

Growing and Using Gourds – May 2010



The guest speaker for the May Monthly Meeting was **Claudette Hart**, a.k.a. 'The Gourd Lady of Merrickville'.

After many years as a successful potter and watercolour painter, Claudette discovered gourds — and almost overnight embarked on a whole new direction. She described how gourds have been used around the world in daily life throughout history as dippers, ladles and containers, in religious ceremonies as masks, charms and rattles, and even as musical instruments.

Claudette spoke about the different kinds of gourds, ranging in size from golf ball to football and even bigger, how to grow them, and how they can be cured and then decorated by wood burning, carving, or dyeing. She also brought samples of untreated gourds and samples of the remarkable artifacts that she creates from them — bowls, vases, boxes, purses, and intriguing art pieces.

Claudette's studio is at 123 Bruce Street in Merrickville. Phone: 613-269-2580.