

Meet the Members of IGS

By Ruth Moorhead

Carolyn Rushton of Glenwood, Indiana (Rush County) has been involved with gourds for at least 17 years. She became a Jim Story inductee after he gave her some gourds to “play with”, new projects to leather tool.

After she tooled, and painted several pieces, it dawned on her that she could make money creating gourd items. She started with birds on bowls, experimenting with several techniques and discovering that she really enjoyed working with gourds.

Known now as a consummate woodburner (pyrographer), Carolyn’s work displays her love for Native American culture and Indian themes.

You may remember at the April show her beautiful small gallery exhibit, and especially a very large drum with a horse theme, and in a cabinet, a gourd monarch butterfly of such delicacy that you would think it could fly. Her birds and feather themed projects woodburned on gourds are meticulous and light, reflecting her sensitivity and honesty toward the culture.

Here are some things you may NOT know about Carolyn:

- She has been married for 51 years, has a boy and a girl, and 5 grand daughters.
- She graduated from Pendleton High School in 1957.

- She was a professional paperhanger for 20 years.
- She played softball and volleyball on traveling teams until she was 50.
- She planted 42 kinds of wildflowers in her woods.
- Carolyn loves parasailing and enjoys fishing.
- She was a featured artist in “Across Indiana”, for a 20 minute interview on channel 8 in 1999.
- She has at least one gourd on every continent except Antarctica.
- She was a Girl Scout leader for 37 years, and has traveled to all but five states, has been to seven European countries, Mexico and Canada with the Girl Scouts.
- She taught Indian culture at the Eiteljorg Museum, and is a member of The National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture.
- Examples of her work and /or articles about her are currently published in 8 books.
- The goofiest thing she has made to date is a gourd nose ring, with matching earrings, bracelet, and necklace.
- She is a musician, writes music, and has been playing organ and piano in church since she was 12.
- She taught Joe Lee woodburning techniques.

At your next opportunity, please take a close look at the artistry of Carolyn Rushton. Your soul will be comforted.

Carolina Gourds and Seeds

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