



# THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

THE NEWLETTER OF THE KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 29 Issue 2

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## FIRST PLACE WINNER AT THE NORTH TEXAS GOURD FESTIVAL

Inside: Patch News	Page	4
North Texas Gourd Festival	Page	9
The Gourd Gathering	Page	15
Lone Star Festival	Page	21

## **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 & Gourd Friends,

The 2024 Lone Star Gourd Festival is only 10 weeks away. The festival will be held at Dripping Springs Ranch Park in Dripping Springs, Tx. Show dates are October 4-5 with class times scheduled the afternoon of Oct 3 and all-day Oct 4-5. The Event Center and show area is air conditioned and heated. The classroom area will be held in a large interior room that has one full wall of garage doors. Below are pictures of the new facilities. The left picture is the vendor/competition area, and the right picture is the classroom area.

I am very excited to announce that we have 12 Teachers who will share their knowledge, ideas, and skills. There are a total of 24 classes being offered for all skill levels, from beginning to advanced, so there is something for everyone. I encourage everyone to sign up for at least one class... let's support our teachers! Keep watching the website/email for the class registration announcement. We are working to get all the class information ready for posting. If you are not on the TGS email list, please send an email to [texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com) and let us know to add you to our email list.

I am also very excited to announce that we have 22 vendors for this year's show. Admission is \$5.00 per person and free for children under 12. Your \$5.00 admission will get you into the festival both days. Come and do some holiday shopping for that unique gift, new supplies, tools and gourds.

Let's not forget about competition. Competition has a division for everyone, from the Novice to the Masters...even a Youth Division. I encourage everyone to participate in the competition by entering one or more of your amazing art. You never know, you may win a ribbon or two. The open category theme this year is "Butterflies and/or Dragonflies, Oh My". Competition entry forms are available on the TGS website at [www.texasgourdsociety.org](http://www.texasgourdsociety.org) This is an AGS sanctioned competition and judging will be in accordance with the standards of the American Gourd Society Judging Handbook.

Let's all pull together and make this the best yet Lone Star Gourd Festival!  
See you there!

Becky Klix



# TGS PATCH HAPPENING'S

## Bay Area Gourd Patch

Our patch welcomed several new members this quarter. We are excited to have them join us!

In April and May, we completed our Tree of Life gourds by finishing the tree section and putting a closed coiling rim.

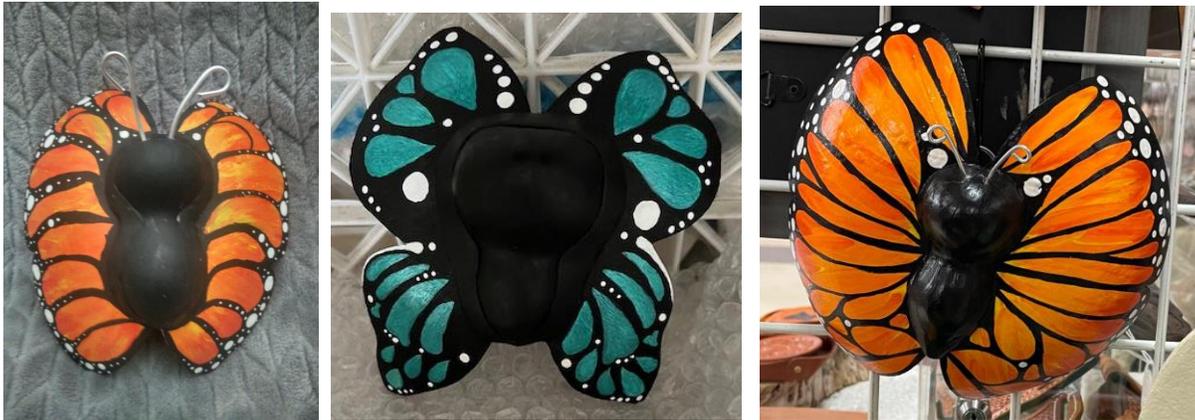
Finished Tree of Life gourds



Our June project was making butterflies out of gourd shards and Quikwood



Lots of butterflies!



### Capital of Texas Gourd Patch

Howdy!

Hope everyone has been doing their best to stay cool during all the summer heat- and hasn't the rain been a blessing!

The patch has been busy each month with a new project. Jill and Mike showed us their techniques of carving and the tools they use. It gave me more confidence to give it another try. Kathy shared the use of chain ball beads for wonderful projects. She has taught this class at the festivals. It is so rewarding to learn a new technique and have so many ideas of how to use it. We also used Washi paper on gourds. I had taken the class at the very first festival I attended and had permission to show the patch how to do this. With all the washi paper I have collected from Okinawa, there was a lot to choose from!

Projects coming up will be a two-sided pumpkin face, different types of coiling and of course, having our planning meeting for the Lone Star Gourd Festival.

I know all of us are looking forward to this new location, meeting new people, seeing the sights of Dripping Springs.

So, until we meet again,

Take care,

Debbie

## Cowtown Gourd Patch

## Dallas Gourd Patch

The Dallas Gourd Patch, Cowtown Gourd Patch and TGS want to thank everyone that came to the North Texas Gourd Festival in April. We couldn't have done it without the teacher's, vendors, students, and volunteers.

Some of the Patch members went to the Gourd Gathering in Waynesville, N.C. June 5-9. That's always a great festival to go to.

In July we did a presentation to 27 kids at the A.H. Meadows Library at the Midlothian High School for school ages 2nd-5th grades. The library hosts summer programs for local kids. The kids made a Gourd Rattles. Check out the videos on DGP Facebook page.

A few of the Patch members went to the Mesquite Elks Lodge and did a presentation to the Ladies Auxiliary June 26th. The ladies were invited to come to our Patch meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Pictures are from the Library, demos and show n tell at our meeting.

We have a few more things in the works for the rest of the year. So, stay tuned.

Marla Garber  
DGP President





### [Guadalupe Gourd Patch](#)

No news reported.

### [Southeast Gourd Patch](#)

The Southeast Gourd Patch did not meet in April, May, or June. Summer travel and life events seem to get in the way.

### [West Texas Gourd Patch](#)

No news from the West Texas Gourd Patch this Quarter.

## Community Outreach Events

From Sue Harberer with the Dallas Gourd Patch

In May I gave a speech to the Masters Garden Club in Dallas about growing gourds and also how they can be made into instruments. They were very interested in the history of gourds and how they have evolved into our use of them today. As a result, Marla and I have been asked to do programs for the Newhaven Gardens in the Fall and upcoming year, maybe even giving classes.

About 2 weeks ago, several of our members gave a class on gourds to 27 kids at the A.H. Library in Midlothian, Texas. We explained what gourds were and how they grew, telling them about uses in the past and how we use them today. We then helped them make a rattle on a stick with gourds. Even the parents and library got so enthused that they participated in making rattles. They were all very excited when we gave them some seeds to grow their own gourds.

In September we will start our annual Arboretum Demonstrations where we can go to the Dallas Arboretum every Thursday through October and give the public demonstrations, educate them about gourds and even sell our own art. As a result, we gain new members and often get requests to give programs.

Sue provided pictures in the section of the Dallas Patch news.

Thanks Sue and the Dallas patch for promoting gourds in their area!!

## First Annual North Texas Gourd Festival

The first annual North Texas Gourd Festival was held on April 19 – 20, 2024 at the Lake Granbury Conference Center in Granbury, Texas. The venue was modern and airconditioned which offered a great venue for our show. The festival held classes on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There were “Make and Take” booths where attendees could sit down and make a gourd project for a small fee and take it with them. Vendors booths sold out quickly before the festival and there was a nice selection of raw and finished gourds for sale as well as supplies for both the beginner and experienced gourd artist. A competition with the theme “Critters” was held and some really creative pieces were entered. The best part of the festival was the fellowship and sharing among members and attendees. The Texas Gourd Society held it’s Spring Meeting at Spring Creek Barbeque where discussion was held about the Spring Festival and the upcoming Lone Star Festival in October.

A huge thank you goes out to Marla Garber, Sue Harberer, and everyone in the Dallas and Cowtown Gourd Patch. They all worked really hard to bring this inaugural show to fruition and make it the huge success it was.

One of the negotiations that the show committee did as part of our contract was with the venue. They tracked the number of hotel rooms that were booked in the Granbury area by people who attended the festival and based on the number of rooms booked TGS received a discount off the venue rental fee. I am happy to report that we reached the maximum needed number of rooms and received a 100% refund of our venue rental fee. This along with the hard work by the Dallas Gourd Patch made the festival both a huge success not only for attendees but also financially. TGS has already scheduled the next years festival for April 4-5, 2025. So mark your calendars for next year, because you don’t want to miss it. It will be even bigger.

## COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to all the competition winners at the North Texas Gourd Festival held in April.

People's Choice Award  
VIP Judge Award  
President's Choice Award  
1st Place Award  
2nd Place Award  
3rd Place Award

Jeanine Williams with "Cleo 'Paw' Tra"  
Jeanine Williams with "'Rhody' Roadrunner"  
Becky Query with "Florili Armadillo"  
Debbie Garcia with "Jellyfish & Blue Sea Dragon Slug"  
Linda Cerda with "Rainbow Armadillo"  
Ethell McKitchan with "Horned Toad"



Cleo Paw Tra – Jeanine Williams  
People's Choice



Rhody Roadrunner Jeanine Williams  
VIP Judge Award



**Florili Armadillo Becky Query  
President's Choice**



**Jellyfish & Blue Sea Dragon Slug  
1st Place Panel Judge Award**



**Rainbow Armadillo - Linda Cerda  
2nd Place Panel Judge Award**



**Horned Toad - Ethel McKitchan  
3rd Place Panel Judge Award**

# FUN CLASSES



Marking Geodes from Gourds



Chip Carving



Ana Poma teaching carving



Metal Beading on a Gourd

# LOTS OF VENDORS





## A Trip to the “Gourd Gathering”

By Cathy West

I love to go to Gourd shows! I love our own Lone Star Gourd Festival and our new Spring Gourd Show. I also love to travel to other state shows and experience their love of gourds. I have been to the Wuertz show in Casa Grande several times and I’m always impressed with the show they put on.

This summer I decided to try another well-known show and that was *The Gourd Gathering* held on June 5-9, 2024, in Waynesville, North Carolina. When I was researching this show, I noticed on the website they headlined the show as *“It’s More Than Gourds: It’s A Reunion/A Tradition/ A Destination/ An Experience”*. They weren’t kidding. I was impressed early on by how many classes were offered. There were classes on four different days of the show; Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The variety of classes was great and included gourds, weaving, wet felting, and other techniques. I signed up for two classes. The first class was how to sculpt a Betta fish using a banana gourd, Quikwood, and crafting plastic taught by Cara Bevan. ( If you haven’t heard of Cara Bevan check out her website) The second class was weaving Indian Corn. We each were able to weave three Indian corns in three separate colors using variegated and solid reed. Both classes were really fun, and I learned some new skills to use at home.



To really get into the mood of the show, I volunteered to staff a “Make and Take” booth on Thursday morning. The show offered some medium bottle gourds with a hole cut into the top. The artists decouped the bottom part of the gourd using colorful napkins, then they decorated a face for the gourd using sharpies or plastic eyes, fake eyelashes, etc. There were several tubs of costume jewelry to choose necklaces, earrings, and other jewelry. Finally the “Gourd Gal” got a beautiful succulent placed in the top for her beautiful hair.



It was a lot of fun and the public really enjoyed it.

The Gathering had a competition with the theme Oh Dang It, Just Hang It! The description being “Does it hang? Then it is an entry!” The competition was judged, then the entries were auctioned off in a silent auction to raise money for the show. There were a lot of great entries. I did submit an entry and won a second place ribbon. I was so happy!!



Here were some of the other great entries:





The Gourd Gathering had a gourd exchange with the theme being *Get Tropical*. Participants brought a gourd designed with a tropical theme. Attendees voted on their favorite. Then on Saturday night at a dinner held at the venue all the gourd makers danced through the hall with their gourds. I missed it but heard it was a delight.



Texas was well represented at the gathering with several members of TGS. Besides myself. Marla Garber and the Garber Gang had booths with tools and finished gourds. Shelly Garber had customized t-shirts, mugs, and other items. Sue Haberer taught several classes including a beautiful butterfly and a crackled grape leaf bowl.

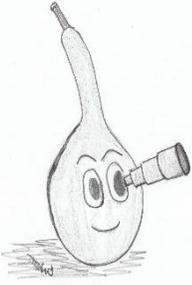


The one unique feature about The Gourd Gathering that really couldn't be matched by any other shows I've been to was how beautiful the countryside was around Waynesville, North Carolina, The mountains, forests, wildlife, sunsets, and temperatures were a real treat to escape the Texas heat in June. I actually saw a black bear!

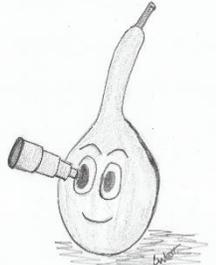


So next June if you're contemplating a trip to visit a gourd show with beautiful surroundings, as well as great artistry keep The Gourd Gathering on your radar.

# GOURDSIGHTINGS



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



Becky Klix spotted this gourd on a recent trip to Virginia. Becky and her family were staying at an Airbnb while greeting their grandson when his ship, the Eisenhower, returned from deployment to the Red Sea. The gourd was hanging in their Airbnb.



I spotted this xylophone that used gourds on the bottom to amplify the sound on a trip to New York City.



# SOUTHWEST GOURD & FIBER FINE ART SHOW

The Kerrville Arts and Cultural Center held their annual Gourd Art Show and Exhibit from May 16 – June 29, 2024 at KACC in Kerrville, Texas, where many of our Texas Gourd Society artists walked away with awards. Here is a list:

## **Best of Show**

Sir Pounce A lot Ocelot by Jeanine Williams

## **Second Place**

The Zipper by Judy Richie

## **Third Place**

Wow Box & Wren by Bill Decker

## **Basketry/Fiberworks Category**

1st Place – Fallen Crown by Roy Cavarretta

2nd Place – Turquoise Deer by Judy Richie

3rd Place – Extra Large Antler Basket by Crystal Ziemann

## **Sculpture Category**

1st Place – Rhody Road Runner by Jeanine Williams

2nd Place – Lilibet by Judy Richie

3rd Place – Wing Walker by Bill Decker

## **Southwest Category**

1st Place – Caught in a Dream by Becky Klix

2nd Place – Maid of Honor by Roy Cavarretta

3rd Place – Cholla Birdman by David Cleaveland

## **Carving Category**

1st Place – Foraging by Kathy Lawson

2nd Place – Ancient Cliff Dwelling by David Cleaveland

3rd Place – Hard Choice by Blanche Cavarretta

## **Unusual/Innovative Use of Materials**

1st Place – Cleo-Paw-Tra by Jeanine Williams

2nd Place – Butterfly & Flowers by Bill Decker

3rd Place – Ms. Jade by Sherry Nelson

## **Mixed Media**

First Place – Copper & Coiling by Judy Richie

Second Place – Crusty by Crystal Ziemann

Third Place – Turquoise Coiled by Barbie Holton

## **Judges' Special Award**

Frog Serenade by Kathy Lawson

## **People's Choice**

Pots with A Past by Sherry Nelson

No pictures were available on the KACC website or Facebook, so if you were a winning artist and have a picture of your winning art, send me a picture and I will publish it in the next Gourdette.

# THE LONE STAR GOURD FESTIVAL AND ART SHOW

29th Annual



FAMILY FUN  
SHOP FOR UNIQUE GIFTS  
TAKE A CLASS



IMAGINATION STATION -  
CREATE YOUR OWN GOURD ART

DEMONSTRATIONS DAILY  
ART SHOW & COMPETITION  
GOURD ART RAFFLE



**JOIN US**  
**FOR A NEW AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE**

**OCTOBER 4-5, 2024**

**Admission \$5.00 12 & Under Free**  
**Free Parking**

**Dripping Springs Ranch Park**  
**1042 Event Center Drive, Dripping**  
**Springs TX 78620**



## Gourd Art Raffle

Drawing to be held 3:00pm  
Saturday, October 5, 2024

Need not be present to win

Gourd art donated by  
National Award Winning Artists



Roy Cavarretta



David Cleaveland



Sue Haberer



Sherry Nelson



Jeanine Williams



Becky Klix

## Lone Star Gourd Festival

**Dripping Springs Ranch Park**  
**1042 Event Center Drive**  
**Dripping Springs TX 78620**



## Notes for the Upcoming Lone Star Gourd Festival

It's that time again to get ready for the annual Lone Star Gourd Festival in October. We have a new venue in Dripping Springs, Texas.

- This year's open category theme is *Butterflies and/or Dragonflies, Oh My!*
- Competition Rules and Entry Forms, Vendor Applications, and Teacher Applications are all available on the TGS website at <https://texasgourdsociety.org/lone-star-festival-2024>
- There will be a Gourd Hat contest during the membership meeting on Friday, October 4, 2024 at Ranch Park.
- Reminder to patches, TGS is asking patches to donate new or gently used items (gourds, supplies, tools, books, etc.) for the ways and means silent auction. Please send an email to [texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com) and let us know what your patches is donating.
- Raffle tickets are on sale now \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Contact [texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com) to get your tickets.

## UPCOMING NATIONAL GOURD EVENTS

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	WEBSITE
Sept 6-8	Silver State Art Festival	Carson City, NV	<a href="http://www.nevadagourdsociety.org">www.nevadagourdsociety.org</a>
Sept 7-8	2024 NC Gourd Arts & Crafts Festival	Raleigh, NC	<a href="http://www.ncgourdsociety.org">www.ncgourdsociety.org</a>
Sept 7-9	Loess Hills Gourd Society Annual Gourd Show	Spencer, Iowa	
Sept 19-22	2024 Idaho Gourd Festival	Nampa, ID	<a href="http://www.idahogourdsociety.org">www.idahogourdsociety.org</a>
Sept 27-29	Fall Retreat @Cherry Ridge Campgrounds and Lodging	Honesdale, PA	<a href="http://www.pagourdsociety.org">www.pagourdsociety.org</a>
Oct 4-5	Lone Star Gourd Festival	Dripping Springs, TX	<a href="http://www.texasgourdsociety.org">www.texasgourdsociety.org</a>
Oct 18-29	2024 Alabama Gourd Show	Hartselle, AL	<a href="http://www.alabamagourdsociety.org">www.alabamagourdsociety.org</a>
Oct 25-27	26th Annual Gourd Festival	Griffin, GA	<a href="http://www.georgiagourdsociety.com">www.georgiagourdsociety.com</a>

### 2025 EVENTS

Jan 31 - Feb 2	AZ Gourd Society's Art Competition and Show Wuertz Farm Gourd Festival	Casa Grande, AZ	<a href="http://www.arizongourdsociety.org">www.arizongourdsociety.org</a>
Feb 21-23	FL Gourd Society 39th Annual Gourd Festival Azan Shriner Center	Melbourne, FL	<a href="http://www.flgourdsoc.org">www.flgourdsoc.org</a>
April 4-5	TX North Texas Gourd Festival	Granbury, TX	<a href="http://www.texasgourdsociety.org">www.texasgourdsociety.org</a>

If you have news, suggestions, articles or pictures for the next Gourdzette, please send to Cathy West at [cmwest389@gmail.com](mailto:cmwest389@gmail.com).