

MAY 16, 2015 MEETING OF THE MARION COUNTY GOURD ARTISTS

The May 16th meeting of the MCGA was called to order by President Glenda with 11 members present and six visitors. Visitors were given a warm welcome and will hopefully be returning and joining our group. Glenda explained a little about the club including membership fees for our club, Florida Gourd Society and the American Gourd Society, plus the web site and upcoming workshops.

Glenda told members no one had stepped up to volunteer to take over as president. She asked them to really consider volunteering for next year. She said she would do this year but would really like to step down after several years of serving in this office.

Officers for this year are as follows: President- Glenda Damm; V.P/ Sunshine Committee- Diane SurrIDGE; Secretary- Lou White; Treasurer/ Membership- Al Harnage ; Workshop Coordinator- Carole Sheftic; Publicity- Ella Curtis; Hospitality-Stephanie Clere ; Photographer-Sandy Hinrichs. Historian position has not yet been filled. We will be checking with Pat Thompson to see if she would like to continue for another year.

Two 12 packs of mixed gourd seedlings were auctioned off with the club getting \$49.00. The seeds were from donated by Glenda from a gourd she recently cut, and grown by Al Harnage. Great idea and good job, Al!!

Sandy Hinrichs brought in the small gourds the club has purchased, and those that brought their checks for \$25 took home their 3 gourds to get an early start on preparing them for the gourd show.

More info was given on this year's show. Dan from the Market confirmed the club will again be located in building H. If we end up with a carving class, Dan has agreed to erect a tent rather than trying to conduct the class inside, due to the dust.

Three on-line gourd sites were announced- Gourding Destatch, Gourd Tips and Tricks, and Gourd Art for Sale. All three were started by Bonnie Gibson and give good information.

This month's workshop instructor was Glenda, teaching how to weave philodendron leaves, and sea grass onto the gourd, and attach beads. All

students finished their gourds and there were many beautiful variations created by those attending.

June's instructor will be Lois Owen who supplied the gourds for those who had prepaid to have her cut them. They were brought to the meeting by Lanie Cantrell, who thoughtfully agreed to drive to Lois's house to pick them up due to Lois being unable to attend the May meeting. There is information, sign-up and supplies needed posted on our website so those preparing their own gourds can be prepared for the June class. Patterns were handed out so those who wish can have the pattern already on their gourds before class.

Respectfully submitted:

Lou White