

## JIM STORY AWARD: JUDGING CRITERIA

### JUDGING CRITERIA (100 points maximum)

- **Cleanliness** - up to 10 points
  - **Cultural Perfection**- up to 10 points
  - **Manipulation\*** - up to 75 points
  - **Green Cleaning** – up to 5 points
- \*Manipulation is graded in 4 ways: Innovation (0-15 points), Uniqueness (0-15 points), Degree of Difficulty (0-20 points, and Skill level (0-25 points). These total a maximum of 75 points.

### JUDGING CRITERIA EXPLAINED

- **Cleanliness:** Defined as made clean. All visible exterior skin and dirt should be removed from the gourd from the tip of the stem (if present) to the blossom end; including the **inside** surface of tight knots, spirals, coils, curves and bends. You should not be able to **see** any skin or dirt remaining on the gourd.
- **Cultural Perfection:** “Free of blemishes or damage.”
- **Manipulation:** “To manage or control artfully.”
  - A. Innovation: New idea or method
  - B. Uniqueness: Rare, Unusual
  - C. Degree of Difficulty: How hard was it to do? (See below)
  - D. Skill level: How well was it done? (As a measure of ability, proficiency, expertness)
- **Green Cleaning** Scraping the outer skin off the gourd while it was still green is intentionally separate from cleanliness. Jim Story green-cleaned most of his gourds -- but that is difficult to do without the risk of the gourd drying too fast, shrinking and cracking. **BE CAREFUL!** (But Jim would want you to try). - See Green Cleaning article on JSA main page

### Degree of Difficulty, *additional information*

#### **Molds or Other Devices:**

- These may be purchased or individually crafted by applicant.

- A homemade mold is more difficult and more unique than one which has been purchased.
- If it does not enhance the appearance of the gourd, leaving a manipulation device on the gourd could result in fewer points being awarded.

### Coils:

- Number and tightness of coils: How many times was the gourd wrapped around a pole or other device?
- The more wraps the higher the degree of difficulty.
- A tight coil (coils touching or close together) is more difficult than a loose coil.

### Knots:

- An overhand single knot is the least difficult to tie. Two wraps (go around the neck twice before tying the knot) is more difficult than wrapping it once. A figure-eight knot is more difficult than an overhand single knot.
- A square knot is more difficult than an overhand knot or a figure-eight knot.
- Two knots in one gourd are more difficult than **any** single knot.
- Two knots straightened out (one above the other in the neck) is more difficult than two knots that are in the neck but not positioned one above the other.
- Three knots would probably be a world record.

### Etching:

- Involves scratching the surface of a growing gourd deep enough to cause scarring that forms a pattern still visible after the gourd has dried and the skin removed.
- The finished gourd should be attractive with attention paid to the execution.

### Anything Else:

- Could include twisting with a rope, stocking or other device.
- Innovate
- Surprise us!