



THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

THE NEWLETTER OF THE KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 31 Issue 4

February 2026



TGS Lone Star Festival "Best of Show"

Artist – Jill Robinson

Inside:	Patch News	Page 4
	TGS Lone Star Festival	Page 6
	2026 North Texas Festival	Page 10

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,

I hope everyone is enjoying the New Year and looking forward to creating and growing gourds this year. I took over as President this month from Becky Klix and will be leading the Texas Gourd Society in 2026-2028. I want to take a moment to thank Becky for all the hard work and leadership she has provided to TGS over the past 3 years. Becky took over TGS during a difficult time shortly after the world reopened from COVID. Becky has done a great job keeping us moving forward.

We have a lot of exciting events planned for this year. Our incoming and outgoing TGS officers met in January for a hand off meeting to ensure we have a smooth transition of leadership. We also planned our 2026 budget and did some early planning for our 2026 shows.

One of goals this year is to significantly increase our membership. The last few years TGS membership has been down and we want to boast that up and welcome as many new members as we can. So, if you know someone that loves gourds and gourd art, please invite them to join TGS as a member. Annual dues are \$15 and you can find the link to join online or by mail on the TGS website at www.texasgourdsociety.org.

Besides President, I also wear the hat of Gourdzette editor. We have some great pictures of our winners at the Lone Star Festival that was held in the fall. I hope these will inspire you to work on your own creations and think about what you may want to enter for our fall show in 2026. Also, I would like to invite each of you to submit any news or interesting gourd stories for our next publication in the Spring. You don't need to be a writer, just jot down some notes and include a picture if you have one and send it to texasgourdsociety@hotmail.com

I look forward to seeing all of you on April 17-19, 2026 in Granbury, TX at the North Texas Gourd Festival. Stay warm and let's all get inspired this year!

Cathy West
President- TGS
Gourdzette Editor

On The Cover

Our cover photo for this Gourdzette is the 2025 “Best of Show” gourd art piece by artist Jill Robinson. Jill original interest was in basket weaving where she spent 30 years enjoying the art of basket weaving. She was exposed to and became interested in gourd art in 1987. She has been creating unique and mesmerizing gourd art pieces ever since. Texture, color and design have always inspired her creativity.

This year’s Best of Show art piece is titled Copper Vortex. Elements in this Best of Show gourd include alcohol ink painting, abstract cholla carving, fractal burning, egg-shell mosaic, enameling, long-leaf pine needle weaving, and a solid copper focal piece from Michigan.

Jill lives in the Austin area and belongs to the Capital of Texas gourd patch. To see more of Jill’s dynamic artwork visit her website at website: artmyway.biz



Jill with her 2019 People’s Choice award winning gourd “Grand Canyon”

TGS PATCH HAPPENING'S

Bay Area Gourd Patch

We want to welcome several new members to our patch. New gourd artists tend to get everyone motivated again.

Our patch was very busy these past few months. In October, we spent time with the Southeast Patch at Roy and Blanche Cavarretta's home in Hallettsville. We practiced woodburning and learned new techniques. As always, the time we spend in Hallettsville is treasured.

We completed projects using gourds on bed springs to make bobble heads. We had witches, scarecrows, snowmen, and gingerbread men.

Our patch likes to spend time together away from gourds. One thing we enjoy doing is going out to eat. Spouses are always invited so we have a large group. Before Christmas we went to Tookie's Burgers in Kemah. We decided to start the new year off together and so in early January, we went to Monument Inn in La Porte.

Right now, a new project has been started. Let's just say the carvers are buzzing and the dust is flying!



Capital of Texas Gourd Patch

No patch news reported

Cowtown Gourd Patch

In October, Ethel Mckithen taught us how to make lightbulb Santa's from lightbulb shaped gourds. We brought the reindeer we made last month for show and tell and a group picture of the "herd".

November's meeting was about vinyl resist on gourds taught by Becky Stover and Linda Cerda. Deni Halterman's grandson has been a regular at our meetings. We also did our second craft fair in Bluff Dale on November 15th.

December, we wrapped up the year with a potluck lunch followed by a planning session for 2026 meetings and a gift exchange.

Looking forward to new experiences in 2026!



Dallas Gourd Patch

No patch news reported

Guadalupe Gourd Patch

No patch news reported

[Hill Country Gathering Patch](#)

No patch news reported

[Southeast Gourd Patch](#)

The Southeast Patch has been 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.

[West Texas Gourd Patch](#)

No news from the West Texas Gourd Patch this Quarter.

[Community Outreach Events / Imagination Station](#)

Imagination Station at the Lone Star Festival is one of our biggest outreach events of the year. Rona Thornton does a great job running this area and submitted the article below.

IMAGINATION STATION AT LONE STAR 2025

By Rona Thornton

This was such a wonderful show for Imagination Station with record numbers of creative artists young and old. It never ceases to amaze me at the beautiful finished pieces that leave the area made by beginners new to gourd art.

I want to express gratitude to all the volunteers that stopped by Imagination Station to assist and make this year's show successful. There are way too many to name!

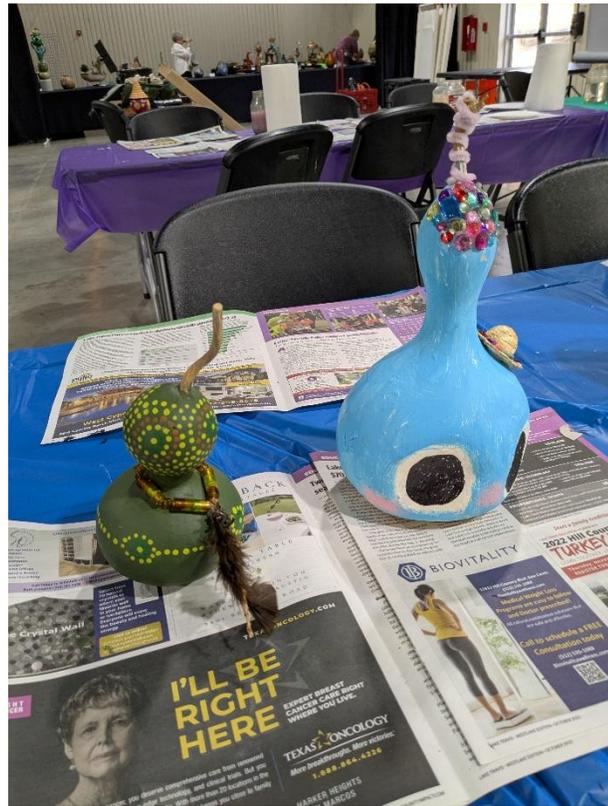
I arrived with 4 big black plastic bags filled with cleaned gourds and left with 1.5 bags. During the show a couple of vendors brought by additional gourds as they noticed that my inventory was running low. Many thanks for bolstering my stash.

Many Community Outreach Coordinator business cards (thanks to Betsy Ford) were handed out and there's a couple of events that we're currently working out details for in 2026. More photos and commentary coming in the next Gourdzette.

Imagination Station patrons were very generous this year with their donations so I can replenish supplies and take it on the road in 2026 to facilitate community events all over Central Texas.

Happy Gourding and enjoy the following pictures.





30TH ANNUAL LONE STAR GOURD FESTIVAL

The 2025 Lone Star Festival Gourd Festival was held on October 17-18, 2025 in Dripping Springs, Tx. There were lots of vendors, competitors, classes, students, and old friends. There were over 50 entries in the competition with many submissions in our open festival theme Cactus. We were lucky to have Michael Smith, a professional photographer take pictures of most of the gourds that were entered. If you would like the .jpg photograph file of your gourd, contact Cathy West at cmwest389@gmail.com and she can email you the file.

Here is a list of all the winners.

MAJOR AWARDS

Award	Artist
Best Of Show	Jill Robinson
Texas Award	Jeanine Williams
VIP Award	Sue Haberer
People's Choice	Jill Robinson

BEST OF DIVISION

Division	Artist
Open	Freddie Oakley
Division 1	Robert Garber
Division 2	Kathy Butcher
Division 3 (Masters)	Jill Robinson

OPEN AWARDS

OPEN	Cactus	1rst	Jeanine Williams
OPEN	Cactus	2nd	Blanche Cavarretta
OPEN	Cactus	3rd	Suzanne Haffey
OPEN	Doll	1rst	Freddie Oakley
OPEN	Musical	1rst	Freddie Oakley
OPEN	Wearable	1rst	Debbie Garcia

DIVISION AWARDS

Division	Category	Place	Artist
1	Carved	1st	Robert Garber
2	Southwest	1st	Shelly Garber
2	Southwest	2nd	Freddie Oakley
2	Southwest	3rd	Rita Alperto
2	Whatever	1st	Kathy Butcher
2	Whatever	2nd	Ron Truex
2	Whatever	3rd	Freddie Oakley
2	Mixed Media	1st	Shelly Garber
2	Mixed Media	2nd	Rita Alperto
2	Mixed Media	3rd	Rona Thornton
2	Pyrography	1st	Rita Alperto
3	Sculpture	1st	Roy Cavarretta
3	Sculpture	2nd	Vickie Patterson
3	Sculpture	3rd	Yoanna Baumgartner
3	Whatever	1st	Jeanine Williams
3	Whatever	2nd	Sherry Nelson
3	Carved	1st	Roy Cavarretta
3	Carved	2nd	Sherry Nelson
3	Southwest	1st	Paul Butcher
3	Southwest	2nd	Roy Cavarretta
3	Southwest	3rd	Marla Garber
3	Pyrography	1st	Barbie Holton
3	Pyrography	2nd	Jeanine Williams
3	Pyrography	3rd	Blanche Cavarretta
3	Wall Hanging	1st	Cathy West
3	Wall Hanging	2nd	Yoanna Baumgartner

Continued

3	Mixed Media	1st	Jill Robinson
3	Mixed Media	2nd	Roy Cavarretta
3	Mixed Media	3rd	Sue Haberer
3	Coiling	1st	Jill Robinson
3	Coiling	2nd	Cathy West
3	Coiling	3rd	Jeanine Williams

**BEST OF SHOW
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
BEST OF DIVISION 3 (Masters)
1st Place Division 3 Category Mixed Media**

Jill Williams



TEXAS AWARD
1st Place Open Category Cactus
Jeanine Williams



VIP AWARD
Sue Harberer



BEST OF DIVISION
Division 1 (Novice)
1st Place Division 1 Category Carving
Robert Garber



BEST OF DIVISION
Division 2 (Intermediate)
1st Place Division 2 Category Whatever
Kathy Butcher



**BEST OF DIVISION
OPEN
1st Place Open Division Category Musical
Freddie Oakley**



DIVISION 2 (Intermediate)

**1st Place Category Southwest
Shelly Garber**



**1st Place Category Mixed Media
Shelly Garber**



**1st Place Category Pyrograph
Rita Alperito**



DIVISION 3 (Masters)

**1st Place Category Southwest
Paul Butcher**



**1st Place Category Carved
Roy Cavarretta**



**1st Place Category Sculpture
Roy Cavarretta**



**1st Place Category Pyrography
Barbie Holton**



DIVISION 3 (Masters)

1st Place Category Coiling
Jill Robinson



1st Place Category Wall Hanging
Cathy West



DIVISION OPEN

1st Place Category Doll
Freddie Oakley

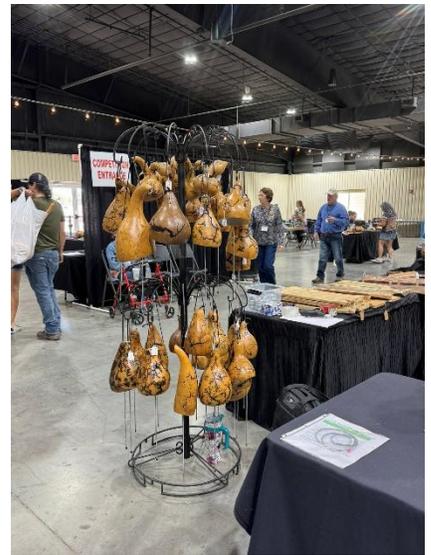


1st Place Category Wearable
Debbie Garcia



Lone Star Festival Continued

A big thank you goes out to all the vendors, show chairs, officers, competitors, and visitors for making our show this year a success. Here are more pictures from the festival.





Demonstrations by
Kathy Butcher (left)
and Roy Cavarretta (below)



Geode Class

2025 TGS FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 2025 fall membership meeting was held on October 17, 2025 in conjunction with TGS Lonestar Festival.

Elections of new officers was held and the following members will be serving as officers beginning in 2026.

President – Cathy West

Vice President – Jeanine Williams

Secretary – Debbie Garcia

Treasurer – Rona Thornton

Membership – Paul Butcher

Gourdzette – Cathy West

Past President – Becky Klix

No new board positions were open in 2026.

We were also able to fill the committee chairs for 2026 with volunteers. They are

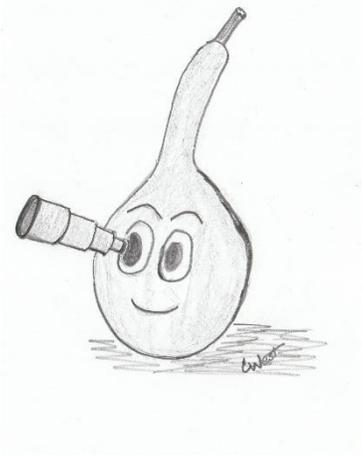
Admission – Kathy Lawson

Education – Mari Tarver

Vendor – Shelly Garber

Ways and Means – Debbie Garcia

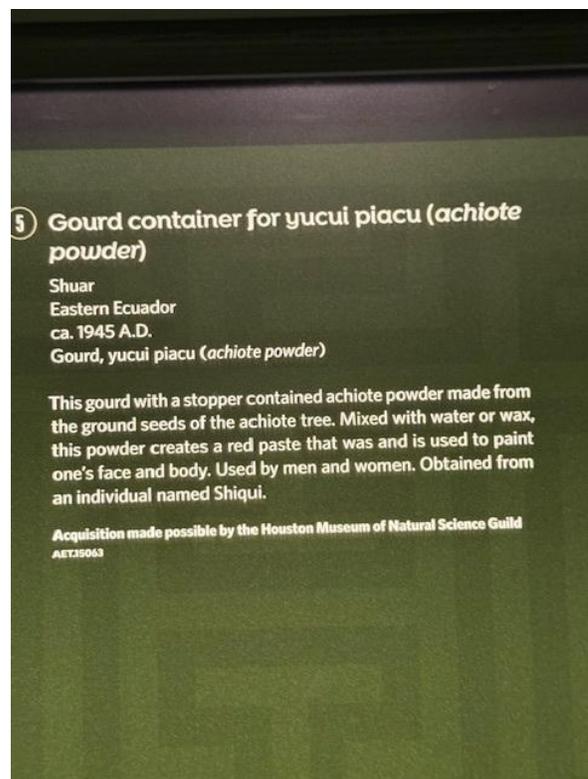
Competition – Yoanna Baumgartner



GOURD SIGHTING

Submitted By Cathy West

I attended my great neices birthday party in January at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. In one of the display cases in the ancient Egyption secion I spotted this.



Keep your eyes peeled for any random gourd sightings as you are out and about. If you spot one, snap a picture and submit it for our "Gourd Sightings" page.

North Texas Gourd Festival

Lake Granbury Conference Center

621 E Pearl St

Granbury

April 17-18-19, 2026

Final preparations are being made for the North Texas Gourd Festival on April 17-19, 2026. The festival will be held at the beautiful Lake Granbury Conference Center and you don't want to miss it. Class have been released and are available for registration on the TGS website at www.texasgourdsociety.org. There will also be an open competition with the theme being "FISH", so start working on your awesome entry now.

For more information you can the TGS website.

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