

June 2024

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The Blooming Gourd



Message from Our President

2024 is the “Year of the Dragon” on the Chinese calendar **AND** this years show theme for our annual Georgia GourdFest. I am looking forward to seeing all your amazing Dragons for our show theme category. And hope to see lots more competition pieces. It is quickly approaching...hope you have reserved these dates—October 25th-27th, in Griffin, GA

Please review the new and revised Competition Packet (*Competition Rules, Divisions and Categories*) we have posted on the website (georgiagourdsociety.com) to ensure you are ready. To help you remember the joy and excitement of competition we have included a few photos from last years show in this newsletter. Many are already hard at work putting together exciting things for our festival.

We actually have all class slots full for Saturday and many for Friday and Sunday already. Watch for upcoming classes to be posted on Social Media and our website.

Holly Gallagher is chairperson for the Nomination Committee, anyone wishing to run for an office, please email her.

Remember, the Georgia Gourd Society is only as good as the people we have willing to serve in positions of authority. So please, do consider getting involved.

Troy Tatum,
President
Georgia Gourd Society

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Message from our Vice President....

Hello all,

We have worked on getting our competition packet ready for the Georgia Gourd Society GourdFest October 25th-27th in Griffin, GA. There are many changes this year that we hope will make it easier to enter your gourd art. We have clarified details for Rule, Divisions and Categories. So please read carefully, all of the pages of the packet. We will also have a new online Registration form this year to register your art pieces in advance.

In years past, many of us would just take gourds we created during the year and enter those into a category where they "fit". I strongly encourage you to look over the Categories, and then create gourd art for those particular Categories. Try something new. Get inspired by other techniques such as wood carving, pottery, fabric design etc. Stretch yourself and I think you will be surprised at what you can do! Also, remember that class projects can be entered into the Novice Division. This is the only Division that allows class project to be entered.

We look forward to seeing all your creations,

Beth Westberry, VP GGS

Message from our Editor....

Dear Fellow Gourders,

You will notice a few changes in our newsletter. First, I have eliminated details and photos of individual Patches-most of you post all those on your social media pages, therefore I will not be including them in newsletter. However, if there is any specific information you would like me to include for your Patch, please email me at tshandrop@gmail.com. In addition I am always looking for tips or ideas to share with others-products you have tried and like or dislike, and such as that.

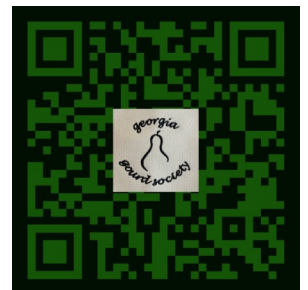
Secondly, when the newsletter is completed, it will be posted on our facebook page as well as emailed out. I will post on my personal page as well, and encourage each of you to copy and past to your personal pages as well. A couple of years ago our facebook page was changed to private group due to spam posts, so post can not be shared from the page, however members are encouraged to copy/paste and post all information on their personal pages. (facebook does not allow to change back to public page)

Third-I have created a QR code (to the right) when you scan this with your phone camera it will take you straight to our website. I encourage each of our members to put this on any flyers you put out at local libraries or handouts you use at festivals please. It can also be put on business cards or stickers.

Lastly, all newsletters will also be posted on our website-georgiagourdsociety.com.

Happy Gourding Ya'll,

Tina



Message from our Competition Chair....

Hey all you Gourd Artists!!!

Don't forget this year's theme for the annual Georgia Gourd Society's Show is "The Year of the Dragon". That's DRAGON not draggin'. The heat of our Georgia summer should serve as ample inspiration for reptilian characters! I can't wait to see what everyone's creative sweat will produce!

That gives us 4 months to create a hot new art piece for the annual competition.

Please visit Georgia Gourd Society website to review the new competition rules and categories. This year we will be using an online form to pre-register your competition pieces as well, so watch for that link to post on our website.

On another note-The 2024 Georgia National Fair is another perfect opportunity to showcase your gourd art. The deadline to enter your Gourd Art in the Georgia National Fair for this year is 8/8/2024-online registration only. The rules and regulations will be posted on their website in July. All entries must be dropped off at the fairgrounds in Perry, GA on 9/16/2024, or make arrangements with some one to drop them off for you. All art will be available for pick up the week after the fair closes. There is a minimum fee for entry however nice monetary awards for winners. We will have a demonstration booth set up for the Georgia Gourd Society on the first weekend, October 4th, 5th, and 6th. If you would like to join and be a part of this booth, please contact me, Troy or Holly. Last year's presence brought us a few new members to GGS & the Flint River Patch. We would love to have anyone who wants to join us, even if just for a few hours.

Hope to see you all there,

Karin Anderson,

Dragonmaster.....oops.....I mean Competition Chair,

Georgia Gourd Society

Georgia
EST. 1990
NATIONAL FAIR

OCTOBER
3-13, 2024

35th Georgia National Fair
www.georgianationalfair.com
478-987-3247



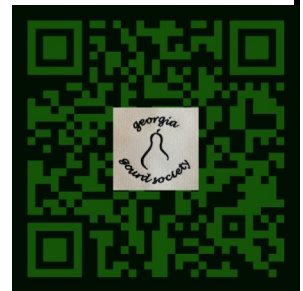
Message from our Show Chair.....

Well folks it is that time of year yet again. Yes we are already making plans for a successful Gourd Fest in Griffin. With only 4 months to go, we need your help...yep you!

- We **need donations for raffle baskets**; I would like to encourage you to bring donations to your patch meetings so we can get the items to Karen Maloney to assemble the baskets;
- We **need volunteers** to help at the gourd festival-please email me if you would like to volunteer for specific duties and time slots. Remember “the early volunteer gets the great tasks”...or something like that; <hollyheathgallagher@gmail.com >
- We **need students**: We currently have 15 classes and more coming in over next week. We have a couple of Instructors who have never been to Georgia before, so it is looking like a very exciting line up to choose from. Please help us get the word out in your areas, so we can fill up our classes;
- We **need shoppers**: Several Vendors have already committed to help us with all our gourd supplies, needs and wishes;
- **AND we need your ART**... hope you are creating lots of great competition pieces for the show. One of the greatest joys for our visitors is viewing all the “gourdeous” Art, don’t put it off any longer-review the online forms and be ready to register your pieces when we post the links—yes we are doing online registration for competition pieces this year.

As you can tell, many have already been hard at work to get ready for our 2024 Gourd Fest and there is still so much more to come. Check our website and social media pages often to “stay in the know” for the show.

Happy Gourding all,
Holly Gallagher, Show Chair



Tips & Tricks ... Heard it thru the "Gourd Vines"....

- Taco plates hold banana gourds nicely when working with QwuiKWood;
- Rub a “dab” of Vaseline based lotion on your hands to keep QwuiKWood from sticking to your hands;
- When doing needle rims with waxed linen, thread your needle twice to keep the thread from slipping out of the eye;

Please forward any tips, tricks or time saving ideas that you would like to share to me via email-tshandrop@gmail.com Would love to include this column in each newsletter.

Atlanta Gourd Patch

The Atlanta Gourd Patch meets the second Saturday of each month, 10:00 am--until (depending on project),
at the Pinckneyville Community Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Berkley Lake, GA 30096

Please follow us on facebook—Atlanta Gourd Patch

Coastal Gourd Sprouts Patch

Just a note to let all know in the area surrounding Springfield, GA, we are in the process of re-starting patch meetings.
This is northwest of Savannah, GA, if anyone knows of interested gourders in or near this area
please share this information.

All interested artists should contact Charlotte, at gourds1@AOL.com to be added to the email list.

Happy Gourding Y'all!!!! Charlotte & Jan

Dahlonega Gold Gourd Patch

The Dahlonega Gold Gourd Patch meets the 1st Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.
(starting time may be adjusted for the months of non-daylight savings)
at the Lumpkin County Senior Center located
266 Mechanicsville, Rd, Dahlonega, GA 30533.

Always verify with Gail, before attending, as dates and times are subject to change.

We need students and teachers, so if you are interested in being kept up-to-date added to the Patch email list, you can email Gail Justus at justusgail@gmail.com to be added. *All levels of crafters/artists are welcome. All materials will be furnished for you for most patch projects-if you plan to attend please email Gail ,in advance.*

Flint River Gourd Patch

**The Flint River Patch meets at the
GA Research & Education Garden
129 Ellis Road, Griffin Patch**

*Flint River Patch meets the third Sunday of each month,
(schedule may vary to accommodate out of town instructors and on holiday weekends)*

2023
People's
Choice
Award

Artist
Lawrence
Wood



2023
Most
Humorous
Award
Artist-
Pam Balog

2023
Best New
Artist
Award-
Sherry
Gomez

2023 Theme Category "World Within" Winners

1st—Dolly Watt

2nd—Pam Balog

3rd—Nicole Angell



GGG Merchandise Market....



To order please contact Diane Ricker

Dmricker48@yahoo.com

Canvas Totes are \$25 each

{Dimensions are 24" wide/14" high/7" deep }

Folks these items are TOP quality; canvas totes are VERY nice, useful & Durable-They will last a very long time!



Denim shirts must be special ordered; Diane places order when min of 10 is reached & it takes approximately 8 weeks for them to come in;

Shirts are \$35/\$38 for XL and larger



Membership News....

Time to "Pay Up"—Dues are Due—Why not "triple pay" send in payment for three years and get a \$5 discountOnly \$40

To pay via credit/debit cards—please contact Tom Ricker-contact information is on the form

If prefer to mail a check, please complete the form on next page & mail with payment.

We need **EVERY MEMBER to BRING a MEMBER.....**

Please, let's all make extra efforts to reach out in our local areas to grow our membership. You can start with printing the application on the next page; take it to your patch meetings; take or post in local libraries & art guilds.

This year & moving forward, GGS members will receive discounts on class registration, as well as Competition registrations. Non GGS members will pay higher fees for class registrations at all GGS sponsored shows or GEDs.

We have many great things planned for future events & projects for the coming years; so you won't want to be left out.....so please "pay up and keep up!"

{Application forms can be printed from website---www.georgiagourdsociety.com or Georgia Gourd Society facebook page also.}

Georgia Gourd Society Membership Application

We invite you to join us in sharing and learning all about gourds. We meet periodically for workshops and meetings, host a state gourd show, produce seasonal newsletters, and offer resources for gourd supplies, decorating ideas, and friendship.

Membership dues of \$15.00 are due January 1 of each year. You can pay for multiple years if you wish. E-mailed newsletters are included in your membership fee.

New Member Renewal

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Annual family dues for the Georgia Gourd Society are \$15.00 or \$40 for three years. The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Dues for new members who join after June 30 each year will be \$5.00. If a new member joins after September 30, they will pay \$15.00 for the next year's membership plus three months of the current year. These options are not available for renewing members.

How many gourd members living in your home should be included in your family membership?

()

Names of additional members: _____

E-mail address for additional member/s: _____

Dues for all renewing members will be \$15.00 with payment due by January 31 or three years for \$40. If dues are not paid prior to January 31 of each year, your membership privileges will end until your membership is reinstated upon payment of the annual dues.

Please print, complete, and mail this form with your payment to:

{Checks should be made payable to Georgia Gourd Society}

**Tom Ricker, Treasurer
3653 Cedar Corners Trail
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092**

Please contact Janet Eakin for any questions on membership: Email her at: jeakin19@gmail.com
To pay by credit card please contact Tom Ricker via email to tomricker45@gmail.com

The Georgia Gourd Society encourages membership in the American Gourd Society (AGS). Annual AGS dues for the AGS are \$20.00; which includes a subscription to their national magazine, The Gourd Magazine. Both dues can be mailed to GGS when you join, however, please make two separate checks — \$15.00 to the Georgia Gourd Society and \$20.00 to the American Gourd Society. We will gladly forward your check and information to the AGS or you may opt to contact the AGS independently.