



# THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

THE NEWLETTER OF THE KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

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**A Winner from the Texas State Fair by Sue Haberer**

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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 Raspey – 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



Dear Fellow Gourders,

As my term as President of the Texas Gourd Society ends, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each of you who have made this journey so rewarding —our dedicated members, volunteers, artists, and supporters.

Serving as your President has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Together, we've grown our community, celebrated the ancient and vibrant art of gourds, and brought joy to countless families through festivals, workshops, and shared creativity. From the laughter in our hands-on classes to the awe inspired by award-winning gourd masterpieces, every moment reflects the passion and spirit that makes Texas Gourd Society truly special.

I'm especially grateful to our board members and committee chairs for their tireless leadership, to our festival teams for turning fields of dried gourds into magical gatherings, and to every member and attendee who showed up—with tools, ideas, or just a smile—to keep our mission alive. We've preserved traditions, nurtured new artists, and built friendships that will outlast any growing season.

As I pass the gavel to Cathy West, I do so with full confidence in the future of the Texas Gourd Society. The seeds we've planted—through education, outreach, and celebration will continue to bear fruit for years to come. I encourage each of you to stay involved, mentor a beginner, enter that bold new design, and keep growing (pun intended).

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for letting me be part of this remarkable chapter. I'll remain a proud member, cheering from the front row (or the carving table).

With warmest regards and gourd-filled memories,  
Becky Klix  
Outgoing President  
Texas Gourd Society

# TGS PATCH HAPPENING'S

## Bay Area Gourd Patch

No patch news reported

## Capital of Texas Gourd Patch

Howdy!

Well, I do hope everyone is rested up from the Festival. It was fun, enjoyed my friend, Carlos and his pottery. My hat off to Diego from Tandy Leatherworking on leather projects both days! He did make the TGS logo piece for us to show off at future shows. It looked like a lot of folks stopped by to watch and ask questions.

The patch met in November working on bells for the holidays. Like always, can't wait to see everyone's show & tell in January.

We will not meet in December, but January we will have our planning meeting for the monthly calendar projects, gift swap and of course, great food!!!!+ I have told everyone to put on their thinking caps, use those grey cells and come up with some good projects. No pressure!!!!!!?

I hope everyone has looked at their copy of the AGS magazine and has voted for the 2026 – 2027 candidates. It is easy to do, just go on line and vote. It is important for us all to cast a ballot.

Welburn Gourds had their yearly contest for Halloween and autumn pieces. You could go on their website and vote for the best you think in all 4 categories!

Well until we meet again, have a wonderful holiday and see you next year!

Yours in gourding,  
Debbie

## Cowtown Gourd Patch

No patch news reported

## Dallas Gourd Patch

No patch news reported

## Guadalupe Gourd Patch

No patch news reported

### [Hill Country Gathering Patch](#)

Do you live in Burnet County or the surrounding area? If so, you are in luck.

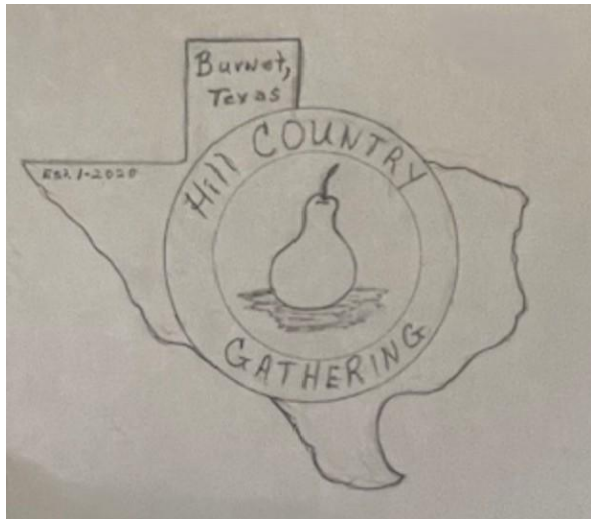
Join the new HILL COUNTRY GATHERING PATCH

Patch Leaders are Freddie Oakley and Diana Goble.

Both these ladies are experienced gourd artists and instructors and already have a great group signed up to learn and enjoy gourding together.

If you are interested in more information on joining or visiting the

*Hill Country Gathering Patch, you can contact Freddie at fredgourdhead@gmail.com or by phone at 432-923-9049*



### [Southeast Gourd Patch](#)

The Southeast Patch has been meeting the first Wednesday of each month. We are meeting at the home of Penny Lyons. Members have been working on a teneriffe design or bringing what they are working on at the moment.

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

No news from the West Texas Gourd Patch this Quarter.

### [Community Outreach Events](#)

The Dallas Gourd Patch had a wonderful community outreach. See article on page for the details



## AUTUMN AT THE ARBORETUM

By Cathy West

The Dallas Arboretum is known as a top tourist site in the Dallas area and the State of Texas. The arboretum is known as one of the top botanical gardens in the world. Each season the Arboretum has a themed display that celebrates the colors, flora, and spirit of that season. This fall, the Dallas Arboretum transformed its Pumpkin Village into *¡Mundo México!*—an celebration of Mexican culture, contemporary art, and the harvest season. More than **110,000 pumpkins, gourds, and squash** were used to create this year's display. The display contained brightly colored Mexican folk art sculptures called *alebrijes* created by Jacobo and María Ángeles. The Dallas Gourd patch does a great job every year with Community Outreach by partnering with the Dallas Arboretum to show gourd art during their fall exhibition and provide opportunities for the public to have “hands on” activities. Thank you to the Dallas Gourd Patch for your commitment to help TGS with our community outreach.

I visited the patch and the arboretum this year and was able to capture these photos.















# **Dallas Gourd Patch Artists Harvest Blue Ribbons at Texas State Fair Creative Arts Competition**

Submitted by Marla Garber

As the dust settles on another triumphant run of the State Fair of Texas, one local group is basking in the glow of hard-earned accolades: the Dallas Gourd Patch. Members of this vibrant community of gourd artisans scooped up multiple winning entries in the Fair's renowned Creative Arts competitions, showcasing the transformative power of humble gourds into stunning works of art.

The Texas State Fair, which drew nearly 2.4 million visitors to Fair Park from September 26 to October 19, is as much a celebration of culinary excess as it is a showcase for Texan craftsmanship. The Creative Arts Building hummed with impressive feats of creativity. Over 12,000 entries flooded categories ranging from quilting and photography to folk art and, of course, decorated gourds. It was in this verdant niche that the Dallas Gourd Patch truly flourished.

Founded as a haven for artists passionate about turning dried gourds into functional and decorative masterpieces, the Dallas Gourd Patch has long been a fixture at the Fair. Their entries this year dominated the Decorated Gourds category, blending intricate carving, painting, and theming to earn blue ribbons and honorable mentions. Standouts included whimsical pieces inspired by Texas icons—think longhorn silhouettes etched into vessel gourds and bluebonnet motifs adorning birdhouse varieties—reflecting the group's signature blend of regional pride and meticulous technique.

These victories aren't just about ribbons; they're a testament to the Patch's ethos of education and camaraderie. Monthly meetings at the Mesquite Elk Lodge features demos on everything from woodburning to dyeing, fostering a "patch" where novices rub shoulders with pros. Their Fair presence extends beyond competition—members volunteered at craft demos, delighting fairgoers with live gourd-carving sessions and tips on sourcing sustainable materials from local farms.

As the 2025 Fair wraps (with whispers of even bigger crowds next year), the Dallas Gourd Patch is already plotting ahead. It's not just about winning, it's about planting seeds—literally and figuratively—for the next generation of artists. For those inspired to join the harvest, the group's next meeting is November 15. Who knows? Your gourd could be the next Fair sensation.



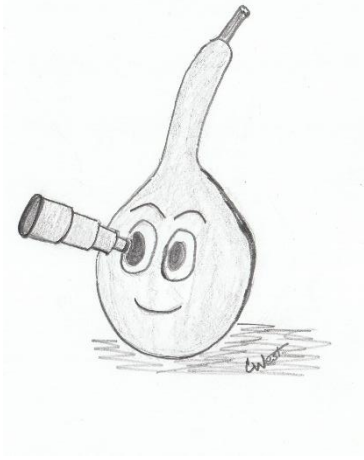
## Winners from the Texas State Fair











## **GOURD SIGHTING**

Submitted By Becky Klix

Becky was in the small town of Clifton, TX on 10/21/2025 and spotted these gourds in a display at the hotel.



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.

# *SAVE THE DATES*

*April 17-18-19, 2026*

## *North Texas Gourd Festival*

*Lake Granbury Conference Center*

*621 E Pearl St*

*Granbury*

*(Details will be released soon on the TGS website)*



## *LONE STAR 2026 FESTIVAL*

*OCTOBER 16-18, 2026*

*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**