

The Texas Gourdzette

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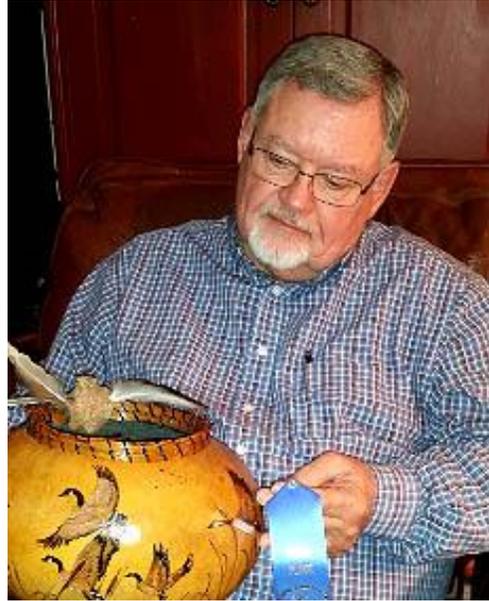
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**Winner of the 2020 Animal Gourd Contest
Margaret Streams**

Message from the President



As I write this article, I am thinking of what would have been, had we not been sidetracked by a virus. Our Festival would be just next week! Looking back from this point, I have to wonder if we could have gone ahead with our Festival. I am convinced however, that we made the right decision as painful as it was. I know you are missing the anticipation that always occurs just before the event. I know I am.

In this edition of the Gourdzette, you will find the results of the “Critters” contest that just ended. One of the purposes of the contest was to encourage new membership and it gives me great pleasure to announce that the winning “Critter” was from a new member who won a cash prize.

You will also see the announcement for the “Best of 2020” contest and the cash prizes that are available. This contest will give our members an opportunity to enter something you have finished this year, absent an outlet for display and sale, during the pandemic. And of course, we want to encourage non-members out there to join our group and enter your masterpiece. This will be judged by an outside group from photo entry. Pick out your best work and get ready for entry.

It is my hope that you have gotten thru this trying time in good health. I have not heard of any in our group who have had the virus. I hope that information is accurate. Please continue to remain safe and begin now preparing for the greatest Festival we have ever had as we look forward to 2021!

David Cleaveland, President



Announcing the TGS 2020 Best of the Year Contest

Here is a chance to enter one of those gourds that you have been working on.

Since our Festival was cancelled due to Covid 19, we thought It would be fun to have a contest for all our members to enter their best gourd art this year. There will be cash prizes awarded with 1st place receiving \$100, 2nd place \$50 and 3rd place \$25. This is for members only and new members are welcome to enter. The judging will be done by non TGS members. This will be virtual judging of photos, so it's very important to pick your best photos. Winners will be announced in the 4th quarter issue of the Gourdzette in early January.

Send all entries to Editor.Gourdzette@yahoo.com

TGS Gourd Animal Contest

Margaret Streams, a new member from New Mexico is the winner and will receive her prize of \$25. Judging was done by Gerald and Debbie Tobola, who have judged at several TGS competitions, KACC Fine Arts Gourd Show and for AGS contests. They are artists and owners of Copper Shade Gallery. Below are the entries in the contest.



First Place – Margaret Streams



Closeup of base

More Entries in the Animal Contest



Karen Knight



Lynda Smith



David Cleaveland

More Entries



Debbie Garcia



Wilma Cleaveland

We want to thank all of these artists for entering the contest.

Patch Happenings

Arlington Gourd Patch, written by Georgia Cunningham

It isn't surprising that the Arlington Gourd Patch is not meeting. We miss each other, but we are staying safe until this crazy situation ends. Meanwhile, members are staying in touch and sharing newly created gourd pieces. Some of our members are also working on basket making in addition to gourd art.

Susan Ashley is one of our members whose art is diverse. She continues to create beautiful baskets. "Blue Basket Eggshells" is done with a technique we use often in gourd creations. She has used eggshells and pine needles for this lovely basket. Susan also has a YouTube video showing how she uses wax to seal her baskets. . You can go to YouTube and search for TxWeaver. There you will find several videos that Susan has done. Here is her recent basket using the Ti stitch.



Arlington Gourd Patch (con'd)

Julie Lind has created this little gem called “Ocean” complete with a glass cabochon that was made by AGP’s resident glass maker. Julie always adds a definite artistic touch to her gourds, and her signature addition of microbeads is used effectively. As she continues to show expertise with the crackle technique, she states, “I use a lot of glue and a lot of crackle. Really goop it on and let it dry overnight.”



Cindy Lear is involved in both the Cowtown Patch and the Arlington Patch, so she is a busy gourd lady. One of her new creations uses her fabric beads in a unique way on her gourd titled “Paper Bead Gourd”. She also used a leather interweaving technique taught by Susan Ashley to connect those beads. Her other recent work titled “Blurred” is a technique using alcohol ink in an artistic manner.

Arlington Gourd Patch (cont'd)



Cindy Lear 2020

Paper Beads



Cindy Lear 2020

Blurred

(Arlington Gourd Patch cont'd)

Most of the time gourd artists use chicken eggshells, but Georgia Cunningham had some emu shells that she wanted to try using. She is making this little gourd shard basket called "Emu Art" from them (unfinished). Emu shells often have 3 layers of color to them, all in varying turquoise values. Once they have been glued down and are well dried, they can be sanded to expose the layers beneath.



Georgia also learned a new stitch called "Ti Stitch". It's a lovely, strong stitch, and she used a 1mm cording that resembles leather on a basket she calls "Ti Stitch Gourd Basket". The other basket called "Spiral Gourd Basket" is also on a gourd shard, and Georgia followed directions from a tutorial written by Vickie Echols in a recent Gourd magazine to create the spiral.

Arlington Gourd Patch (Con'd)



"Ti Stitch Gourd Basket"
by Georgia Cunningham 2020



"Spiral Gourd Basket 2020"
by Georgia Cunningham

Coastal Bend Gourd Patch by Shelia Guidry

We have not been able to have a patch meeting for a while. Since the meetings are at my house, things have come to a halt since Oren's cancer. Oren's cancer is doing better but he cannot take a chance of being around people and picking up the virus. So I am nurse, maid, cook, bottle washer and chauffeur. But as long as we keep going forward, I am OK.



Fall has arrived at my house- I got tired of waiting for it so I pulled out Fall gourds.

Coastal Gourd Patch (con'd)



One of our Patch members did work on a gourd that has already sold- Good work John.

Coastal Gourd Patch (con'd)



Pumpkin Gourds and Turkeys

South East Gourd Patch

Notified by Nita Beard that the patch has not had any meetings.

Capital of Texas Patch by Debby Garcia

Howdy!

The first day of fall has arrived, and it does in fact feel a bit like fall!

The patch met in August to work on techniques that can be used with ink dyes.

We all wore our masks and were spaced two to a table.

8 folks, 8 different results! Always neat to see.

The patch decided to take September off and will again meet in October to work on some spooky, cute Halloween projects. I remember last year, there were some fine looking witches, pumpkins....

So with that, ya'll take care,

Yours in gourding,

Debbie

Guadalupe Gourd Patch

The Guadalupe gourd Patch met in both August and September with a good turnout for both meetings. We are fortunate to be in an area with few cases of Covid 19.

In August we attempted wire wrapping. We had several books to learn from along with guidance from Sharon Harrison. Several tools were available for us to us or try out.

For our September meeting we used cactus fiber on gourds, either by insert, inlay or on the outside of the gourd. We tried out different glues to see which worked the best. There was no clear winner. There were a lot of sticky fingers.

We are lucky to have Jane Redmond in our group who processes and sells beautiful cactus fiber and brought a lot for us to buy.

Guadalupe Gourd Patch (con'd)



A simple way to attach stones to your coiling – Judy Richie



Becky Klix – Wire Wrap



Some of the gourd Fibers from Jane Redmond

Guadalupe Gourd Patch (con'd)



Judy Richie ©2020

Cactus Fiber – Judy Richie



Judy Richie ©2020

Cactus Fiber – Judy Richie



Cactus Fiber – David Cleaveland

Competition 2021

We have left the 2020 Competition rules on the website. We would love to have feedback from members. Is there anything you could add or something you don't care for. We can't promise we will make the change, but we definitely would like to hear from our members. Every suggestion will be taken seriously by the Competition committee.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Becky Klix

Wanted

Photos of your favorite gourd

Hints to help our members

Tutorials

News – Have you visited a gourd farm, another patch in State or out. Retreats. Classes. What have you been up to.

Send all info and photos to Editor.Gourdzette@yahoo.com

TWINING WITH SEAGRASS by Judy Richie



Supplies:

Craft ready gourd with holes drilled
Mini Sea grass - at least two colors
Spray bottle
Sharp scissors and an awl

Dampen the sea grass in water so that it is pliable. Keep unused sea grass covered. You can dampen it as it dries when you are working with misting from a spray bottle.

You will need to drill holes in the rim of the gourd about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch down from the rim edge and $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches apart. . Holes needs to be at least $\frac{1}{8}$ Inch in diameter. Check to see if the sea grass will fit through the holes.

Next, count the holes and divide by two to get the number of spokes to cut from the sea grass. Cut them about 18 inches long. This will be for a 6 to 8 Inch gourd. If you have an odd number of holes, cut one more spoke.

Begin by putting one of the spoke piece through a hole from the outside to the inside and then push through the next hole from the inside to the outside as shown in Fig 1. Continue around until all holes are filled. If you have an odd number, put a spoke from the inside to the outside and tuck the inside end up through and adjacent loop as show in. See Fig 2

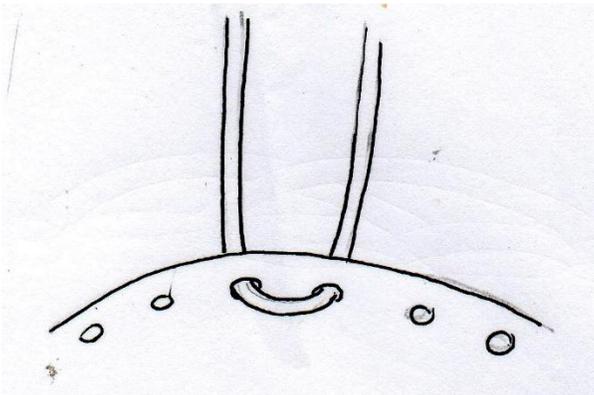


Fig 1

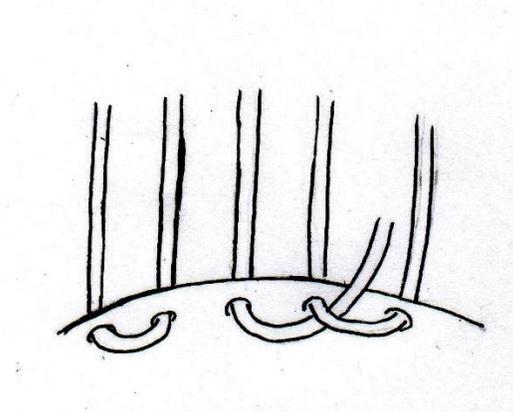


Fig 2

You are now ready to begin twinning. Place the end of one of the colors through two spokes with the end inside. Now with another color place it in the next space in the same manner. You may want to use masking tape to hold the ends inside. See Fig 3

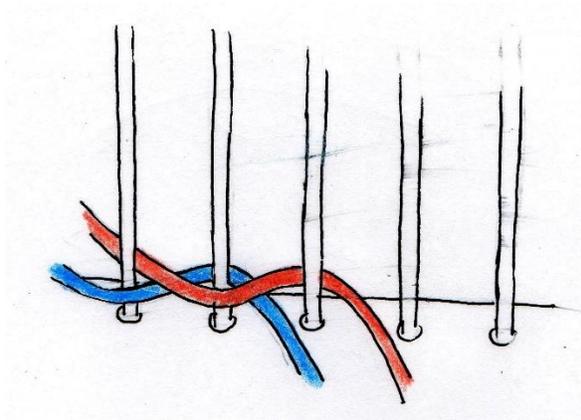


Fig 3

When using two colors to twin an even number of holes or spokes will give you a pattern as shown in Fig 4. If you have an uneven number of holes/spokes you will have a spiral pattern as shown in Fig 5.

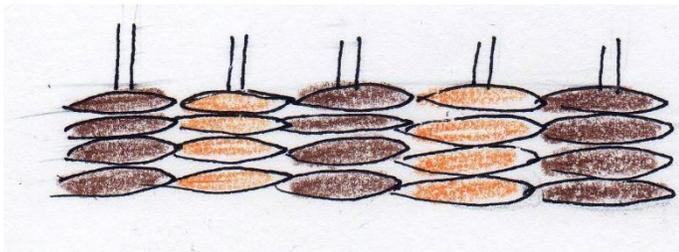


Fig 4

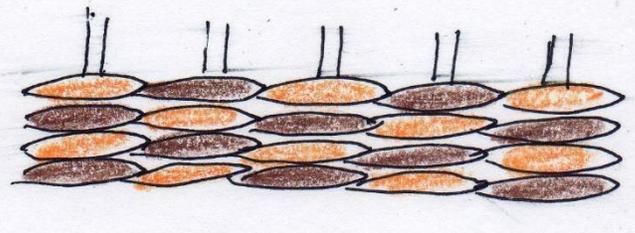


Fig 5

When you need to add more sea grass , simply lay the old weaver down on the inside of the gourd and add the new one in it's place as shown in Fig 6.

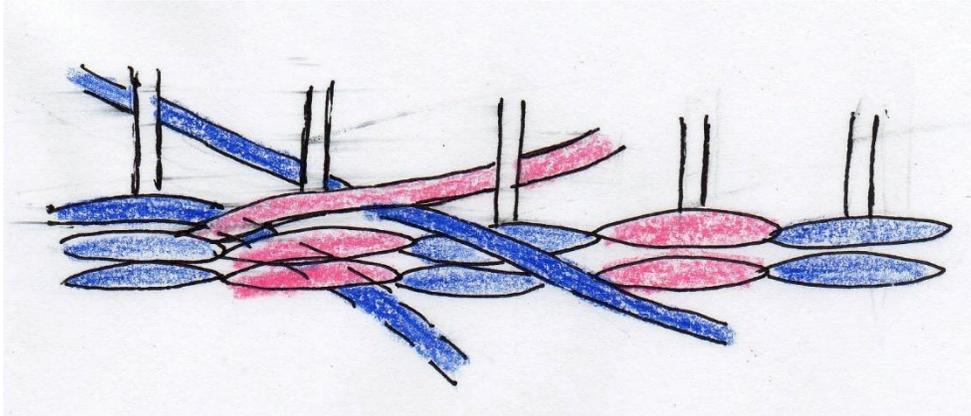


Fig 6

Finishing the Rim

Tuck the ends of the weavers to the inside. Pull up all spokes and straighten. Take one of the spokes and go over the next two spokes and then down behind the third one. Repeat with the rest of the spokes, over two and then down behind the third.

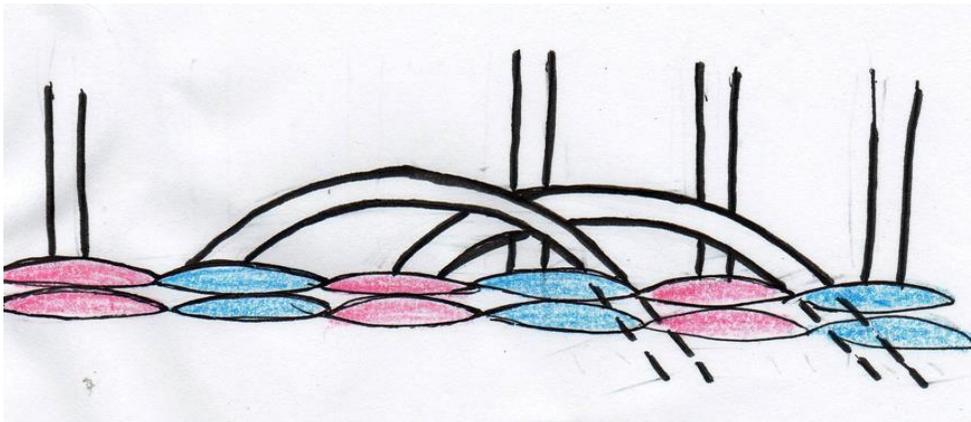


Fig 7

Now, you will have all the spokes turned down on the inside. Now, take one of the turned down spokes and go behind the next two and bring out the space

after the second spoke. Pull that spoke up and tightened the weave. Keep repeating this until all spokes are now up through the spaces. You will need to use your awl to get the spaces open enough to pass the sea grass through. Make sure that you tighten each time. Shown in Fig 8

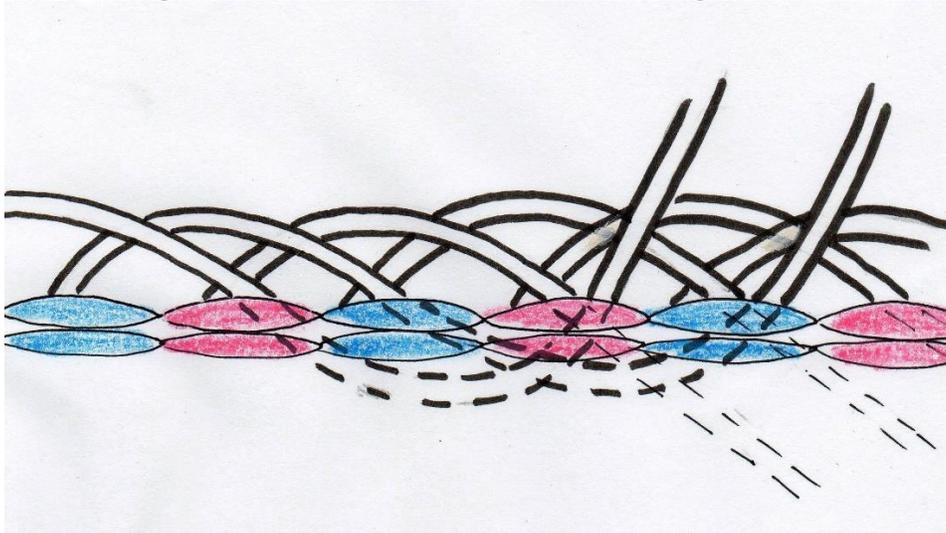


Fig 8

You can leave the sea grass unfinished or finish it with thinned lacquer. Use a mixture of one part lacquer to $\frac{1}{4}$ part denatured alcohol.

Seagrass Source - www.royalwoodltd.com

THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

AD RATES FOR 1 YEAR (4 issues) Includes a LINK on the TGS website to your website, or your email and/or phone number. Single issue ads do not receive a free website link.

AD RATES PER ISSUE If you buy for a full year, your ad will be placed on the website as a Gourdzette Advertiser.

Full page Ad (8 ½ x 11 inches) \$60 per issue

1/2 page Ad \$30 per issue

1/3 page Ad \$15

1/4 page Ad \$18 per issue

1/6 page Ad (3 x 3/5 inches) \$12 per issue

Deadline for ad changes are the first day of January, April, July and October.

**Check should be made payable to: Texas Gourd Society
Blanche Cavaretta, Treasurer
220 CR 90E
Hallettsville, Texas 77964**

Send ads to Editor.Gourdzette@yahoo.com Please send photos separately.