

From The Tendril
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A GOURD BY ANY OTHER

by Helen Parker

A bottle or a jug;
A kettle or Canteen;
Is it round and fat?
Or short and flat?
A birdhouse! Could be just that.
We'll have to wait and see.
A dipper will make a sipper if it
Hangs from a tree.
But if it creeps a crooked mile,
Pushing ball along the ground,
Is it still a dipper?
Or just deformed and doomed?
Could be.
But beauty is as beauty sees.
A creative lady adds a bloom,
Drapes a vine.
Viola! Ugliness becomes divine.
Did you ever eat a snake?!
Lagenaria longissima is edible!
I find that hard to take.
Let it grow and curl around

All summer on the ground.
Or hang it high and keep it straight
So that you can make
A baton to wave around.
A monkey or a swan?
A dolphin with a spine?
A maranka with low ridges
Makes a grower pine.
A pear will make a bell.
An apple or an orange?
When you scrape them down to
shell,
It's really hard to tell.
An egg could fool a chicken
Or help to darn a sock.
Have you cleaned very many?
It's like scraping on a rock!
A crown of thorns is hard to clean.
A finger gourd? Sounds obscene.
Ten Commandments? Here is one.
Sell it green!
A gourd by any other name
No matter what its shape or use
Will always be the same.
Cucurbita pepo ovifera or
Lagenaria siceraria
Will always be the proper name.

Photographing Your Gourds

We ran an article some time ago in the Tendril about how to photograph your gourd artwork for best results. Recently I ran across another very good article on this same subject. The article by well know gourd artist, Bonnie Gibson, is located in the lower half of the third section of the Navigation Bar on her Web Site at <http://arizonagourds.com/>. Remember, shiny surfaces will tend to reflect glare directly into the lens, so you may want to use multiple methods to enhance your work. ENJOY! Jesse

Growing Gourds In the City

If you don't have a large space the garden stores have half-barrels for \$30 that should make a good container for you. Gourds love to climb but anything you put up should be strongly secured as green gourds may be very heavy depending on the variety. Have FUN! Give your hubby a hobby! These are fascinating plants to watch and they do grow rapidly once they get started. Jesse

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