



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.

2026 TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY OFFICERS

**Cathy West - President
Jeanine Williams - Vice President
Rona Thornton - Treasurer
Debbie Garcia - Secretary
Paul Butcher - Membership
Becky Klix - Immediate Past President
Cathy West – Gourdzette Editor**

TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Fredia Carron – Director	Term 2025 - 2028
Sue Haberer – Director	Term 2024 –2026
Barbie Holton- Director	Term 2024 - 2026
Anne Raspey – Director	Term 2025 - 2028
Lynda Smith – Director	Term 2025 - 2028
Mari Tarver - Director	Term 2025 - 2028

Presidents Message



Dear Fellow Gourd Enthusiasts,

It's hard to believe that half the year has already passed. The North Texas Festival was in April and I think all of those that attended had a good time. It's always great to see old friends and share gourd ideas and tips with fellow gourd artists.

TGS had their Spring Membership Meeting in Granbury at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que during the festival. We had a good crowd and gave away some great door prizes. We discussed plans for the upcoming festival in October.

Speaking of the festival, we are gearing up for the Lone Star Festival in October. We have a great radio spot coming out the week before the festival and hope that will get the word out to the public. We are always in need of volunteers, so if you are willing to help with Admissions, Competition, Imagination Station, and any other committee, let me know.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next festival!

Keep on Gourding!

Cathy West

President- TGS

Gourdzette Editor

On The Cover

Our cover photo is the winner of the North Texas Festival Theme Gourd contest. The theme was Fish and Jeanine Williams, our winner, did a great job capturing that theme in her work.

TGS PATCH HAPPENING'S

Cowtown Gourd Patch

April meeting we worked on UFOs. We also helped with the Spring Gourd Conference in Granbury. For our May meeting, Joyce Pasche showed us how to create Tyvek pieces for our gourds. In June, Linda and her daughter who is an art teacher taught techniques for painting florals on gourds.



Southeast Gourd Patch

The Southeast Patch continued meeting the first Wednesday of each month. We are meeting at the home of Penny Lyons. We haven't started any new projects as a patch, so members have been bringing whatever they are working on and we work on our own projects during our meetings. The camaraderie and encouragement are really helpful. Joanne Tompkins showed us one of her new creations at our last meeting. If you know anyone that lives in the Houston area that is a gourd enthusiast let them know about the SE Gourd Patch.



Joanne Tompkins "Seashells" Gourd

Community Outreach Events / Imagination Station

Rona Thornton, in addition to her duties as TGS Treasurer, heads up our community outreach which includes Imagination Station which she runs at the annual TGS festival. Rona dedicates a lot of time, energy and resources to spreading the word about the Art of Gourding.

Central Texas-Community Outreach Events

By Rona Thornton

This Spring I made contact with the Outreach Programs Coordinator for the Austin Public Library system. She was very eager to schedule programs at 6 of the 23 branches and helped with all the paperwork to make it happen. Three events down and three to go! See the pictures of these creative library patrons with their masterpieces.

On the calendar for September is the Bastrop Garden Club which unfortunately is not a make & take event. At this point, I've facilitated a few garden club programs and have a fun PowerPoint presentation about growing gourds and have been collecting seeds to hand out. Attendees are naturally curious and ask so many questions about gourds that we take for granted. They also really enjoy looking at the show & tell pieces and my international collection.

In October I've tentatively scheduled a program at Central Texas' premier garden center – The Natural Gardener. After doing a fun make & take event in 2024, we were invited back for another class.

A big thank you to Debbie Garcia, Jeanine Williams, and Vickie Stones who assist me in taking Imagination Station on the road to Central Texas communities to introduce gourds in a fun and educational program.

NORTH TEXAS GOURD FESTIVAL

The North Texas Gourd Festival was held at The Lake Granbury Conference Center in Granbury, Texas on April 17-19, 2026. It was great to see everyone, both old friends and newcomers alike.

This year's theme for competition was "Fish". We had a good turnout for competition. The winner's for the competition were:

First Place - Jeanine Williams

Second Place and People's Choice - Roy Cavarretta

Third Place - Sue Haberer

VIP Award - Deni Halterman

President's Choice - Becky Query



1st Place – Jeanine Williams



Second Place and People's Choice
Roy Cavarretta



Third Place
Sue Haberer



Deni Halterman – VIP Award



Becky Truex – President's Choice

Save the Date!

LONE STAR 2026 FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 23-25, 2026

KERRVILLE YOUTH CENTER

KERRVILLE, TX

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. Our newsletter is only as good as the information we get from our members. We want to hear from you!

Cathy West