



THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

THE NEWLETTER OF THE KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

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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.

2024 TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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

TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Zeldajean Byrd – Director	Term 2022 – 2024
Blanche Cavarretta – Director	Term 2022 – 2024
Sue Haberer – Director	Term 2024 - 2026
Barbie Holton – Director	Term 2024 - 2026
Sherry Nelson – Director	Term 2022 - 2024
Jill Robinson – Director	Term 2022 - 2024
Sherry Nelson – Director	Term 2022 - 2024

Presidents Message



TGS Membership & Gourding Friends,

This is an exciting time for TGS, we just finished our first annual North Texas Gourd Festival in Granbury, Tx and it was a great success! Fun was had by all. Thank you to the many volunteers, vendors, teachers and students, we couldn't have done it without you! The festival will be featured in the next Gourdzette.

So, talking about festivals... we are now busy getting ready for the 29th annual Lone Star Gourd Festival, October 4-5. This year's festival will be held at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park in Dripping Springs, Tx.

The Competition Chairperson is Judy Richie, and she has announced the Open Category for this year is Butterflies & Dragonflies "Oh My". You can get your competition application on the TGS website. We can't wait to see your competition entries this year!

If you would like to teach classes, the Education Chairperson is Sue Haberer. We already have 4 teachers that will teach some new and interesting classes. If you are interested in teaching, you can get your teacher application on the TGS website. We have a large class area and class times available are Thursday afternoon, Oct 3, Saturday, October 4 and Friday, October 5.

We currently have 17 vendors signed and limited space remaining so, if you would like a space, visit the TGS website for an application.

If you have any questions about the competition, classes or vendor spaces, please send an email to texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com We will get the email forwarded to the proper contact.

Remember, if you haven't renewed your membership for 2024, it's not too late! Go to www.texasgourdsociety.org and hit the "Join Us" button.

Becky Klix

EDITOR'S NEWS

All,

Thanks for the great feedback on the Gourdzette. Just to clear up any confusion, this issue of the Gourdzette only covers the first quarter of 2024. I'm sure everyone has heard about the great success TGS and especially the Dallas Gourd Patch had with the first annual North Texas Gourd Festival. Our next issue of the Gourdzette (Q2 of 2024) will feature the first annual North Texas Gourd Festival and will provide lots of photos and articles about the festival.

On our cover this issue is a beautiful dancing fairy created by Debbie Garcia from Austin. Her name is Lilo, and she is from Tahiti. Lilo is out dancing in the Spring flowers, and just like many of us she is glad winter has passed. She is looking forward to a wonderful year full of gourding.

In order to keep bringing everyone great news about gourding and TGS please send in any articles, gourd sightings, or suggestions for the Gourdzette. Remember it's your newsletter.

Cathy West

TGS PATCH HAPPENING'S

Bay Area Gourd Patch

The Bay Area group has been busy learning new things. In January, we learned how to use Quikwood to make features on a gourd. Working with this two-part epoxy product brought on a lot of ideas among the group.

At the February meeting, we started a Tree of Life project. We cut the front hole, drilled holes, stained and applied finish to the gourd.

At the March and April meetings, we used wire and stones to make our trees. In May, we will use closed coiling to finish the rim of the gourd. The next Gourdzette will have pictures of some finished products.



Bay Area continued



Capital of Texas Gourd Patch

Howdy!

The time has just been flying by, hasn't it?

The patch has been meeting monthly and gourd purses was one of our projects, they were quite interesting you can get really fancy if you want. Looking forward to all the finished purses.

We also dabbled with buttons! A friend gave me a lot of buttons, so with the ok from Judy to use her directions all of us went to town! I look forward to working with buttons again.

Our last meeting was all about washi paper on gourds. It was the first gourd I ever made over 15 years ago at the festival in Fredericksburg and wanted to share this with the patch. Since I lived in Okinawa, I collected a lot of washi paper!

I met with Rona, and we prepped gourds for the "make and take" table for the festival. Gosh, I'll tell you, that Rona is a wiz at a drill press! Having to dodge the spray paint as the wind kept changing directions was pretty fun.

All are looking forward to the N. TX Gourd Festival, making new friends, learning new crafts!

P.S. I would like to give a huge **HURRAY!!!!** to the Dallas Patch, Marla, her family, Sue for a great job for the festival.

The employees at the Conference Center were really nice and helpful.

Not too sure if I got my \$6.00 worth of water and coffee, but I did give it the old college try.

Jeannie and I enjoyed the classes we took and the ribbons for Creatures of Texas and People's Choice.

We cannot wait until next year for the 2nd N. TX Gourd festival.

So, now it's time to concentrate on the Lone Star Festival.

So, until we meet again, take care.

Friends,

Debbie Garcia

Cowtown Gourd Patch

No news reported.

Dallas Gourd Patch

There was no news reported for the Dallas Gourd Patch for the first quarter, but I'm sure they were very busy preparing for the North Texas Spring Festival.

Guadalupe Gourd Patch

The Guadalupe patch did not meet in January due to inclement weather. For our February meeting we had a catch-up day with everyone working on unfinished projects. (I still haven't finished mine). In March Judy Richie arranged a mock judging with 2 teams using 2 different methods of scoring the gourds. We actually came up with pretty much the same results, however one method was much simpler and faster. It was very interesting. We of course always have a potluck lunch which is very much enjoyed by all.

Sharon Harrison

Southeast Gourd Patch

The Southeast Gourd patch met in January at the home of Nita Beard. We celebrated Christmas in January as we have done a couple of times in the past. As usual the food was delicious, and I don't think anyone went home hungry. It is always good to sit around with friends and just talk and enjoy a Christmas feast. We used our time to visit and plan our meeting schedule for 2024.

The patch also met in February and exchanged information on attending The North Texas Gourd Festival. We talked about the schedule, hotel rates, classes, etc.

In March, we met and Cathy West taught a class on making an Indian Spirit Maiden. Cathy furnished all the materials and we had a wide choice of fabrics, beads, and embellishments. Most of the patch left with a finished doll.



West Texas Gourd Patch

No news from the West Texas Gourd Patch this Quarter.

Community Outreach Events

No community outreach events were reported for the first quarter.

AGS Project to Identify Online Classes

AGS has identified a project to create a list of gourd classes offered online.

They have reached out to our members to help identify classes that may exist.

If you teach online gourd classes or know of anyone who does, please submit the information to Terry Noxel at americangourdsociety@gmail.com

The kind of information that might be helpful when making this list would include:

- Name of Instructor
- Email
- Types of classes offered (pyrography, weaving, coiling, painting, carving, specific project and so on)
- Level of class (Beginner, Intermediate, Expert)
- Is there a mailing list for upcoming classes? How to sign up?
- Are the classes recorded and available via YouTube or other service?
- Free or for a fee?
- Links to find the class lists if posted on a website or service provider.

Thanks for your help.

IN MEMORIAM:

During the first quarter of the year, TGS lost several dear members. We mourn their passing and honor their contributions to TGS and the gourding community.

DOUG GARBER

In January of this year TGS lost a great supporter and friend Doug Garber. Doug was husband to Marla Garber a wonderful gourd artist and very active in the Texas Gourd Society and Dallas Patch. Doug could always be found by Marla's side, either working in their booth or helping to haul in Marla's gourd pieces.



Douglas was born on May 15, 1947, and passed away on January 23, 2024. Douglas, also known as Doug, Dad, PaPa Doug, and Pawpaw was a man of many talents. To describe Doug as “Capable” is definitely an understatement; he was a “Jack of All Trades”. He was passionate about his Harley and took advantage of every opportunity to hit the road. Doug also enjoyed his time in the rig. He was proud of the 5 million miles he travelled over the roads of the United States and Canada. He gravitated to Super loads, and anything oversized. Doug also looked forward to his next deep sea fishing trip. More than anything else, Doug loved and adored his family. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Nellia Garber; brother, Gary Garber; and sister, Sharron Maxey.

Left to cherish Doug's memory are his loving wife, Marla Garber of Frankston, Texas; 2 daughters, Desireé Tomlinson and husband Brian of Sandy, Utah and Lenea Fisher and husband Robert of Cottonwood, California; 4 sons, Matthew Garber of West Valley City, Utah, James Garber and wife Stacey of Frankston, Texas, Michael Garber of Euless, Texas, and Robert Garber and wife Shelly of Kilgore, Texas. He is also survived by 24 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and loving friends.



JOHN FLEWHARTY

John was a founding member of the Texas Gourd Society and held many leadership positions in TGS for many years. He was a director and headed several committees for various TGS Lone Star Festivals. He was also a founding member of the Dallas Gourd Patch.



John Michael Flewharty went peacefully to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday April 5, 2024. He was born in Sherman Texas on November 11, 1933 to parents Wilton Baker Flewharty and Ozella Dickerson Flewharty.

He graduated from Seymour High School in 1953, attended Texas Tech University and was a charter member of the Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) fraternity. He was drafted into the US Navy in 1956 and attended NavCad training in Pensacola, Florida. He married Dorothy Sharon Millican on April 13, 1957 in Lucedale, Mississippi, had a successful career as a Construction Superintendent building homes and commercial buildings and retired in Denton.

John was an active member of the Texas Gourd Society and won many awards for his craftsmanship. He also carved small people and animal figures, taking great pride in doing carvings for friends and special occasions.

John was a devout Christian who truly loved the Lord and as member of Denton Bible Church, participated in Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) and other bible study groups. He took to heart teachings from the Good Samaritan parable and embodied the true spirit of one who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy Sharon Flewharty, sister Susan Flewharty, daughter Karen Flewharty and Nancy Brown, son Jay and wife Ivanna, 2 granddaughters Krystal Ladd and Brittany Rice, 3 great grandchildren, one niece Stefani Edwards and her three children. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Dan Flewharty.

His sense of humor and endearing personality will be missed by all those who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Samaritan's Purse in honor of John Flewharty.



HOWARD DRAB

Howard Drab (husband of Gloria Drab) was a longtime member of TGS, and an active member in the Southeast Gourd Patch. Howard was always there to help with setup and take down for the Lone Star Gourd Festival, spending many hours supporting TGS. He was also a great asset to the Southeast Gourd Patch manning the patch table at festivals, and helping with setup and clean up whenever we had meetings or events. Howard will be missed by his many friends in TGS.



ROGER CLAUSEN

Roger and his wife Debbie were the owners of Clausen Gourd Farms in Whitewright, Texas. Roger was a beloved member of the Dallas Gourd Patch.

"The best things in life are the people we love, the places we've been, and the memories we've made along the way."

Unknown



Don't Miss Out on this Fabulous Show!!!

SOUTHWEST GOURD & FIBER FINE ART SHOW

Date: May 16 - June 29, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location:

[228 Earl Garrett St. Kerrville, TX 78028](#) - 830-895-2911

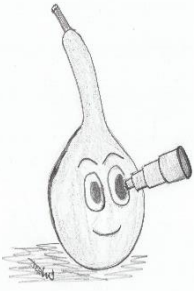


GALLERY HOURS

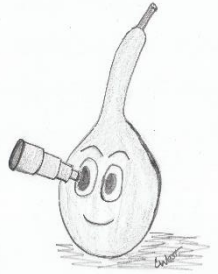
Sunday-Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Saturday: 10am-4pm

GOURDSIGHTINGS



If you spot a gourd while you're out and about, please take a picture and send it to cmwest389@gmail.com with the location and we will publish in the next Gourdzette. Here are some I spotted.



**THESE GOURDS WERE SPOTTED AT A WALT
DISNEY WORLD NEW ATTRACTION AT EPCOT CALLED
"JOURNEY OF WATER"**



Diary of a Suburban Gourd Farmer

Oh how I yearn to be a gourd farmer. I dream at night of laying in a field of dried gourds waiting to be harvested and turned into a work of art. But then I wake up and have to check for bugs and dirt in my hair.

Unfortunately for a gourd farmer wanna be, I live in a subdivision and to make matters worse I live in Katy, Tx which is humid and very, very hot in the summer. However these minor setbacks have not dimmed my ambition to grow my own gourds. Several years ago I had a volunteer gourd sprout up in my side yard where I sometimes cleaned gourds. I was so excited. I fed the little plant, I watered the little plant, I talked to the little plant, I even sang to the little plant which may have been a mistake as my neighbor called animal control thinking there was an injured feral cat in my backyard. Soon I had a couple of gourds on the vine. I continued to water my plant religiously until around July when the vines started drying out. Once they did dry I was left with about 10 dried small bottle gourds. Most of them survived but unfortunately the walls were very thin. They were useful for painting and for wood burning but not for carving.

For those who read my post in the last issue, I had much better luck in 2023 and I was able to grow three Tennessee Spinner Gourd plants and got 30-40 spinner gourds. So this year, learning from my past mistakes, I am planting three varieties of small gourds. Small gourds seem to be what work best in my area. I am planting banana gourds, egg gourds, and some more spinner gourds. I planted the seeds and they germinated. In April, I transferred them to appropriate flower beds in my backyard where all gourd farmers plant.

To support them I called my handyman brother who can always be counted on to overkill any household project, and he came out and built me two small trellises from cattle panels. It was definitely overkill but they are great and I love them. Tune in next time to for our next edition of “As the Gourd Grows” and see if anything sprouts.



UPCOMING 2024 NATIONAL GOURD EVENTS

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	WEBSITE
May16 - June 29	2024 Southwest Gourd and Fiber Fine Art Show	Kerrville, TX	www.kacckerrville.com
June 5-9	The Gourd Gathering	Waynesville, NC	www.gourdgathering.org
June 13-15	PA Gourd Festival	Lebanon, PA	www.pagourdsociety.org
June 29-30	Show-Me Gourd Society Art Festival	Lebanon, MO	www.showmegourdsociety.org
Sept 6-8	Silver State Art Festival	Carson City, NV	www.nevadagourdsociety.org
Sept 7-8	2024 NC Gourd Arts & Crafts Festival	Raleigh, NC	www.ncgourdsociety.org
Sept 7-9	Loess Hills Gourd Society Annual Gourd Show	Spencer, Iowa	
Sept 19-22	2024 Idaho Gourd Festival	Nampa, ID	www.idahogourdsociety.org
Sept 27-29	Fall Retreat @Cherry Ridge Campgrounds and Lodging	Honesdale, PA	www.pagourdsociety.org
Oct 4-5	Lone Star Gourd Festival	Dripping Springs, TX	www.texasgourdsociety.org
Oct 18-29	2024 Alabama Gourd Show	Hartselle, AL	www.alabamagourdsociety.org
Oct 25-27	26th Annual Gourd Festival	Griffin, GA	www.georgiagourdsociety.com

Source for some dates was from the AGS Website as well as other sources. If you know of an upcoming Gourd Event, please contact me at cathywest@consolidated.net