



# 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.**

## **2025 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**

<b>Fredia Carron – Director</b>	<b>Term 2025 2028</b>
<b>Sue Haberer – Director</b>	<b>Term 2024 – 2026</b>
<b>Barbie Holton- Director</b>	<b>Term 2024 - 2026</b>
<b>Anne Raspery – Director</b>	<b>Term 2025 - 2028</b>
<b>Lynda Smith – Director</b>	<b>Term 2025 - 2028</b>
<b>Mari Tarver - Director</b>	<b>Term 2025 - 2028</b>

## Presidents Message



Spring went by in a flash, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual North Texas Gourd Festival held in April was so much fun. The guests, vendors, classes, volunteers, and musical performances collectively contributed to creating an outstanding festival. A gourd jewelry themed contest/competition was held, and the People's Choice award was won by Deni Halterman with her Hat Band and the President's Award was won by Cathy West with her Native American inspired necklace and earring set. Each of the entries was unique and very well done. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual North Texas Gourd Festival will be April 17-18-19 and will be held again at the Lake Granbury Conference Center in Granbury, Tx. Set up will be on April 16, 2026.

And now we are already in the hot temperatures of June. Speaking of time passing by, can you believe that the Lone Star Gourd Festival is only 4 ½ months away. The dates are October 17-18, 2025 at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park in Dripping Springs, TX.

The fall membership meeting will be held on Friday evening, October 17 at Ranch Park.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Last year we did not have nominations for President and Vice President. Becky Klix, President and Marla Garber, Vice President offered to stay on for only one more year as they did not want to see TGS dissolve. We need to have a new President and Vice President nominated and voted on this year. The President is a 2-year term and the Vice President is a 1-year term. If you are interested in one of these positions, please email us at [texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com)

**CALL FOR TEACHERS** – Teacher applications & details are now available on the TGS Website. We are looking for a diverse set of gourd art and technique classes, some that are unique and/or new. We are also accepting applications for non-gourd classes such as basket weaving, pyrography, painting, wood carving, etc. Skills taught should be applicable to gourds.

**CALL FOR VENDORS** - Now accepting vendor applications for the following:

- Gourd artists selling art & crafts made from gourds
- Gourd suppliers selling raw clean dry gourds and/or fresh green gourds
- Gourd suppliers selling items related to gourd art and/or tools
- Basket Weavers
- Pyrography / Wood burning
- Wood Carving, Wood Turning

- Leather art
- Loose or strung Beads, polished stones or cabochons (no jewelry)
- Paintings
- Fiber Art

**NOW ACCEPTING COMPETITION APPLICATIONS** - Whether you are new to gourd art or not, enter your favorite piece or pieces in the competition. Our annual TGS competition is open to all ages and skill levels. We also offer a growers' division eligible for the Jim Story award. At TGS, we look forward to showcasing your work in the competition room.

**This year's open theme is "CACTUS"**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS** – Volunteers are always needed and appreciated! We will need volunteers during the entire festival for the following areas... competition, ways and means, vendor and classroom, and admissions.

Competition is in need of the most volunteers. Please see the information on the competition page of the website at [www.texasgourdsociety.org](http://www.texasgourdsociety.org)

Email TGS at [texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com) if you would like to put your name on the volunteer list.

Just one closing reminder, if you have not paid your 2025 membership dues please do so. If you would like to become a new member you can join or renew on the "Join Us" tab on the website. Remember your membership dues helps support the TGS outreach programs and festivals.

Happy Gourding,

Becky Klix

President, Tx Gourd Society

## TGS PATCH HAPPENING'S

### Capital of Texas Gourd Patch

Howdy!

The new year is upon us and our patch came up with some pretty good projects!

First off, Rona's home was so inviting, her Christmas decorations, the tree just wonderful.

All brought some pretty good treats to share, and Rona made her famous turkey chili!!

Like I always say, we have the most polite group when it comes to not stealing another's gift that catches your eye in the gift swap!!??

Some of our projects will be – a “murder of crows” from the AGS fall 2023 magazine, mosaic on gourds.

The rest ya'll will have to just wait or better – join us!!

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at different members' homes, 12:00 – 4:00- pm.

Till we meet again,

Happy gourding!

Debbie

### Cowtown Gourd Patch

No patch news reported

### Dallas Gourd Patch

No patch news reported

### Bay Area Gourd Patch

The Bay Area Gourd Patch continues to meet each Thursday in Santa Fe, Texas. We haven't started any new projects for this year but continue to work on current projects and share our knowledge and camaraderie.

### Southeast Gourd Patch

The SE Patch has been meeting at the home of Penny Lyons. We recently moved our meeting date to the first Wednesday of the month and that seems to work out better for our members. In January we experimented with alcohol ink dyes. Members brought dyes that they had, and a gourd and we tried different techniques to color a gourd. In February and March we worked on adding rims to our gourds using closed coiling.

### Guadelupe Gourd Patch

No news from the Guadelupe Patch this Quarter.

### West Texas Gourd Patch

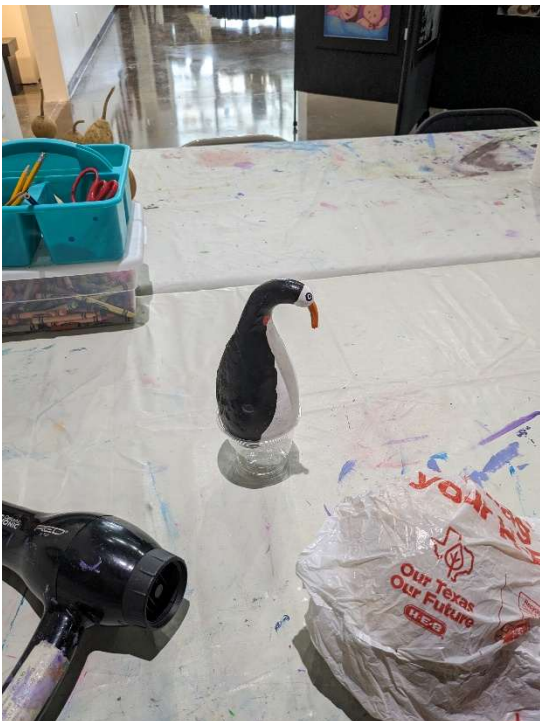
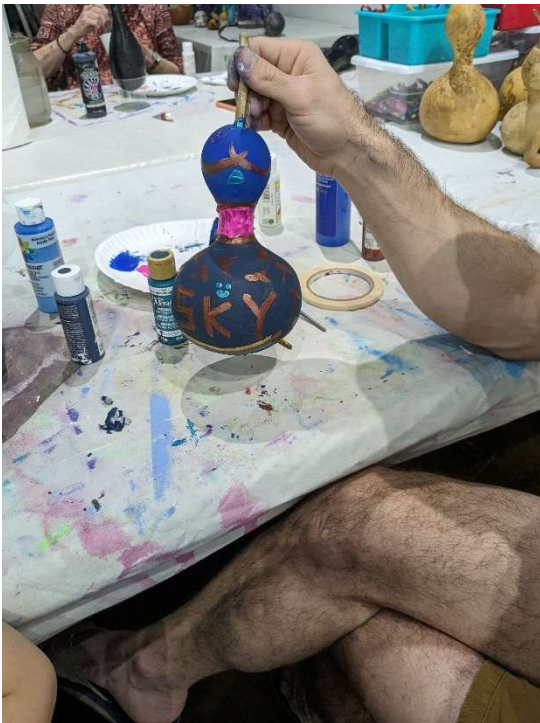
No news from the West Texas Gourd Patch this Quarter.



## Community Outreach Events / Imagination Station

By Rona Thornton

There was one Outreach event scheduled in Central Texas during the first quarter of 2025. This event was over Spring Break at the Bee Cave Arts Foundation in the Hill Country Galleria. Attendance was low but a few Foundation employees and volunteers joined in to fill out the class. Their new location in the Galleria had a dedicated space for classes and gallery rooms to display local artists works as well as Lake Travis Schools "Best of Student Art".



## NORTH TEXAS GOURD FESTIVAL APRIL 4-5, 2025

The second North Texas Gourd Festival was held on April 4-5, 2025 at the beautiful Lake Granbury Conference Center in Granbury, Texas. Once again the weather was a little uncooperative, but everyone remained dry and warm inside the conference center. This year's festival expanded to the upstairs of the conference center where most of the classes were held. The festival offered some great classes which included instructors Sue Harberer, Marla Garber, Vickie Echols, Sheryl Scott, Shelly Garber, Barb Stewart, Mari Tarver, Susan Lankford, and Tamara Goll Braunscheidel. Students had the opportunity to create some truly unique and beautiful gourd projects. There was also a wide range of vendors selling supplies and gourd art pieces.

One of the highlights of the festival was the competition. This year's theme was jewelry. There were quite a few entries ranging from necklaces, earrings and hat bands. This year's winner was Deni Halterman with a beautiful hat band featured on the cover. See all the winners and pictures on the following pages. If you want to get a headstart on next year's competition, the theme will be "Birds and Fish".

This year the festival was lucky to have **Front Porch Gourds** from Mumfordsville, KY participate as a vendor. Front Porch Gourds offered a full range of raw gourds and supplies for the artists to select. You can find Front Porch Gourds online at [www.gourdlady48.com](http://www.gourdlady48.com) where they sell direct to the public.

A big thank you goes out to everyone in the Dallas Gourd Patch that worked hard to put on this event. Also a big thank you to all the volunteers who worked through the event to make this a success.

Check out the pictures on the following pages that show just some of the fun that was had at the festival.



## COMPETITION FROM THE NORTH TEXAS FESTIVAL



This year's competition theme was jewelry, which could include brooches, necklaces, rings, earrings, anklets, bracelets, or accessories for hats. Some really beautiful pieces were submitted.

The next page has the competition winners.

## COMPETITION WININERS

### FIRST PLACE & PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Deni Halterman



### SECOND PLACE

Mari Tarver



### THIRD PLACE

Name



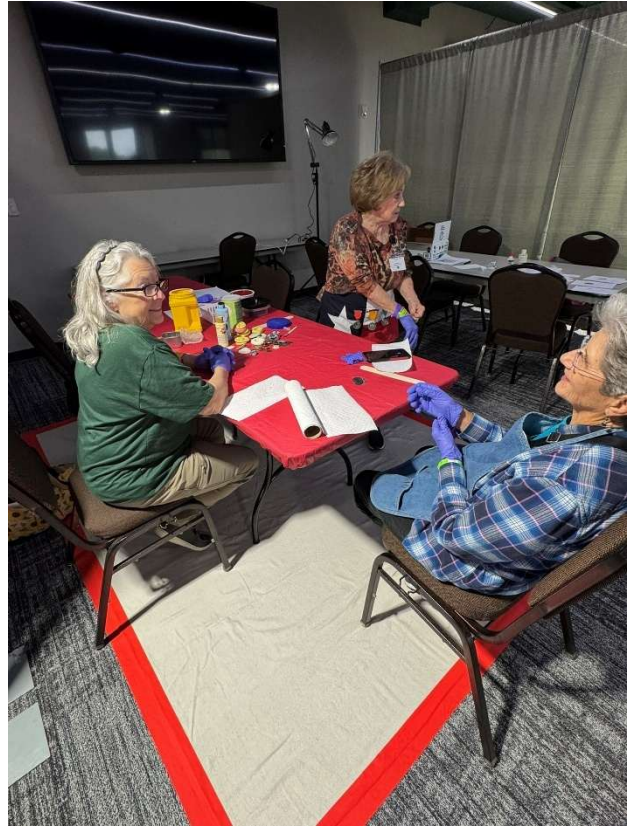
### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Cathy West





## FUN CLASSES





## GREAT VENDORS





## GOURDS GALORE







## **SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The Spring Membership Meeting was held on April 4, 2025 at the Pastafino Italian restaurant in Granbury, Texas in conjunction with the North Texas Spring Festival.

At the meeting the 2024 Fall Membership Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

The treasure presented the current balance and the 2025 budget was reviewed and approved.

Becky Klix discussed having a new position to coordinate patches, recruit new members, and help new patches get started. It was approved however, no one has been assigned that position to date.

The membership discussed current guidelines for vendors for future festivals. Our current guidelines require sales be limited to clean, dry gourds, fresh green gourds, gourd art/crafts, wood carvings, wood turning, beading, basketry and items related to any of the above. All items for sale must be handmade and/or approved by TGS.

The membership discussed next years competition theme for the North Texas Festival.

There was an update on the Lone Star Festival to be held on October 17-18, 2025 at Dripping Springs Ranch Park in Dripping Springs, Texas. Volunteers are needed for membership, admissions, and competition. Contact Becky Klix if you can help.

The theme for the Lone Star Festival special category is Cactus.

# **UPDATE ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LONE STAR GOURD FESTIVAL PRESENT BY THE TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY**

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Lone Star Gourd Festival will be held on October 17-18, 2025 at Dripping Springs Ranch Park in Dripping Springs, Texas.

Call for Vendors, Teachers and Competition entries has already gone out. You can find information about each of the subjects at the following link.

<https://texasgourdsociety.org/festival-information>

This years special category for competition will be Cactus. So start planning your entry.

Volunteers are needed for membership, admissions, and competition. If you have time to spare and plan on attending the festival please contact Becky Klix at [texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com)

Start now making your travel plans and let's make this a festival to remember!!

# WAY OUT WUERTZ

As many of you may know, I love to go to Gourd Festivals. I have written several articles for the Gourdzette about festivals in other states. Earlier this year as I was sitting here in Katy, Texas feeling cold and everything outside was wet and gloomy, so I decided a trip to Arizona would be just the thing to brighten my spirits. I made reservations to attend the Wuertz Gourd Festival in Casa Grande, Arizona from January 31 to February 2, 2025.

Wuertz is one of my favorite gourd shows for many reasons. They have exquisite sunshine when you're suffering from the winter blues. Wuertz Gourd Farm has been sponsoring this festival for twenty years. Being a commercial working farm, they have lots of raw gourds for sale and farm animals for petting. Wuertz also has many unique contests like a mini gourdster car race and gourd boat races. You'll probably also spot a gourdman marathon runner. It has activities for the gourd enthusiasts and visitors alike.

Of course, if I go to a gourd show I have to take a couple of classes so I can add to my collection of "almost completed gourds started in a class", which I must say is growing exponentially. I took a class on pyrography which was very helpful as everything I know about pyrography is from trial and error. I also took a class called "Butterflies and Burlap" where we did filagree, created a burlap rim, and did a butterfly image on the gourd with dye. All the classes were very helpful and most important they were much fun.

The Arizona Gourd Society has its annual competition in conjunction with the festival where you can view some of the best gourd art anywhere in the world. The competition draws entries from everywhere in the US. The Texas Gourd Society was well represented with our own Marla Garber and Shelly Garber taking home ribbons for their entries. Below is a list of their accomplishments:

## **Marla Garber**

First Place – Carving – Advanced Division

Second Place-Coloring Techniques-Advanced Division

## **Shelly Garber**

First Place-Functional Art-Novice Division

First Place -Vases, Bowls, & Containers-Novice Division

Second Place -Wildlife-Novice Division

I also ran into several other Texas attendees including Sue Haberer, Mari Tarver, Becky Query, and others whose names I can't remember.

## MAJOR WINNERS FROM THE COMPETITION

**BEST OF SHOW**

Deborah Lish Yuma, AZ



**PEOPLE'S CHOICE** Jennifer Schu





## TEXAS ENTRIES



Marla Garber



Marla Garber2



Shelly Garber



Shelly Garber





Check out the pictures to see the great fun and beautiful art work at the Wuertz Gourd Festival.



One of the mini horses & me



Marathon Gourd Man



So true!



Beautiful Artwork by Phyllis Sickles



Another piece by Phyllis Sickles



They had a Whataburger in Casa Grande

**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**