

MEET THE TEACHERS

2026 TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY FESTIVAL



SUE HABERER

Sue has been working on gourds for 25 years and has taught classes for 20 years. She is a self-taught artist who specializes in sculpting and 3-D relief carving. She is also a certified Powertex instructor and uses Powertex on many of her gourd art projects.



“DENI” DELSHANAY HALTERMAN

Deni is a gourd artisan with over 30 years of experience creating unique gourd art. She enjoys sharing techniques, inspiring creativity, and helping others discover the joy of working with gourds.

BARBIE HOLTON

Barbie has been working with gourds for 25 years. She also works with wood and does pyrography on both. Over the years she has earned a number of awards. She has a degree as an art specialist and will share lots of tips in class.

RONA THORNTON

Gourd Artist Rona Thornton started down this path over 25 years ago and has won awards and friends. Rona currently serves as the Treasurer for the Texas Gourd Society and is an active member of her local gourd patch. She loves gourds, gardening and helping people find sanity in the chaos of modern life. Her work is created in her home studio and shared through her creation and implementation of the community outreach program for TGS. For her, this is a hands-on, make-and-take home experience of a very old and profound art of the human soul.



LISA MINNIE

Lisa Minne discovered the world of gourds and gourd art after moving from Colorado to Arizona ten years ago—and quickly found what she considers the ultimate artist’s canvas!

Lisa especially enjoys creating sculptural works with gourds, using carving, woodburning and painting techniques to transform their natural shapes and character. Inspired by the beauty of the natural world, she frequently incorporates elements from nature as embellishments that complement the gourd itself.

Her work has earned numerous ribbons and awards and has been shown in *The Gourd Magazine*. Lisa was also honored to participate in Bonnie Gibson’s Teaching Academy, an experience that further strengthened her enthusiasm for sharing the art and craft of gourding with others.

Teaching is one of Lisa’s greatest joys. She loves seeing the individual creativity students bring to a class and believes inspiration should flow both ways—she is continually inspired by other artists and strives to provide that same spark for her students. Her classes are designed for a variety of skill levels, with plenty of individual attention, encouragement and hands-on instruction. Her goal is simple: she wants every student to leave class proud of a finished masterpiece!

Lisa is currently past President of the Verdes Art League, Secretary of the Arizona Gourd Society and Western Region Vice President of the American Gourd Society. Through her artwork, teaching and service to the gourd community, she continues to share her enthusiasm for the extraordinary possibilities of the humble gourd.