

# Gourd painting and carving demo

Donna and Donnie Smith, of Waco, will demonstrate their carved and painted gourds from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

The Smiths' journey as craftspeople began 23 years ago, when they planted gourds by their back porch. Donna eventually left her full-time job, and she and her husband, Donnie, became full-time gourd artists. Their work is a partnership, with Donna decorating the gourds with floral images or leaves that enhance the gourds' natural shapes. Some of their pieces become vases, when they take long-neck gourds and embellish them with vertical images.

Donna, who has a background in graphic design, draws on the gourd first with pencil, and then with a wood burning tool. The gourds are next painted with watercolors, inks, dyes and water-based stains, and sealed with a clear acrylic.

Most of the Smiths' gourds are raised on their 5-acre farm. A good dried gourd, though, is just the beginning. Each gourd must be washed to remove the outer skin which has molded and left an interesting pattern and texture on the gourd surface. Once the gourd is clean, it is sanded before its lid is cut. Donnie is constantly finding creative ways to cut gourds, transforming them into baskets and lidded vessels us-

ing cut-out filigreed designs that enhance and integrate the painted surface and form. Their newest designs have wooden inset bases that allow greater stability for the more vertical and asymmetrical gourds.

Works by the Smiths are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea, Exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea currently features works by more

than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. A special exhibit, "Repurposed and Recycled: Works by Kentucky Artisans," is on display March 1 - Sept. 6, 2014 and in the lobby the exhibit, "Kentucky Bourbon: Distillation and Inspiration" is on display. For more information about events call 859-985-5448, go to the center's website at [www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov](http://www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center](http://www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center).

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Above photo: Donna Smith of Waco woodburns a design into a gourd. Below left: One of the Smiths' finished gourds. Right: Crafting a gourd.



## KSP adds Instagram to Social Media Lineup

The Kentucky State Police have added Instagram (IG) to their current social media platform. The agency already hosts a large following on its Facebook (75,275 likes) and Twitter (11,700 followers) pages and hopes IG will complement those existing formats. Instagram is a free online photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service that enables its users to take pic-

tures and videos, apply digital filters to them and share on a variety of other social networking sites.

KSP spokesman Sgt. Michael Webb says IG has quickly gone from a trendy iOS-only\* app, to a massive social network with Android and web presence.

"Instagram hasn't shown any sign of slowing down, and with the popularity it has with the younger generation, its growth will surely continue," says Webb.

Webb says the KSP IG account will differ from the agency's Facebook and Twitter feeds.

"We intend to share a side of the agency that the public doesn't always get to see," says Webb. "We use Facebook and Twitter to share pertinent information, scheduled events and breaking news. Instagram will be a completely different feed,

sharing photos of troopers and civilian staff at work and play."

Instagram has 150 million monthly active users with 70 percent of those logging onto the site at least once a day. More than 16 billion photos have been shared on the site since its October 2010 launch date.

Webb says adding IG to the current KSP social media lineup will increase interaction with the 18-24 year-old demographic.

"Facebook users under the age of 25 represent 31 percent of its market shares, whereas Instagram users in that same demographic represent 54 percent," says Webb.

"It is important for KSP to create a social media platform that will attract young and old alike," adds Webb.

The KSP IG site can be found at [http://instagram.com/ky\\_state\\_police#](http://instagram.com/ky_state_police#) or go to the IG homepage and search **KY\_STATE\_POLICE**.

If you are interested in checking out the KSP social media sites, you can click on the following links:

KSP Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kentucky-State-Police/103979825675>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/kystatepolice>

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kentuckystatepolice/>

KSP Blog "Did You Know That?" <http://kentuckystatepolice.blogspot.com/>

KSP Website: <http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/>

For more information about Kentucky State Police social media sites, please contact the Public Affairs Branch at (502) 782-1780.



## Parts of state's college planning guide is now available in audio

Parts of two chapters of "Getting In," the state's college planning guide, are now available in audio on the website of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

The audio versions include Chapter One and the first part of Chapter Two. Chapter One is a guide to the college admissions process, while the first part of Chapter Two helps students and parents navigate the financial aid application process.

Elaine Hall, a counselor at the Kentucky School for the Blind in Louisville, welcomes the addition to [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com).

"As many students and parents and adults have learned, the application process for college can be very daunting," she said. "The online audio publication will enable blind and visually impaired students and adults to have access and information from any home or school setting. It will be an invaluable resource."

KHEAA is the state agency that administers the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), need-based grants and other programs to help students pay their higher education expenses.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, go to [www.gotocollege.ky.gov](http://www.gotocollege.ky.gov). For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com); write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7372.



## Becoming An Outdoors Woman

The popular Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program returns April 5 for a special one-day session in Grayson, Ky.

Women interested in learning basic outdoor skills in a comfortable, friendly environment can register online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) or call the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at 1-800-858-1549 for more information.

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman, or BOW to those who participate, is a nationally recognized program designed for beginners seeking a relaxed, non-competitive environment to learn various skills from seasoned professionals.

The Beyond BOW workshop scheduled for the first Saturday in April offers a variety of topics including tree identification, hunting, fishing, bird identification, wild game cooking, edible plants, archery, shooting and more.

The \$50 registration fee covers two class sessions, lunch, equipment and materials. For an additional \$25, participants may stay the night before classes start at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's Camp Robert Webb, located on the shores of Grayson Lake in Carter County. The lodging fee includes a continental breakfast the next morning. Courses are taught at Camp Webb.

Classes fill on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to apply is March 14.

## The Estill County Tribune

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