

Marion County Gourd Artists

September 20, 2014 Minutes

There were 15 members attending the September meeting of the Marion County Gourd Artists on 9-20-2014.

Following a welcome to our newest member, Diana Lazar, originally from Hawaii, Pat Thompson, as Sunshine Committee, reported she had sent out three cards for birthdays. As Historian, Pat also brought the club's scrapbook which she had updated, to share with the members. Today was the birthday of Ella Curtis, who is our Publication Chairman and doing a wonderful job. Al Harnage, our Treasurer, did not bring his report information but will report at the October meeting. Lanie Cantrell volunteered to laminate items for our members. If you have something that you need laminating, please bring it to the October meeting.

Three members, Carole Sheftic, Pat Thompson, and Glenda Damm, are traveling to the Gourd Retreat immediately following the meeting today. They will be attending the dinner and semi-annual meeting of the Florida Gourd Society in Paisley, FL and plan on passing out flyers for our show and business cards for our patch to try and share information with the Florida Gourd Society and let them know they are welcome to participate in our meetings and the upcoming gourd show.

Also, on October 29, five members will attend a dinner and meeting at Silver Springs Presbyterian Church and give a small talk about gourds and about our club and upcoming show. Hopefully those church members will become intrigued with gourds and join us for upcoming events.

Glenda asked for support and participation for the gourd show even if you are not planning on renting a table and selling gourds. This is our club's money making project which helps support our workshops throughout the year so the show benefits all members. If you can attend and help cover booths for those vendors who are teaching or taking classes that help will definitely be needed. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to work at the Market of Marion for the two weekends prior to the show to pass out fliers and promote our upcoming show. It is noted that all time slots were filled, so thanks to those volunteers!! And we do still have some tables available for rent, in case any additional members wish to participate in the show.

Dan Hoefly, the manager of the Market of Marion, has been extremely accommodating to our club, providing many extras for free and also providing workers to assist us. The only thing he asked we do is to possibly name our show in honor of Tom Keller, a strong supporter of the Florida Gourd Society, our own Marion County Gourd Artists, and also the Market of Marion. It was decided that it is too late to name our show in his honor for this year, but hopefully we can put up a sign with pictures and stating "In Memory of Tom Keller". He passed away a couple of years ago and is sorely missed.

Carole and Glenda each painted a foam core sign with chalkboard paint so one can be erected at the show to indicate classes in session and one showing demo schedules for the show.

Set up for vendors at the show will be Thursday, Nov. 6, 2015. Please try and arrive between 10 a.m. and noon to begin your set up. The show is in Building H, the only enclosed building at the Market of Marion, near the back of the market. We have lots of signs made for the show and hopefully they will be up on Thursday to help vendors find where to go!

We are trying to fill our workshop schedule for the upcoming year so we will know what gourds will be needed for said workshops. Those gourds can then be purchased at the gourd show from Elaine Hayes, which will help support her participation in our show and hopefully keep her coming back.

It should also be noted that if you are considering purchasing a woodburner or related supplies, please consider waiting till our show and buy said equipment from Cecil Walley who will also be a commercial vendor at our show. Logic says we need to support these vendors or they will not invest in returning to our show in the future.

The list of classes being offered at the gourd show was reviewed, and those present at our meeting showed the samples of the class they will be teaching. Hazel Small showed the vase project she is teaching on Saturday morning, Glenda showed the sand art necklace she is teaching Saturday afternoon (and she assures us she had eliminated the problem with the glue applicator!), and Sandy showed the large gourd sea shell she is teaching on Sunday morning. We also have Lois Owens teaching a painted gourd on Friday morning, Carole teaching a Santa gourd on Friday afternoon, and Bea Peterson teaching a Zentangle owl on Sunday afternoon.

Ella Curtis demonstrated her wonderful Thunder Gourd she will be teaching at our March, 2015 workshop after the regular meeting. Almost everyone present raised their hand that they wanted to participate in that workshop. It's going to be wonderful!!

Marlene Grubb will be teaching the eggshell technique on a gourd for the November workshop. There were 6 gourds available for purchase already cut and cleaned, available for purchase from Sandy for \$8 each. Those planning on taking her workshop should have their gourds prepared and also have their eggshells cleaned and the membrane removed from the inside of the eggshells.

report submitted by Lou White, Secretary