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March Newsletter

Hello everyone. We had a wonderful meeting today. We talked about a number of things one of which was the possibility of having a garage sale this summer or fall to raise money for the group. We thought it would be fun to have crafted items, supplies and collectors' items. We would advertise and all the money made would go into the Michiganourders treasury. Any items not sold would be donated. What do you think? We'll nail down a day and I'll let you know when and where it is. Anything you would like to donate under the guidelines would be great.

This month's meeting was about tools. Chris showed us her extensive carving tools and the Dremel Stylus cordless. This awesome little tool is shaped like a small pistol and is very easy on the hands <http://www.dremel.com/en-us/tools/Pages/ToolDetail.aspx?pid=1100>. She also showed us her Foredom micro carver tool. Its smaller than the Dremel and runs on power from a control box. This is the website for this particular piece <http://www.foredom.net/k1070.aspx> Both of these tools are much more comfortable to use than the traditional Dremel.

Diana had a very interesting set of tools made by Craftsman. A small saw, sander, Engraving tool and control box. It was perfect size for working with gourds and looked to be easy to hold and manipulate. Unfortunately I was unable to find the set at Sears anymore but I found something very similar in Microlux at Micromark small tool sellers. <http://www.micromark.com/Saws.html> <http://www.micromark.com/MicroLux-Heavy-Duty-Right-Angle-Disk-Sander-and-Drill,8004.html>. and at Turtle Feathers <http://www.turtlefeathers.net/text/power-tools/jigsaws.html>. Turtle Feathers looked to be about a \$1 or 2 less than micromark.

Marta prefers her Xacto knife over the power tools and she does a wonderful job while Mira had a marvelous set of paints from Luminarte'. These are dry and used like water colors. The colors can be intense or transparent and can also be applied in layers. They create a beautiful effect. Here is one site that has them <http://store.scrapbooking-warehouse.com/h2oshimmeringwatercolors.html>

Another tool the Chris had was the 3D Sander by Craftsman. I found it on this Sear's Website http://www.sears.com/shc/s/p_10153_12605_00911633000P and I found the discs in sets at Micromark http://www.micromark.com/102-piece-SandingandPolishing-Set-for-Craftsman-3-D-Sander,9563.html?sc=WGB&utm_source=GoogleBase&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=GoogleBase

My tool of choice is a woodburner. I have a two pen control box by Burn Master and a single pen box by Detail Master. I prefer the Burn Master. I have a good selection of pens from Razor Tip to Optima and my favorite is an Everglades writing tip pen that I bought on ebay. I love these pens because it takes a long time for the body to heat up and the tips seem strong and conduct heat well.

Almost all of these tools and supplies can be bought from Blue Whale, Turtle Feathers, Primitive Originals and the Caning shop. The addresses are in the file section of the Yahoo site.

Karen showed us a wonderful technique she used on a gourd. She first painted the gourd with metallic acrylics. Just the kind you find in the craft bottles. She then took shoe polish in the bottle (must be the liquid type) and rubbed it all over the painted gourd. The waxes in the shoe polish separated from the paint creating a mottled effect that was just great. She let it all dry and sprayed it with a poly spray. It really was beautiful. She came up with the idea just playing with different things. See what happens when you let yourself play?

Some interesting shows coming up:

Gary and Ingrid, Mira and Marta will be at this show.

The 31st Metro Carvers of Michigan Wood Carving Show. March 19th, 10:00 – 5:00, the 20th from 10:30 – 4:00. Tickets are \$3.00 for adults. 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights (south of 13 mile, between John R and I 75

Scrapbooking & Stamping Show

Gourders use a lot of scrapbooking inks and supplies

Date: Saturday, March 19, 2011

Location: South Campus, Building P, Macomb Sports & Expo Center

Time: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Email: www.greatscrapbookevents.com

44575 Garfield Road

Clinton Township, MI 48038

(586) 263-6045

Shameless self promotion:

Chris and I are doing some of the art fairs this summer. This is where and when we'll be out selling our wares.

The 39th Annual St. Clair Art Fair will be Saturday and Sunday June 25 & 26, 2011. On the waterfront of Lake St. Clair.

Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair Saturday, July 9, 2011 - 10:00am - Sunday, July 10, 2011 - 5:00pm Woodward and 13 mile in Memorial Park

Aug 6th from 10 – 8 and 7th from 12 to 6 Art in the village North east corner of Walton and Adams Rochester Hills

Our next meeting date is actually a class on melted wax technique. The class is now full so if you didn't sign up the next meeting for you will be May 21st. 12:00 noon at 701 S. Edgeworth, Royal Oak. 248 544 8843. We are having a "freaky auction/exchange" Bring any embellishments or paints, yarn, fabrics etc that you aren't using or don't want and we will do an exchange and or sale depending. It should be a lot of fun as we bid on each other's stuff with our own stuff. And I will be asking Margaret about teaching us her one stroke painting again. I could use the help. So April is for those signed up for the wax class and May will be for everyone. I'll send a reminder and a map to my house. (for those taking the class, remember to bring a gourd painted black)

And now for the really important stuff: Food! Diana and Sandy both made chocolate cakes and they were fantastic! I had some of both. There was bread, green salad with feta cheese, cookies, marinated mushrooms, fruit, Iced tea and coffee and pink lemonade. I made the main dish which I will call "Louise's Chicken". Here's the recipe:

Louise's Chicken

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
1 can cream of chicken soup
Swiss cheese slices
Stuffing mix (the crushed type, not the cubed)

Place the chicken in a 9 x 12 pan and layer the cheese over it. Add the can of soup (I added a half can of milk to make it smoother) and then cover everything with the stuffing mix. Bake for about 40 minutes at 350 degrees. If you want you can season the chicken first. It was really simple to make and very good.