

# Texas Gourd Society Gourdzette

Vol 17 Issue 1 Spring, 2022

# "Cultures of Texas"

Raffle Gourd from years past made by all of the Gourd Patches of TGS. The theme was "Cultures of Texas". Each patch created their section from the history of the culture from all the different immigrants that settled in their part of Texas.





# President's Message

It's beginning to look a lot like springtime in Texas, the redbud and mountain laurel trees are in bloom and so are the bluebonnets. TGS held the Spring Membership Meeting on March 12th both in person and virtually at the Briarcliff Community Center in Briarcliff Texas. The TGS 2022 operating budget was discussed and approved. Committees reported their progress toward this year's Festival, and we had great discussions on membership, festival attendance, media, and advertising campaigns.

We are so glad that we are finally in the stage of "endemic" instead of "pandemic" and many of our patches are getting back to meeting on a regular basis. To help you get back into the swing of things, I want to remind you to check out the many tutorials under the "Resources" tab on the TGS website. Also, don't forget to enter the Quarterly Gourdzette Membership Competition for your chance to win.

The 2022 Lone Star Gourd Festival will be held September 30 to October 2 this year at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds in Fredericksburg, TX. Classes to be held September 29 to October 1. This year admission tickets will be sold online starting Monday, August 1.

Everyone looks forward to the TGS Raffle organized by Roy Cavarretta, Chairman of the Ways & Means committee and tickets are on sale now. For this year's raffle, we have a collection of seven beautiful gourds, all donated by award winning gourd artists. The value of each of these gourds are in the hundreds of dollars. The raffle is one of the best income producers for TGS so we need everyone's help selling tickets. Patch leaders and membership, please contact Roy at 281-222-3225 or email brcavarretta@gmail.com if you need tickets to sell. Also, Roy is looking for new or gently used gourd related items for the silent auction. Please contact him if you have an item or items to donate.

(President's Message, cont'd)

Call for Teachers is currently open and the application deadline is April 30 with notification of acceptance by May 6. This year we are especially wanting classes with new ideas and techniques and will also consider classes in basketry, beading and wood carving. For questions or information, contact Judy Richie, Education Chairperson at 830-285-6026 or email judyrichie@yahoo.com

Jill Robinson is our Competition Chairperson this year and is currently working on TGS Competition guidelines and application for the 2022 Festival. Entry information will be posted on the TGS website at www.texasgourdsociety.org and notification sent via email. TGS is excited to announce that prize money will again be awarded this year.

Vendor application, guidelines and map will be posted by Monday, April 18. We are currently looking for a volunteer to help with Vendor relations during the 2022 Festival. You can contact Becky Klix at 512-964-5540 or email texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com if you are interested.

So, enjoy the Spring weather, birds, and blooms. I hope that it brings you creativeness and inspiration.

Happy Gourding,

Becky

# DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES. SUPPORT TGS

#### **Festival News**

We know folks are concerned about the rising fuel prices. But, the festival is over 5 months away. Save ahead and plan on coming to the festival. Be A Vendor. Enter competition. Last year's show was a good one for many of the Vendors.

The deadline for teachers is April 30. We are looking for great classes and will consider classes in any non-gourd weaving, beading and wood carving, since lessons learned can later be applied to gourds.

It's never to early to start on gourds for competition. Jill Robinson is the Competition Chair and will be letting us know, soon, what the categories will be Can't wait to see what she has for us.

Think about being a volunteer. Many will be needed.

### **Patch News**

## Written by Georgia Cunningham

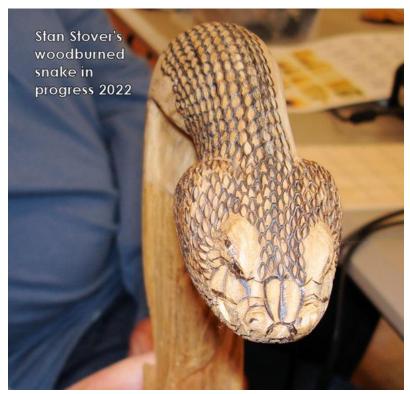
The Arlington Gourd Patch began the year of 2022 with a meeting at the Fielder House Museum on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Cindy Lear taught us how to use the Brusho technique most of us taught us how to use the Brusho technique for using on gourds. It was were unfamiliar with. Here is a picture of that meeting.



In February of 2022 the patch met again with Stan Stover leading a workshop on the techniques of woodburning. He also presented terrific overview of burners and tips that are on the market. terrific overview of burners and tips that are on the market.

Many of us had wondered what to buy, and his presentation gave us options and ideas. Stan and his wife, Becky, are both expert in woodburning, and they shared some of their project pieces with us.





When windy March rolled around, we were honored with a workshop led by Nancy Walsh. She taught

us how to use colored pencils on a gourd. We learned techniques that were new to most of us on how to layer the colors before blending them together. Her tips helped us achieve vibrant colors on our gourds.







Our patch has been fortunate to have such talented members. The workshops have been of "festival quality", and we have learned many new things to use on our gourds. We appreciate all who have taught new things to use on our gourds. We appreciate all who have taught these classes

# **Capitol of Texas Gourd Patch**

Howdy,

Hope everything has been going along fine with you. The patch is fine and has been meeting doing some interesting stuff!

We dabbled in painting dots, of course, the instructors on youtube make it look easy!!! I wore my paint very well on my sweatshirt, shorts.....!!

The next challenge was zentangle art. After being able to " jump into it", zentangle art is relaxing

and just lets you doddle. One of our members is making a ballerina! Can't wait to see how that turns out.

A few of us were able to attend the spring TGS meeting and it is always interesting. I compare it to being on the PTA board and getting the news first then hand it out to others.

So, with spring around the corner, take care and be crafty!

Yours in gourding,

Debb

Photos from our patch members.









# **Guadalupe Gourd Patch**

Our January meeting was cancelled dues to members not being able to attend. For our February meeting we worked on using Zentangle designs with a faux stone. We used colored pencils and markers. It was a very popular choice as we all had a great time doing this technique. It will be interesting to see how we all use it in the future. With the TGS Winter meeting, we decided not to have a meeting in March. I hate to admit but photos of our Zentangle didn't happen. Was having too much fun to remember to take them.

We did not have any report from the rest of the Patches.

# A trip down memory lane.

This is a reprint of an article written in 2011. The American Gourd Society had a Gourd Gnome, known as GG. He was sent to different states where a local gourd artist would take him around the State and photograph him/her in various places. Each artist would add a small section of their own creation to GG. Well, GG ran out of room so GG2 was born. He was sent to Judy Richie. The following article is his adventures.

# **GG2's Trip to Texas**

By GG2 as told to Judy Richie

My name is Gourd Gnome 2, better known as GG2. I have been traveling around the United States having a ball. My latest stop was Texas and I was hosted by Bob and Judy Richie of Kerrville, Texas. I was so excited when I found out I was going to the Lone Star State. When I arrived, I was greeted by my groupies, who were waiting for me as I came through the door. (No. 1 photo, my arrival) They were so excited to see me. Too bad they can't travel with me.



Photo 1., My arrival

Judy and I sat down and talked about where we would go, while I was here. Unfortunately, the local patch, The Guadalupe Gourd Patch only meets every other month and I will miss it. So, with the Texas Gourd Society's Lone Star Gourd Festival, that is held every 3rd weekend of October in Fredericksburg only 23 miles north and the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center's Southwest Fine Art Gourd Show right here in Kerrville, we decided that we would highlight some favorite sights to see within a 100 mile radius. So, if anyone is planning to come to either of the shows, we can show what other fun things there are to do in this area.

We started out in Fredericksburg, a small town that was founded by German settlers in 1846. There are many things to do and see in this beautiful town, with many old stone buildings with German influence. The original part of town is now a National Historic District. Bob and I are standing on Main Street in front of some of the old buildings. (No 2 photo, Fredericksburg) One can visit the National Museum of the Pacific War that is filled with World War 11 history and artifacts. There is, also, the Pioneer Museum, Ft. Martin Scott, founded in 1848, a host of wineries and all the shopping a person could want. So, if you plan on coming to the TGS Lone Star Gourd Festival, stay an extra day or so and explore this historical town.

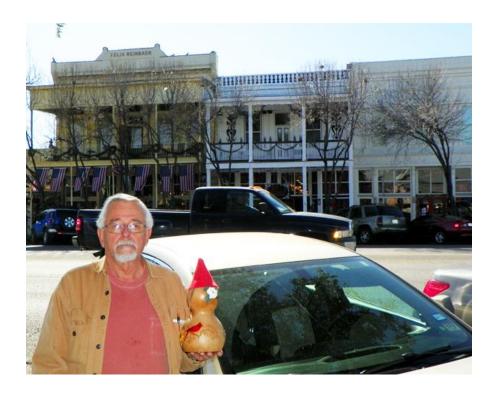


Photo 2, Fredericksburg. GG2 is with Bob Richie

We left Fredericksburg and a few miles down the road, I saw the sign to Luckenbach, Texas. Now, if you are any kind of country western fan, you just had to visit this place made famous by Willie Nelson and the boys. I was so excited when I got my photo made on a real, live Texas Longhorn. (no. 3 photo on the Longhorn) This friendly cowboy put me up in the saddle. He told me that he has several gourd

birdhouses, crafted by a friend. He insisted that I go on in the bar to meet the folks in there. (No 4 photo, Luckenbach bar) So, I did. And guess what, the guy with the beard behind the bar has a brother who makes gourd ornaments. Now, that made my blood rush. So, here in little Luckenbach, Texas, we find gourd fans. Made my day!



Photo 4, GG2 at the Bar

We get back on the road and a short time later we arrive in Johnson City, birthplace of President Lyndon B. Johnson. Bob and I had our photo taken in front of the boyhood home of LBJ, a pretty Victorian house. (Photo No. 5, LBJ home) Close by is the LBJ Ranch, where tours are offered. We even saw some buffalo hanging out. Boy, those babies are big!

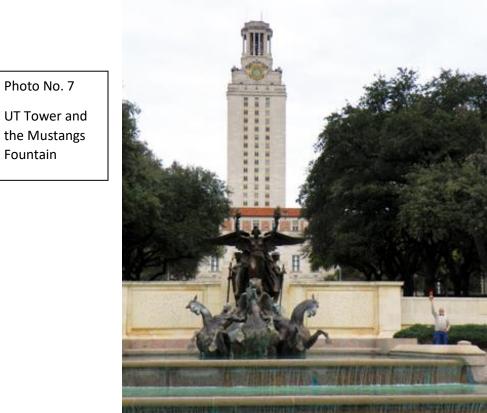


Photo 5 LBJ's Boyhood Home

A short time later, we arrived in Austin, Texas, where Judy was born and raised. The first place we went was the Capitol of Texas building. It's the largest state capitol in the Union. It's a beautiful building with a large park area surrounding it. It was finished in 1888. (Photo No. 6, the capitol) Next, they took me to the University of Texas, a beautiful campus. It opened in September, 1883. You can barely see me in the photo of the University Tower. Bob is holding me up by the Mustang sculpture in front of the tower. This is home to the Texas Longhorns, Judy's favorite team. (No 7 photo). There are several wonderful museums in Austin, including the LBJ Presidential Library, The Texas History Museum and the Elisabeth Ney Museum. And, of course, Austin is known for it's music and the Austin City Limits. The city sits on the edge of the Hill Country and to the West are beautiful hills and numerous lakes. Judy took me to an old haunt of hers, where she spent many summers. Barton Springs swimming pool is actually part of Barton Creek, and is fed by several springs. The water is a constant 60+ degrees that permits swimming all year. (No 8 photo, Barton Springs) In the photo you can only see about a third of the pool.



No 6 Photo Capitol of Texas



UT Tower and the Mustangs



Photo No. 8 Barton Springs Swimming Pool

Next stop is San Antonio and the number one tourist destination in Texas, The Alamo and the San Antonio River Walk. The Alamo is a Texas shrine and I got chills just thinking about what took place here. The old building was an abandoned mission when the Texans, including Davy Crockett, fought and lost there lives. The Alamo has been restored and sits in the middle of the city. (No9 photo The Alamo) Just a few steps away is the famous River Walk around the San Antonio River, named back in 1691 to commemorate St Anthony's day. You can take a tour boat ride along the river, where the guide gives the history of San Antonio and the river. It was so crowded in the busy part of the river, so we found a nice quiet place to take a photograph. (Photo No. 10 The River Walk) Beautiful plants surround the Riverwalk that goes on for miles on both sides of the river. Hotels and restaurants border the river with outdoor dining. Close by is Institute of Texas Cultures that includes all the cultures that helped build Texas.

On the way back to Kerrville, we stopped in the little town of Bandera, Cowboy Capitol of Texas, where there are many Dude ranches. I'm standing in from of a memorial for the American Cowboy at the Bandera County Courthouse. Just so I wouldn't stand out, I have on my six shooters. Don't get excited, folks, they only shoot caps. (Photo No.11, Cowboy memorial)



No. 11 Bandera

Cowboy Memorial

Back in Kerrville we go down to the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center, where the 7th annual Southwest Fine Art Gourd Show will be held May July This is a juried show and has been a success every year with many, many sales of gourd art. With their arms around me, how lucky can a guy get, is Lanza Teague and Debbie Mimms. Lanza is the Admin and Debbie is the Director of KACC. Both are very involved in the show and are very good friends to us gourd folk. (Photo No. 12 KACC) Kerrville has quite an art reputation. They have not only the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center, the Hill Country Arts Foundation and the Museum of Western Art. The Guadalupe River meanders through town with Cypress Trees lining the banks. We are in the heart of the Hill Country.



Photo No 12 KACC

Christmas is just about here and I got to meet some of Judy's family for a Christmas eve breakfast. We had baked French toast with pecan praline sauce, bacon and a wonderful fruit salad. In the photo with me are Judy's sister, Betty Vertin, a fellow AGS member and gourd artist, Judy's daughter, Jeanne, granddaughters Morgan, Carson and Reagan, Bob, another daughter of Judy's, Janet and Jeanne's husband Phillip. And, of course, me, with a plate of food in front of me. (Photo No. 13)



Photo No. 13 Christmas Breakfast

Judy was showing me around her workshop. She doesn't call it a studio because it gets so, so messy. I spied some dried cactus fiber and just had to jump in it. So, Judy took my photo with it all around me. I could just imagine how it would look on me. Don't get excited, folks, none of it is for sale. (Photo no.14 Cactus Fiber)



Photo No. 13 Lots of Cactus Fiber

So, now it was time for me to leave. It's really hard to leave Texas, but I know I must continue my journey around this beautiful country of ours.

So long until next time. By ya'll.

Note: Not in the article but GG2 sported a Yellow Rose of Texas Tatoo on his head. This was The Texas' contribution to his Body Art.

# **Carving Contest**

WE did not have a winner of the Carving Contest due to no one entering. Such a shame when members are given an opportunity to show their work and winning \$25. The Summer Contest has been cancelled. If members want to continue having these contests, please contact Becky Klix, President.

Due to Covid and other reasons, Patch participation and members have dwindled. We have several Patches that are now inactive. Don't have one close to you? Start a new one. Find new members. Members and Patches are the life blood of TGS. With Covid dwindling it's time for TGS rebirth. Join TGS if you haven't. Start a new patch if one isn't close enough. The following article is from the American Gourd Society. There are great ideas to help you get started or to regenerate an existing patch.

## How to Start a Gourd Patch in Your Area

(Ideas compiled by Sue Brown in Sarasota, Florida, 2002) email: rufsue@aol.com This information may be used without permission in entirety or in part. Good luck and have fun!!!

This information was developed to help folks get Gourdpatches going in Florida, and to give ideas as to what organizers have done in the way of "getting going". It is not really hard to do ... if you know a few folks already interested in gourding, you have a potential group that will grow as the word spreads.

The first couple of meetings take some time and effort to plan and carry off, but it is well worth it. Then when you get some input from the group as to future meeting ideas, you are off and running. Gourders are wonderful folks and love to share what they have done and know how to do.

This information is intended to give you some ideas and get you started in organizing your efforts. Some folks love detail, others are a little looser, so do whatever works for you and your group. Above all have fun and look forward to making some wonderful new friends. Information below includes:

- · Starting A Gourdpatch In 10 Easy Steps
- Meeting Ideas
- · Sample Meeting Agendas
- · Sample Initial Contact Letter
- · Sample Promotional Poster

A New Gourdpatch in Ten Easy Steps -- Suggestions by A.B. Amis 11/19/01

#### 1. COMMIT - AND THEN MAKE IT HAPPEN

Select a regular periodic meeting time and location that will be convenient for YOU, because YOUR presence and dedication are going to be key until the new patch is more or less able to stand on its own feet.

- · You can consider changing the time and location to accommodate your members' preferences later, if need be, after you have established a sizable and stable membership.
- · Free meeting rooms are typically available at libraries, bookstores, craft stores, etc.- all you have to do is ask. You may be asked to sign some paperwork, agreeing to be personably responsible for seeing to it that the facility's policies are observed relative to clean-up, non-discrimination, liability for damage, etc.

Preferably, find one or two other individuals willing to work with you in getting the patch started, because misery loves company, and there will probably be some initial disappointments as people you contact profess interest, but then don't show up for meetings

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#### PUBLICIZE THE MEETINGS

Develop an initial mailing/telephone list of people in your area whom you think might be interested in participating in a gourdpatch

- Send them postcards or letters a few weeks in advance of a planned first meeting, and then maybe follow this up with phone reminders shortly before the meeting.
- Get announcement of meetings in the "Weekly Calendar" section of your local newspaper/TV.
- Perhaps place meeting notices placed in craft stores, plant nurseries, etc.
- Encourage folks to bring a friend

#### Notes:

- Ask participants to bring their own gourds, supplies, and tools if they have them, but note in the publicity that gourds, supplies, and tools will be available at the meeting for those who can't bring their own.
- Have name badge blanks and a sign-in sheet on a table near the door.
- Ask everyone who attends your meetings to place their names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses on the sign-in sheet
- Use these sheets as a basis for making lists of people to be notified with "reminders" about later meetings, etc.

#### ARRANGE TO HAVE GOURDS AVAILABLE AT ALL THE MEETINGS.

The availability of gourds at the meetings is a strong incentive for newbies and luke-warm gourders to attend.

- Do some of your members, or prospective members, grow gourds that they would be willing to bring to the meetings for sale to other members?
- Will others perchance be traveling to gourd shows, or to other places where gourds can be bought in quantity?
- Any kinds of gourds will do fine initially the members can fit crafting projects to whatever gourds are available to them, and only later, after the patch has grown to the point where specific, preplanned workshop projects are the norm, should there be much concern about having the "right" kinds of gourds available.

## 4. ARRANGE TO HAVE SPECIALIZED GOURD TOOLS/SUPPLIES AT THE MEETINGS

You've probably seen it happen - the first time a person takes one of those mini-jigsaws in his hands and cuts a gourd; she/he's hooked, and can hardly sleep until he owns one!

- So try to have a jigsaw, wood burner, Dremel, sander, your favorite gourd-cleaning tools, etc. at the meetings.
- Paints, leather dyes, inks as well most people are probably familiar with paints and painting supplies, but the use of dyes & inks is usually an interesting new idea to them.
- Pine needles, basketry reed, seagrass, philodendron sheaths, embellishments, finishing products such as Deft lacquer, Minwax Wipe on Poly, Krylon Fixatif.
- Gourd books, of course.
- 5. HAVE A BRAG TABLE WHERE MEMBERS CAN DISPLAY CURRENT PROJECTS

Try to bring work yourself illustrating a variety of Grafting techniques, and encourage everyone to bring their latest creations - no matter how amateurish.

- Brag on all efforts, and offer encouragement.
- DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT ORGANIZED PROGRAMS AT FIRST

For the first few meetings, it should be enough just to get together and talk gourds and do "show and tell."

- Maybe cobble up some simple project on the spot based on whatever gourds and tools are at hand.
- Try having attendees try various crafting techniques on gourd scraps.
- Just publicize the meeting as "Fun With Gourds" or something non-committal like that..
- 7. HAVE LITERATURE AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS. AND SIGN UP MEMBERS.

Look on the AGS website and Chapter sites for informative brochures.

- For example, FGS Membership Brochures, "Fact Sheets for Florida Gourders", "How We Grow Gourds in Florida", copies of past Gourdvine newsletters, etc.
- Make it easy for new members to join your group and the AGS by assisting them in filling out the membership form
- 8. SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN "OUTSIDE" ACTIVITIES

Spread the word about gourds.

• Be alert to opportunities for doing gourd programs for local Garden Clubs, educational or artistic gourd exhibits in library showcase windows, etc. - anything to increase local public awareness of our gourd hobby.

#### 9. WRITE MONTHLY PATCH REPORTS FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

Brag on members and member accomplishments - everyone likes recognition!

#### 10. FISCAL MATTERS

If you have "overhead" expenses you will need to raise some funds.

- Consider having members pay dues
- Obtaining and selling raw (unfinished) gourds, gourd art, supplies with a small profit to benefit the group
- Teaching a program where an honorarium is offered

#### SOME GOURDPATCH MEETING IDEAS:

- Tool clinic (woodburning, mini jigsaw, dremel, etc)
- Cutting gourds with a dremel tool
- Patching gourds
- Paint a penguin gourd
- Laying out and woodburning an egg gourd
- Chip carving demonstration
- Pine needle coiled tops on prepared gourd bowls
- Teneriffe design on prepared gourd bowl
- Gourd purse
- Rainstick with a snake gourd
- Decoupage fabric and photos on a gourd
- Pen and ink (done on paper)
- Visit to a new gourd farm
- Dream catchers on a gourd
- Philodendron sheaves on a gourd bowl top
- Gourd bird house
- Realistic apple gourd painting

- Chicken created using Paper Clay
- Crackling on a gourd without crackle medium
- Gourd snowman
- Gourd mask
- Relief carving on a gourd
- One stroke painting on a gourd

## SAMPLE GOURDPATCH MEETING AGENDA

## Set -up the Meeting Room with the following

- 1. Sign-in table with prepared sheet to collect name, address, email, phone; name tags
- 2. Sampling of gourds, tools & supplies
- 3. Books of interest (List & some on front table)
- 4. Relevant handouts if available
- a. Internet sites of interest
- b. Gourd Growing and Cleaning tips
- c. Resources (seeds, raw gourds, tools)

Meet and greet as people arrive

## Agenda

- 1. Welcome attendees and briefly explain how we got to "today"
- 2. Introductions: Have folks introduce themselves (your name, town, how you first got into gourds)
- 3. Discuss various topics, including
- a. Information on tools, techniques
- b. Where to purchase dried gourds
- c. Future meeting dates, times & locations

- 4. Handout a Technique questionnaire for attendees fill out
- a. Discuss future program ideas...... ask for ideas.
- 5. Ask for help in running this patch: Things that people can help with:
- a. Set up and cleanup at meetings
- b. Phone and or mailings/emails to stay in touch
- c. Publicity....newspapers, contacting groups about our meetings
- d. Getting gourds/supplies for programs
- e. Program committee
- 6. Conclude the meeting with the following suggestions
- a. Bring something for Show & Tell
- b. Bring a friend
- c. Bring a favorite crafting book
- d. Collect the techniques survey and report the results at the next gathering or by email after this meeting
- e. Please help clean up the room so we can leave it the way we found it.

Sample Initial Contact Letter

January 9, 2002

Dear Fellow Gourders,

I have talked with or learned of you within the last year in regards to your interest in Gourds and Gourding. "Somehow" I became responsible for trying to get a gourd group, known as a GOURDPATCH going here in the Sarasota area. Now that the holidays are over, perhaps we can get in gear. So I have taken the bull by the horns and scheduled an initial meeting, just one week from now. I apologize for the short notice!!!

The purpose of this first meeting is to:

- Get to meet other folks in the area with similar interests
- Show the others some of the gourds you have crafted, and see what others have done.
- See gourding tools and books helpful in our craft (bring any along you might have)

- Get ideas as to what we'd like to do as a group: demonstrations you'd like to see; group projects we could do in a meeting time ( mask, decorative rim, learn foiling, etc.)
- To learn more about the Florida Gourd Society and the upcoming Florida Gourd Show in Belleview (Feb 22-24) (possibly pre -order special types of gourds those of us going could procure)
- See a video of the past Florida Gourd Show and/or a video on making a gourd mask

This meeting will be as successful as we make it!! So bring enthusiasm, curiosity, decorated gourds, gourd or other art books you find motivational.

PLEASE CALL ME.... and let me know you can come or not, or if another time would be more suitable for you in the future. We're just starting from scratch, so we can do whatever we decide works!

Spread the Word-----Bring a Friend

Your Name, Phone Number, Email Address

Sample Promotional Poster

\*\* Post wherever you find interested folks: craft fairs, county fairs, garden clubs, craft stores

SARASOTA GOURDPATCH

LOOKING FOR A NEW HOBBY OR CRAFT?

A NEW GROUP IS FORMing IN OUR

AREA TO SHARE THE GOURDGLOW!!

VISITORS, NEWBIES AND CURIOUS WELCOME.

NO EXPERIENCE NOR TALENT NEEDED!

Who: Men and women looking for a new hobby.

What: Area GOURD crafters meet to share their current

projects and learn new crafting techniques.

Where: ((LOCATION))

When:((Day of the month and times))

What to do: Contact	
Phone:	_email:
(associated with the Florida Gourd Society)	

## For Sale

- 100's of Dry Gourds \$2 to \$5
- Mini Gourds 2 for \$1

In Llano, Tx just off Hwy 29 West

Shipping rates are terrible these days.

Better to make a fun day trip.

Come to Llano, pick your own go Have lunch at Copper's BBQ

Hordes of Gourds

Rickie Newell

106 Rio Llano Drive

Llano, TX 78643

830-613-4246

Rickie.Newell@gmail.com

Please call ahead to make your appointment time.

Rickie is a Board member of the Texas Gourd Society