



The Georgia Gourd Society's 2025 Gourd Art Competition

We are pleased that you have chosen to participate in the Georgia Gourd Society's 2025 Gourd Art Competition. We understand that your work is important to you, and we thank you for your willingness to share your art with us. We will strive to provide you with a fair, unbiased and honest competition by using American Gourd Society Certified Judges and following the AGS judging guidelines and criteria. We will be utilizing AGS's Short Scoring Form and score each entry on a four point criteria (Overall appearance, Craftsmanship, Difficulty or level of effort, and Featured technique or Theme). For a more detailed description of the judging criteria, see the GGS website. Again, thank you for sharing your art and we look forward to seeing the pleasure and inspiration your work will give to other gourd artists and the public attending GourdFest 2025.

Troy Tatum, President Georgia Gourd Society

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The Georgia Gourd Society's 2025 Gourd Art Competition

2025 Georgia Gourd Society Competition Rules Judging will follow Georgia Gourd Society Competition Rules as listed below.

AGS certified Judges will use **AGS Judging** criteria as found in the AGS Judging Handbook: <http://www.americangourdsociety.org/judging.html>)

GOURD GROWERS/NON-CRAFTED RULES

1. All raw gourds must be whole, uncut gourds.
2. Gourds in Growers/Non-Crafted categories must have been grown by the exhibitor and in good condition.
3. Growers/Non-craft gourds must have stems, be mature, and be clean. No finish of any kind is permitted.
4. Gourds in the Growers/Non-crafted competition must be harvested within the last 3 years.
5. Gourds previously entered in a GGS competition are not eligible for entry in the current competition. Only 1 entry per category is allowed.

GOURD ART & CRAFT RULES

REGISTRATION

6. Pre-registration is available online or by mail. It is strongly recommended that all artists pre-register, as there will be a \$2/gourd charge for all entries not pre-registered. (\$10 max.) Non-members of GGS will be charged a fee of \$5/item entered. Acceptable payment is cash or check only. Youth categories are exempt from this rule. All entry forms and tags must be completed prior to entering the registration area.
7. A "late registration" desk will be available to assign artist numbers, supply blank registration forms, tags and answer questions prior to entering the registration area. Pre-registered artists will have a separate location.
8. Entry Tags must be affixed to each gourd entry and are available on the website (www.georgiagourdsociety.com) or at the registration desk at the show. The artist must circle the Division in which their gourd entries are being entered for competition. The artist's name, artist number and category number should be printed on the entry tag. Names will be hidden from view by folding the tag in half after the receipt at the bottom of the tag has been detached and given to the artist for pick up on Sunday. Tags will be attached to the gourd with string or paper clips. After judging the tags will be opened for public viewing.
9. All completed Registration Forms and Entry Tags must be presented at the registration desk **by 5:00 pm, FRIDAY** of the show. Show opens to the public on Saturday morning.

10. All entry forms must be signed by the artist. Collaborative entries require the signature of only one of the artists. By signing the entry form, the artist agrees to allow photography of their work under the “fair use” doctrine and certifies that the art pieces you have entered in this competition, are created by you or the Collaborative artist(s) you named. **If the artist is not present to present the artwork into competition, signature must be notarized.**

11. Artist(s) may enter both the Technique Categories under the appropriate skillset Division and the Open Categories. **It is the responsibility of the artist to enter their pieces in the correct Division and Category. ONLY 1 ENTRY PER CATEGORY IS ALLOWED.**

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

12. Entries must be presented to the Competition check-in Friday starting at 12:00 pm and no later than 5:00 pm.

13. All entries must be handmade by the artist entering the pieces & must be completed within the previous 3 years. **NO artwork should include any materials from a protected or endangered species. If an entry is found to contain any prohibited materials it will be removed from competition.**

14. Entrants can be a member of the Georgia Gourd Society. If you are not a member and would like to enter a piece in competition, you must first join the Georgia Gourd Society OR pay a \$5.00 entry fee per gourd entry. Youth categories are exempt from this rule and fees.

15. Gourds that have been entered in a previous Georgia Gourd Society competition are not eligible for the current year’s competition

16. The competition area is closed to all non-competition staff until the show opens Saturday morning. Please be patient, the judging process may take a little time but we want to look carefully at each entry. Ribbons will be awarded at this time and must remain with the gourds until pickup on Sunday.

17. No fractal or faux fractal burning is allowed.

18. No laser work or laser cutting of gourds is allowed.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

19. All open (cut) gourds (except functional birdhouses) must be cleaned to remove surface dirt, seeds, and all white seed membrane, inside and out, for show quality. Gourd birdhouse outside surfaces and stems must be cleaned but minimal interior membrane can be left for nesting material.

20. Stems are not mandatory but must be cleaned and finished to complement the design if left on.

21. Gourd quality will be a factor in judging ALL categories. A poor quality gourd can result in a lower score in accordance with AGS rules. A 3x5 explanation card may be placed with a gourd where a major blemish or flaw is incorporated in the design or presentation of the gourd. The judges will determine gourd quality.

22. Leveling the bottom of a gourd by sanding is allowed and will not be considered poor quality or a detriment to the surface technique of the competition category.

23. The inside surface of cut gourds and covered containers should be cleaned and **may** be painted, stained, decouped, coated, or otherwise finished.

24. Translucent and clear protective finishes are allowed on all entries except non-craft gourds, or where it is specifically not allowed for a category.

25. Gourd stands may be used (revolving and stationery) but are not mandatory. The stand should be complementary to the gourd art, of stable construction, and must not interfere with the viewing of other entries. Electrical outlets are not available for revolving stands. If you wish to use a revolving stand it should be battery operated.

26. There is no requirement that the gourd art or craft be presented in an upright position, but the gourd must be stable at rest so that it does not roll or fall from the exhibition table.

27. **In ANY category, if the gourd is not identifiable, photos showing the construction method MUST be provided with the entry.**

28. A 3x5 card and/or photographs may accompany any entry indicating techniques or products used to create the entry. The card may be attached to the entry tag string or placed with the entry before the judging. No business cards are allowed on entries until Saturday morning after judging is completed. Gourds may be sold during the show but must remain in competition until the end of the show. Sales will be handled between the artist and the buyer. Sales information may be placed by the entries AFTER the ribbons are awarded.

COMPETITION

29. Ribbons may be awarded to the top three (3) entries in each category at the sole discretion of the judges. A sole entrant in a category does not guarantee a First place ribbon. Competition criteria must be met to earn a ribbon of any color. A merit ribbon may also be awarded at the discretion of the judges. Awarded ribbons MUST remain in place until the end of the show on Sunday. Special Awards may include Best of Novice, Best of Intermediate, Best of Master, Best of Open, Most Humorous, People's Choice and Best of Show.

30. Decisions of the Judges are final. In the event of an error, no award will be removed but a duplicate award may be given.

31. The Show Chair has the right to divide entries in the Show Theme category into artist division for judging.

31. The Georgia Gourd Society and/or the Show facility are not responsible for damage to or theft of entries.

32. ALL ENTRIES must remain in competition until the end of the show on Sunday. Failure to do so can result in not being allowed to enter future competitions.

Competition Skill Divisions for the Technique Categories

In an effort to align our competition more closely with other state chapters and the American Gourd Society, we have made changes to the skill Division descriptions.

Using the following guidelines, competitors are encouraged to advance to a higher Division as they feel qualified. The Divisions are to encourage competitors to do their best work. Division commitment should be the result of the artist's honest appraisal of their own work and experience and should not require policing by a governing body.

NOVICE DIVISION

The Novice Division was instituted to allow new artists and artists who are developing the basic techniques to compete among their peers with similar skills. The Novice entrant cannot have taught a class for a fee and cannot have shown in a gallery. The Novice entrant should not have exhibited in more than *four* Gourd Show competitions, won more than 10 first place awards (blue ribbons) or won Best of Division or Best of Show while in this division. Accomplished artists in areas other than gourd art will not be considered Novice. Class projects are allowed in the Technical Categories of this Division only. The artist should give credit to the instructor with an attached card. No copyright images are allowed. Anyone entering this Division must place all their Technique Category entries in this classification. **ONLY 1 ENTRY PER CATEGORY IS ALLOWED.** The Novice can **also** compete in the Open Categories.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

The Intermediate Division was instituted for those artists who have mastered the basic techniques and are ready to compete with a wider range of competitors. Entrants in this Division can have sold gourd art or taught for a fee. Anyone entering this Division must place all their Technique Category entries in this Division. **ONLY 1 ENTRY PER CATEGORY IS ALLOWED.** Those entrants who have won more than 20 first place awards (blue ribbons) in this Division or won a Best of Division or Best of Show must advance to the Master Division. No class projects, patterns, decals or stencils are allowed, and all designs must be original. No copyright images are allowed. Anyone entering this Division can **also** enter the Open Categories.

MASTER DIVISION

The Master Division was instituted for the accomplished artist whose art and skills have been recognized as superior. No class projects, patterns, decals or stencils are allowed, and all designs must be original. No copyright images are allowed. Anyone entering this Division must place all their Technique Category entries in this Division. **ONLY 1 ENTRY PER CATEGORY IS ALLOWED.** Anyone in the Master Division will remain in this Division until they volunteer to move to the Grand Master display only Division. Anyone entering this Division can **also** enter the Open Categories.

COLLABORATIVE DIVISION

A gourd entry created by 2 or more artists. Any skill level of artists, including Grand Master may combine their skills in this category using any techniques or subject. All artists must be identified specifying which technique each is responsible for. For group projects all artists must be listed but listing of technique is not required. Artist bios permitted. Entries in this category are not eligible for Special Awards.

GRAND MASTER DIVISION (Volunteer Display Only Classification)

The Grand Master Division is a voluntary Display Only Division for the professional artist who has reached an artistic skill level beyond the Master level. The artists will have a dedicated space to display several pieces of their best or most recent work. Grand Master artists can participate in the Collaborative category. Once an artist has moved into the Grand Master Division they are not able to go back to the Master Division. Items can be offered for sale.

The Georgia Gourd Society's 2025 Gourd Art Competition

Competition Division Breakdown

GROWERS/NON-CRAFTED GOURDS (Categories NC 1-5) YOUTHS

CRAFTED GOURDS (Categories Y 6-8)

ADULT CRAFTED GOURDS

TECHNIQUE DIVISION (Categories 9-19)

NOVICE Division (Categories N 9-19) INTERMEDIATE

Division (Categories I 9-19) MASTER Division (Categories M 9-19)

OPEN DIVISION (Categories O 20-34) (Open to all competitors regardless of Division)

SHOW THEME DIVISION (Category ST)

COLLABORATIVE DIVISION (Category CP)

GRAND MASTER DISPLAY DIVISION (Category GM) Display Only

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ARTIST TO ENTER THEIR
PIECE(S) IN THE CORRECT CATEGORY.**

ONLY 1 ENTRY PER CATEGORY IS ALLOWED.

Please read carefully the specific criteria for the Category and make your decision accordingly. If you have questions about the proper category placement, contact Karin Anderson at praisethegourd@windstream.net or see one of the volunteers in the registration desk to explain the art/craft Category or Division. They can provide advice, but you must make the final determination for placement of your piece. Leave your entry with the volunteer who will place them in the display area for you. Only competition staff will be allowed in the competition area until the show opens to the public on Saturday morning. **Pieces entered in the wrong category cannot be judged or moved unless the Artist has marked the box on the tag allowing the piece to be moved.**

Competition Categories/Divisions

GROWER/NON-CRAFTED GOURDS

Gourds in grower categories must have been grown by the exhibitor (adult or youth) and in good condition. Gourds must have stems, be mature, and be clean. Non-crafted gourds must not be cut. No finish of any kind is permitted. Gourds must be harvested within the previous 3 years. Gourds previously entered in a GGS competition are not eligible for entry in current competition. Entrants MUST be a GGS or AGS member in good standing.

NC1: Greatest circumference – must be uncut.

NC2: Longest dipper-type (stem to blossom) - Gourds with a long handle and distinct bulb.

NC3: Smallest gourd (hard shell or ornamental) in overall size.

NC4: Most unusual gourd, natural not manipulated.

NC5: The Jim Story Memorial Award: \$25.00 prize. The winner of this competition will be eligible for the National Jim Story Award provided they are a member of the AGS. Information about this Award is available on the American Gourd Society website:

YOUTH CRAFTED GOURDS

Ribbons will be given to all youths who have entered. Any technique(s)

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to select the correct age division.

Y6: Best youth craft (Age 1-5)

Y7: Best youth craft (Age 6-11)

Y8: Best youth craft (Age 12-16)

Note: Y prefix designates the Youth Division

ADULT CRAFTED GOURDS

TECHNIQUE DIVISION subdivided into 3 skill levels per Competition Rules and Divisions: Novice

Categories (N prefix)

Intermediate Categories (I prefix) Master

Categories (M prefix)

OPEN DIVISION open to all 3 skill levels (O prefix)

SHOW THEME open to all skill levels (ST)

COLLABORATIVE DIVISION open to all skillsets including Grand Master (CP)

GRANDMASTER DIVISION display only (GM)

First place, second place, and third place awards may be given for entry Categories 9 through 34, ST & CP in entrant Divisions.

TECHNIQUE DIVISION

(Novice, Intermediate and Master)

Listed techniques must predominate. Color and rim treatments are permitted unless stated otherwise in the category. Novice competitors may enter class projects, but must identify the teacher on their tag

N9, I9, M9: PYROGRAPHY (WOODBURNING) - Whole or cut gourd. Pyrography created original design with or without color. Pyrography must predominate. Rim treatments permitted.

N10, I10, M10: COLOR – Whole or open gourd. Painted or stained gourd using any mediums such as oil, acrylic, watercolor, ink, colored pencil, stains, dyes, epoxy, glazes or waxes to complete a picture, design or pattern. Color must predominate, other techniques and embellishments allowed.

N11, I11, M11: CARVING - Chipped, chiseled, gouged, or power carving. One or more of these techniques may be combined to create dimension or texture. Carving may be pierced completely through the gourd as part of the design. Coloring, embellishments and rim treatments permitted, but carving must predominate.

N12, I12, M12: CUT, FILIGREE OR FRET-WORK - Majority of the design elements must cut entirely through the gourd. Color may be added. Filigree or fretwork must predominate. Embellishments & rim treatments may be added.

N13, I13, M13: TEXTURED – Whole or open gourd. Any process or medium that creates a pronounced raised design or pattern on the surface of the gourd. Decorative rims & minimal embellishments allowed.

N14, I14, M14: SCULPTURED - One or more gourds or gourd pieces may be combined. May use clay, epoxy, armature or other materials. Must be at least 70% gourd. Gourd must be evident in the final piece.

N15, I15, M15: WEAVING - A gourd must predominate (50% or more). Natural or man-made weaving materials. Color and/or light ornamentation permitted. Tenerife included.

N16, I16, M16: BEADED - Whole or cut gourd. Any type of individual beads is acceptable. Beads may be placed in or on the gourd. Other techniques allowed but beading must predominate.

N16B, I16B, M16B: CHAIN BEADED - Whole or cut gourd. Ball chain, chain bead or other manufactured conjoined beads are acceptable. Beads may be placed in or on the gourd. Other techniques allowed but chain beading must predominate

N17, I17, M17: COILED - (Open, Closed, Floating). Color and embellishments permitted to complement the coiling design.

N18, I18, M18: Multi Techniques - Combination of at least three techniques. This category requires that the techniques used which are to be judged must be listed on the Registration form and Entry Tags.

N19, I19, M19 My Way - Any gourd entry that does not fit in another category. Must be made of a gourd or gourd part. Any technique.

OPEN DIVISION

(Novice, Intermediate and Master artists competing together)

NO class project gourds allowed, even from Novice competitors. In ALL categories, if the gourd is not plainly identifiable, photos showing the construction method MUST be provided with the entry.

O20: MUSICAL - Gourd musical instrument. MUST BE FUNCTIONAL. Includes drums, rattles, shekeres, rain sticks, thunder drums, etc. Any technique.

O21: BIRDHOUSE or FEEDER - Decorative or functional. If functional, gourd and entrance holes should be appropriate sizes, with drainage and hanging holes. Any technique.

O22: WEARABLE - Any wearable gourd, mask, jewelry, belt, hat, purse or other wearable item made of a gourd or gourd pieces. Gourd must predominate. Any technique.

O23: FLORAL - Floral arrangement, gourd flower(s), gourd plant(s) or botanical themed gourd. All materials in floral arrangements must be natural. Gourd must predominate. Any technique.

O24: CHRISTMAS - Christmas theme only. Whole or cut gourd. Any technique.

O25: HOLIDAY - Holiday theme other than Christmas. Whole or cut gourd. Any technique.

O26: ORNAMENT - Gourd Ornament. Any holiday or season. Any technique.

O27: ETHNIC - Any ethnical motif theme gourd (Native American, African, Oriental, etc.) Any technique.

O28: ANIMAL – Includes but not limited to birds, mammals, insects, fish and reptiles. Any gourd decorated with an animal motif or constructed of a gourd or gourd pieces and shaped like an animal. If gourd is not identifiable, then photos must be included showing the construction method. Any technique.

O29: DOLL – Figurative work including but not limited to standing figures and Spirit Dolls. Any technique.

O30: IMAGINARY or FANTASY – May include but not limited to magical, supernatural, steampunk, cartoon, science fiction, dragons, wizards, fairies and gnomes. No copyright images. Any technique.

O31: TOY – May include but not limited to puppets, pull toys and cars. **MUST BE FUNCTIONAL.** Any technique.

O32: LAMPS AND LUMINARIE – Lamps, lanterns, candleholders, etc. Gourds must predominate. **MUST BE FUNCTIONAL**, with or without electricity. No electricity will be provided for display.

O33: MINIATURE GOURD CREATIONS - Must be less than 3 inches in diameter, length, and height. The complete gourd piece must fit within a 3-inch cube. Any technique.

O34: AUGMENTED GOURDS - Any art piece utilizing a gourd or gourd pieces as armature or a base where the gourd is encased or covered by other media to the extent that the gourd is not visible or obvious in the finished piece. At least one photo of the artist's process, illustrating the gourd's role in the art piece, must accompany the piece in competition display. Multiple photos and/or written explanation are allowed so long as they are appropriately bound and can fit neatly on the display table. Any technique.

SHOW THEME

ST: SHOW THEME – What Bugs You?: All things insect is our 2025 Show Theme. Let your imagination run wild. Any insect themed sculpture, vessel or artwork is acceptable. Any techniques or materials (barring those specifically prohibited by our rules) can be used. Gourd or gourd pieces must predominate and make up at least 70% of the final piece. If gourd is not plainly evident in the final piece, photos


showing the construction process must accompany the final piece for it to be judged in competition. Copyright protected art or characters should not be used. The final piece should represent your original design and/or art. **Show Chair reserves the right to divide this category and judge entries by artist divisions.**

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT DIVISION

CP: COLLABORATIVE PROJECT DIVISION. A gourd entry created by 2 or more artists. Any skill level of artists, including Grand Master may combine their skills in this category using any techniques or subject. All artists must be identified specifying which technique each is responsible for. For group projects all artists must be listed, but listing of technique is not required. If needed, a 3x5 card detailing all techniques can be attached to the Entry Tag. Artist bios permitted. Entries in this category are not eligible for Special Awards. Any technique.

GRAND MASTER DISPLAY DIVISION

GM: GRAND MASTER DISPLAY DIVISION. For Artists who have reached a professional level. Volunteer/Display Only and will not be judged. Multiple entries may be entered. Items can be offered for sale.

 **GEORGIA GOURD SOCIETY**

ARTIST #- _____ New Artist

DIVISION- _____

CATEGORY- _____

DESCRIPTION _____

Permission to move gourd to another category
 Yes NO

=====

Fold to line above to cover Artist Name for Judging

Name _____
(Please Print Legibly)


Phone #- _____

Gourd is for sale--\$ _____

Gourd is NOT for sale

PICK UP TAG
 (Please detach & retain-required to claim art pieces)

Artist # _____
 Division- _____
 Category- _____

 **GEORGIA GOURD SOCIETY**

ARTIST #- _____ New Artist

DIVISION- _____

CATEGORY- _____

DESCRIPTION _____

Permission to move gourd to another category
 Yes NO

=====

Fold to line above to cover Artist Name for Judging

Name _____
(Please Print Legibly)


Phone #- _____

Gourd is for sale--\$ _____

Gourd is NOT for sale

PICK UP TAG
 (Please detach & retain-required to claim art pieces)

Artist # _____
 Division- _____
 Category- _____

 **GEORGIA GOURD SOCIETY**

ARTIST #- _____ New Artist

DIVISION- _____

CATEGORY- _____

DESCRIPTION _____

Permission to move gourd to another category
 Yes NO

=====

Fold to line above to cover Artist Name for Judging

Name _____
(Please Print Legibly)

Phone #- _____

Gourd is for sale--\$ _____

Gourd is NOT for sale

PICK UP TAG
 (Please detach & retain-required to claim art pieces)

Artist # _____
 Division- _____
 Category- _____

- **Artist number is assigned upon pre-registration & must be written on each tag; place an X in New Artist box if you are a New Artist ;(Artist who has never taught nor entered Art competitions prior to this entry, not just Gourd Art)**
- **Division-1-Novice; 2-Intermediate; 3- Master; 4-Grower; 5-Youth; 6-Grand Master-Exhibit Only**
- **Gourds placed in wrong category will ONLY be moved by Judging Committee if this box is marked YES**
- **Gourd is not for sale-place X in box or if Gourd is for sale-write price in space-ALL sales must go thru Artist & Buyer;**
- **Detach bottom portion & retain for picking up Art pieces on Sunday; tag will be folded at "fold line" by attendants at competition check-in;**
- **Use hole punch to punch hole in top "donut" circle; attach to gourd with white string**

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 of 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. 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 and your payment to:

{Checks should be made payable to Georgia Gourd Society}

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

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) which includes a subscription to their national magazine, The Gourd Magazine. Please visit americangourdsociety.org to view resources and sign up for AGS membership.