



THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

THE NEWLETTER OF THE KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

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September 2023



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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Texas Gourd Society is to promote interest in and appreciation of gourds, both to our membership and to the general public. We will do this by sharing information through education, meetings, festivals and shows related to the culture, history, uses, crafting and artistry of gourds.

2023 TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY OFFICERS

**Paul Butcher - President
Becky Klix - Vice President
Rona Thornton - Treasurer
Debbie Garcia - Secretary
Cathy West - Membership
David Cleaveland - Immediate Past President
Cathy West - Gourdette Editor**

TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

**Zeldajean Byrd - Director
Jill Robinson - Director
Marla Garber - Director
Sherry Nelson - Director
Roy Cavarretta - Director
Blanche Cavarretta - Director**

Presidents Message



I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who volunteered and participated in this year's Lone Star Gourd Festival. We owe a huge thanks to...

Nita Beard & Zeldajean Byrd – admissions booth

Cathy West – membership booth

Roy Cavarretta – Ways & Means booth & event set-up

Blanche Cavarretta – Raffle ticket sales & event set-up

Jill Robinson – Competition

Rona Thornton – Imagination Station Booth

Sue Haberer – Education

Debbie Garcia – Vendor hospitality & event setup

Richie Garcia - event set-up

Sherry Nelson – Vendor Booth markup & competition assistant, food truck organizer & event set-up

Mike & Betsy Ford – daily outdoor sign placement

Kathy Lawson – Vendor Booth markup & event set-up

Marla Garber - event set-up

Doug Garber - event set-up

Michael Smith – photographer

Jill Robinson, Jeanine Williams, Mike Ford, David Cleaveland, Roy Cavarretta & Sherry Nelson – raffle gourd donations

All patches, vendors, students, membership, and attendees.

Congratulations to Best of Show winner Jeanine Williams with her beaded cat at the Lone Star Gourd Festival. Each bead was placed individually over a two-year period.



We would also like to congratulate all winners and participants in this year's competition.

If you haven't already heard the news, TGS is excited to announce **TWO CHANGES TO THE 2024 FESTIVAL CALENDAR.**

The first annual North Texas Gourd Festival will be held...

April 19-20, 2024
Lake Granbury Conference Center
621 E Pear Street
Granbury, TX 76048

The TGS Spring Membership Meeting will be held the evening of April 19.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, vendor or teacher information will be forthcoming on the TGS website.

The 29th annual Lone Star Gourd Festival will be held in a new location...

October 4-5, 2024
Ranch Park
1042 Event Center Drive
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

The TGS Fall Membership Meeting will be held the evening of October 4, 2024

For more information on becoming a volunteer, vendor or teacher information will be forthcoming on the TGS website.

I want to thank Paul Butcher for stepping in for me as TGS President during a recent medical situation that I was going through. I also want to thank everyone for their thoughts & prayers.

Amazing that 2023 is quickly coming to an end so, HAPPY HOLIDAYS to everyone. And a healthy and prosperous 2024!

Happy Gourding,
Becky Klix

TGS PATCH HAPPENING'S

Capital of Texas Gourd Patch

Howdy everyone,

It was good to see old and meet new faces at the festival this year.

There were good classes, demos and vendors to enjoy and learn new things. It is always a good thing to learn new techniques. Oh, the food vendors weren't bad either!!!

We are really proud of Jeannine for winning Best of Show this year! What a kitty cat she created! Also proud of our members who took ribbons and especially of Rona who entered pieces for the first time!

The patch will be working on Halloween and holiday projects, and November "angels" will take over my garage! It should be very interesting to see how they will all turn out. Looks like a lot will be happening in the future of TGS, a new Festival up North, new location for the South Festival. Have lots of good feelings for both endeavors.

This will be a short article as Rona has recruited me to help with a few of her outreach programs. They were fun last year to see all the great finished projects that both kids and adults created, and the new knowledge of what a gourd can be!

So, until we meet again,

Keep gourding,

Debbie

Cowtown Gourd Patch

We have been very busy working on new projects and getting ready to participate in our first craft fair in November.

In June and in August, Becky Query led us through making gourdillos. so much fun and everyone's gourdillo came out different. We had a work day at Nancy Walsh's house preparing items to sell at our first craft fair, which will be in Bluff Dale November 18th. Becky Stover aught in October how to braid leather on a gourd rim.





[Dallas Gourd Patch](#)

No patch news reported

[Bay Area Gourd Patch](#)

The Bay Area patch has been very active in our communities. For the month of July, we had a gourd show at the Art League of Baytown. To start the show, we had a Meet the Artists Day. Our artists worked on different techniques and visited with customers. It is in the works to have it again next summer.

The months of August and September were spent creating different gourds with a Texas theme. They were donated to a raffle to benefit the Thelma Webber Community Center in Santa Fe. This is where we meet every Thursday morning.



[Southeast Gourd Patch](#)

The Southeast Gourd Patch spent a lot of time this quarter preparing for the Lone Star Gourd Festival. In September, Penny Lyons gave a demonstration class on using clay to make enhancements for our gourds. Penny demonstrated how to make a rose and leaves. She had plenty of examples for us to view. We conditioned our clay and then attempted our own rose. It was a lot of fun.

In September our meeting was a show and tell and members were encouraged to bring any paint or tool that they used and tell the group why they like that particular product. We had a very small turnout because of several health issues among the group. We meet at the Radack Center in Houston from 10:00 until we are finished. If you live near the Houston area we invite you to join us the second Saturday of each month.



[Guadalupe Gourd Patch](#)

No news from the Guadalupe Patch this Quarter.

[West Texas Gourd Patch](#)

No news from the West Texas Gourd Patch this Quarter.

[Community Outreach Events](#)

No community outreach events reported this quarter. If your patch does a demonstration, class, or other outreach to the public please send in a picture and article for the Gourdzette.

2023 LONE STAR GOURD FESTIVAL NEWS

The 2023 Festival is in the books! The festival which was held on September 28-29, 2023 was a success. There were great classes, supplies for sale, and beautiful gourd art. By the numbers we had:

- 19 Vendors
- 13 Classes
- 394 Paid Attendees
- 45 Competition Entries

TGS would like to thank the following companies and individuals for their generous contributions to our Silent Auction:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| ✚ Ram Products | https://www.ramprodinc.com/ |
| ✚ Royalwood | https://www.royalwoodltd.com/ |
| ✚ Caning Company | https://www.caning.com/ |
| ✚ Welburn Gourd Farm | https://welburngourdfarm.com/ |
| ✚ Flex Cut | https://www.flexcut.com/ |
| ✚ MDI Woodcarvers | https://mdiwoodcarvers.com/ |
| ✚ Blue Whale | https://www.bluewhalearts.com/ |
| ✚ Shelia Guidry | Donated door prizes plus gourds and supplies for the silent auction |
| ✚ TGS Patches | Donated Gift Baskets and Wreath |
| ✚ Gloria Drab | |

Here are a few pictures of the fun:





Lone Star Gourd Festival Competition Winners

Best of Show



Cleo-paw-tra
Jeanine Williams

Texas Award (Best of Show Runner Up) and Peoples Choice



"The Royal"

Sherry Nelson

Growers



**1st Largest
Sherry Nelson**



**1st Best Looking Fresh
Best of Growers Division
Sherry Nelson**

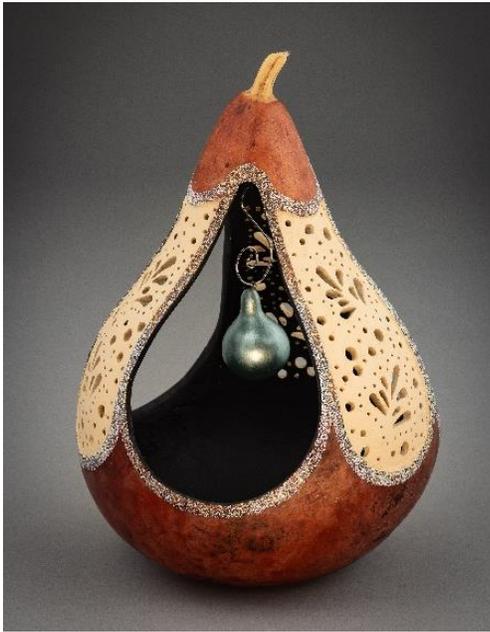


**1st Best Looking Dried
Cathy West**



**1st Smallest
Cathy West**

Novice Division



**1st Mixed Media
Becky Query**



**1st Coiling
Rica Brock**



**1st Class Gourd and Best of Novice Division
Becky Query**

Intermediate



**1st Finishes
Best of Intermediate Division
Rona Thornton**

Advanced



**1st Mixed Media
Mari Tarver**



**1st Pyrography
Marla Garber**



**1st Weaving
Cathy West**



**1st Southwest
Best of Advanced Division
Cathy West**

Masters



1st Carving – Roy Cavaretta



1st Masks – Sherry Nelson



1st Southwest
Roy Cavaretta



1st Pyrography
Sherry Nelson

Masters - Continued



1st Mixed Media-Roy Cavaretta



Jill Robinson - 1st Coiling
Best of Masters Division

Open



1st Dolls Debbie Garcia



1st Musical - Mary Macauley



1st Special Category Sea Life
Roy Cavaretta



1st Holiday and
Best of Open Division
Jeanine Williams



The 2023 Fall TGS Membership Meeting was held at the Gillespie Fair Grounds on September 29, 2023, at 5:30 pm. There was a good turnout, and we had enough voting members to make a quorum.

There was discussion about the 2023 TGS festival as of the end of the first day.

Rona Thornton reported that TGS had filed paperwork to obtain its own EIN/501c3 nonprofit status under its own name. Previously TGS had been under an umbrella coverage of the Garden Club of Texas.

Nominations for Officers and Directors were taken. The following is the slate of officers and directors for 2024.

President – Becky Klix

Vice President –Marla Garber

Treasurer – Rona Thornton

Secretary – Debbie Garcia

Membership – Paul Butcher

Director- Barbara Holton

The remaining Directors were not up for re-election.

Discussion was held on the location for the the 2024 Spring Meeting and the 2024 Fall Festival.

Rental rates for the Gillespie Fairgrounds in 2024 have doubled making that location was no longer a financially viable option. During the 2023 Spring Meeting a committee was formed to explore options for 2024. After a vote the following locations were approved:

The **2024 Spring Meeting** will be held at the Lake Granbury Convention Center and will include festival activities. The dates will be April 19th – 20th, 2024 and will be titled the North Texas Gourd Festival. The Dallas Gourd Patch will be organizing the festival. More details are available on the TGS Website.

The **2024 Fall TGS Lone Star Gourd Festival** will be held at Ranch Park in Dripping Springs, TX. Dates to be announced.

The Making of Cleo-paw-tra

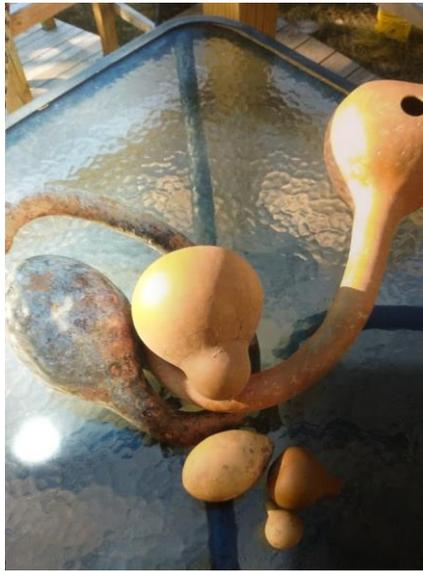
Jeanine Williams is the artist behind Cleo-paw-tra, Best of Show winner of the 2023 TGS Fall Festival. Jeanine lives in Dale, Texas. She always loved crafting and would try her hand at just about anything. She also dabbled in the Fine Arts with Water Colors and Pen and Ink. Jeanine discovered Gourds in 2010 when she was living in Dripping Springs, Texas. She met Lynda Smith, who was willing to donate her time, share her knowledge, and teach her about gourds. From then on there was no going back. Woodburning is actually her favorite medium to work with, but she will still challenge herself to try things she hasn't done before. One of her greatest feelings of accomplishment since she started making gourds, was when she was able to sell a piece, and see the sheer pleasure on somebody's face, that they love something that she created.

Jeanine was generous in sharing her story of how Cleo-paw-tra was created:

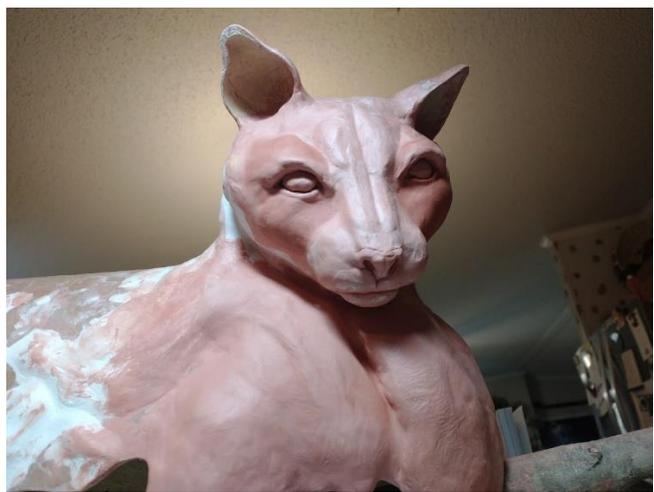
Cleo-paw-tra was a piece I dwelled on for some time before I started her. I really had to think her through in my head. Each step of her construction took a lot of thought. First, I created her form using a large branch from the backyard for her to sit on, six gourds, clay to adhere the pieces, sculpt the musculature and shape the facial features over gourds for her cheeks and whisker pouches. Second, I drew a design over the entire cat. I then gathered all the Bead colors I wanted to use for each section, which ended up being 50 colors in all. The Beads were matched to paint colors, and the cat was then painted, creating the 'pattern' for the bead placement. Third, the beading began! Each bead was placed on the cat, one by one with a needle and glue. The glue was an industrial glue, that literally made me VERY ill. Turns out I was allergic to it. I then had to do a little research and find a non-toxic glue that would still grip the bead fairly quickly before it slid off. All in all, it took approximately four bottles of glue, 80,000 size 11 beads (small), and close to 2yrs., to complete. Winning Best of Show for Cleo-paw-tra was especially poignant for me, only because she was the last creation of mine, even though she wasn't quite finished yet, that my mother saw before she passed in March. This win was for you Mom!

Here is a pictorial of the making of Cleo-paw-tra:

Gourds and supplies that were used for Cleo



Creating Cleo:



Painting Cleo:



Beading Cleo:





Editors Note: Cleo-paw-tra is truly an incredible art piece and really needs to be seen in person to appreciate the amount of work it took to create this wonderful piece of art.

Note from the Editor: I would like to reach out to everyone and encourage you to submit any interesting information, patch news, community outreach events, simple tutorials, or gourd news for the next issue of the Gourdzette.

Cathy West