

For Immediate Release

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New ‘People’s Choice’ Art Competition Creates Buzz for the 13th Annual Gourd Art Festival

June 8, 2009 Fallbrook, CA: The 13th Annual Gourd Art Festival, which takes place every June at the Welburn Gourd Farm in Fallbrook, CA, has a new attraction that has the gourd community buzzing: It’s the People’s Choice Gourd Art Competition, open to all levels of gourd artists, and featuring six cash prizes from \$50 to \$200, with winners selected by the public attending the festival.

Everyone who attends the event is encouraged to vote on their favorite piece in each of the 3 divisions, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Voting starts Saturday morning, June 27th, at 9:00 am, and will end at 4:30 pm the same day. Results will be displayed Sunday, June 28th, starting at 9:00 am.

“This is the first time we’ve had an art competition judged by the people, so its very exciting” says artist and long-time exhibitor Carrie Dearing, “I will definitely be entering a piece.”

The new, People’s Choice Competition, sponsored by GourdMaster™ Products, has received enthusiastic support by artists across the gourd community, and Festival planners anticipate over 200 pieces could be entered in the contest.

This new competition will take place alongside the traditional Gourd Art Competition, put on by the California Gourd Society, which is judged by a Society-chosen panel of qualified artists.

“The two competitions are quite different,” states Marketing Director, Phoebe Welburn. “The CGS [California Gourd Society] competition has detailed divisions separated by style and technique, which allow artists to compete based on very specific criteria, plus they are judged by professionals. The People’s Choice gourd art competition had very general submission guidelines and was really designed to help get the general public involved in and enthusiastic about gourds.”

Along with the opportunity to vote on the artwork in the People’s Choice Competition, festival attendees can also get involved with gourds by visiting the Gourd Crafting Arena during the festival and creating their own gourd art masterpiece. The cost is \$5 for children ages 6-12, and \$10 to create an adult-level project, which includes a gourd already cleaned and cut (children get to scrub and clean their gourd!).

Festival admission is \$11.00 at the gate, or \$8.00 if purchased in advance. Children 12 and under get in free. To purchase tickets and for more information, call the festival office at 760-728-4588 or visit www.GourdFestival.com.

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