above - Madlen Tarlton



Above- Chris Peters



Left- Irena Lane and Christy Pletcher



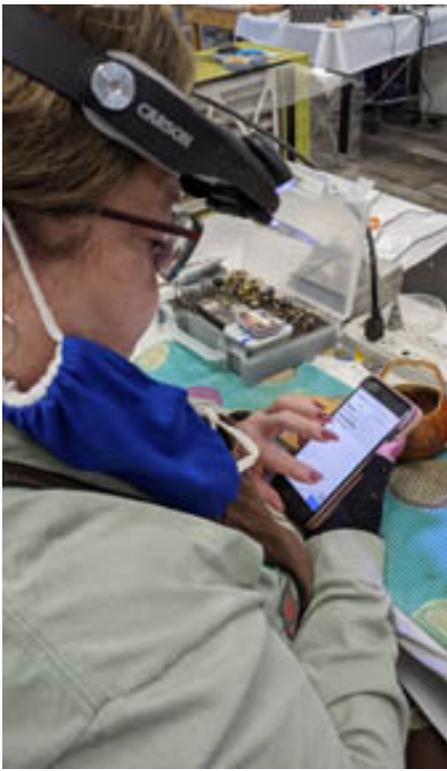
Below -
Liz Meyer helping Sharon Willis



Above- Vicky McIntyre

Above Right - Sandy Kock

Below - Corlis Kent

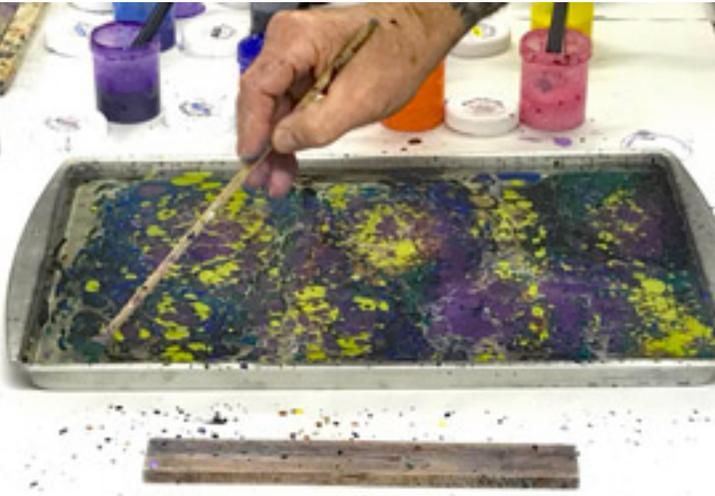


Marbling Techniques by Alan Sweeney

Marbling paper and gourds takes special equipment and paints and paper. The paper used for this technique is designed to withstand becoming wet and not fall apart when dry. It has to be treated with an alum



solution a day prior to marling so that



the paint will adhere. A mixture of Carrageenan is made up in a blender the day prior as well. Carrageenan is a food additive made from seaweed. In marbling, it is used to float the paint on. The paint is a special mixture that will float on the carrageenan. If the paint mixture isn't correct, the paint will sink and not work for marbling.



After all prep work is done the day before, it is now time to begin. Each color of paint must be stirred with each use. Special brushes made from broom star



are used to splatter the paint on the the Carrageenan which is in cookie sheets. When the desired colors are added a small dowel is used to stir the paint back and forth across the paper. Next, a special tool made from needles is used to comb



the paints making for beautiful striations of color. The next and final step is to rake the paints with another special tool made from finishing nails. the colors are swirled and blended to create a unique pattern.

After this comes the step to print the design on the paper. It is done by gently placing the paper face down on the paint and then lifting it back off the water's surface to unveil the masterpiece. The paper is then put on a clean tray and rinsed with



water to remove excess carrageenan and paint. Let the paper dry and it ready to be



used for multiple applications.

Gourds can also be marbled. The same

process is used as with the paper. Treat the gourd with alum solution, put the carrageenan in a vat deep enough to submerge the gourd. Then add the paint and stir to achieve the desired effect. Slowly submerge the gourd in a swirling motion and bring it back out for the rinse and dry. Gourds can be sealed with sealers to bring out the colors.

For more information on marbling or to get supplies visit marbelart.us



And the winner of the most enthusiastic class participant goes to....

Steve Kiser!

As you can see from the photos below, our patient instructor, Alan, was calmly cleaning himself up after teaching his student the subtle (or not) intricacies of the marbling splatter technique!



Apoxie Sculpt - Warty Sheep Class

Last January the Second Wednesday Sunshine Project was about utilizing a product called Apoxie Sculpt. Comprised of two containers marked part A and B. You mix these in equal parts and when thoroughly combined they can be sculpted into whatever shape you want to make. Corlis showed us that this “clay” has so many uses as in the demonstrated Christmas decoration on the



wreath



The face and long beard are made from the Apoxie Sculpt. The close-up shows the detail you can make with this product. It can be painted, sanded or molded into about any shape. You knead it for about 10 minutes and after mixing and you have about an hour or two to work with it. You actually may have more time than that to finalize the finishing details on the sculpture. Once it hardens that is it! it is done except for the drilling and sanding!



This easy and fun project was a wonderful introduction to the product. Corlis had the black Apoxie Sculpt, each part in separate bags for us to blend together. After blending we created 4 equal sized balls, ears, a rectangular face, ears and some "hair" for a topknot. The white painted (or natural) gourd was settled onto the four closely shaped balls for its feet. The rectangular face settled onto the front of the gourd with the other appendages added later. The class was just fun from start to finish, actually completing a project for once! However, Corlis's main purpose was to introduce us to the product in order for us to have something new to add to our gourding tool box! I took many pictures of the class members and their sheep. However, I managed to take the most unflattering pictures imaginable. After





deleting all of those, I am posting the few left. Sorry that I haven't done better.

