

**2024  
GGG  
Show  
Edition**

# The Blooming Gourd



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**Webmaster Contact:**

Suzi Nonn

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Tina Handrop

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Jan Cash

Janet Eakin

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## Message from Our President ....

Hello GGS members,

Gourd Societies' state shows are the life blood of the state chapters and as such our GourdFest 2024 held October 25-27, 2024 in Griffin, Georgia just may have been our best ever and was definitely one of the best. If you missed it, you missed a great one. The competition was amazing, we had some awesome classes and the vendors were great! We have so many people to thank for the hugely successful show. A special thank you to the vendors, instructors, students, competition participants, all who attended and especially all the volunteers. Our show chair, Holly Gallagher and her committees did an excellent job coordinating our 26th annual show. Our 2025 show will again be held at the Kiwanis Fairground in Griffin, Georgia on October, 25-26 with set-up and classes on the 24th. Mark your calendars now and be sure to save the date. The 2025 show theme will be "What BUGS You". So start thinking of how to best display bugs on your gourd masterpieces now and enter the competition theme category. Watch the website for the new rules and category classification coming soon.

Our spring GGS Gourd Education Days will be held on March 29-30, 2025 at the UGA Research and Experiment Gardens in Griffin, Georgia. Think about teaching an inexpensive gourd or craft class during this event and make your plans now to attend this fun two day event. Watch the website for more information on the GED.

Several members of the GGS participated in the "Scarecrows in the Garden" event in October held at the Research and Educational Garden in Griffin. Next year every patch should make a scarecrow to enter and show our patch creativity. The displays are usually up all of October throughout the garden open for the public to walk through the garden and enjoy all the scarecrows. The GGS served as artist in resident at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA. We were well represented in the fine arts competition at the fair with eight artists entering the Fine Arts Open 3-D Gourd Division. Karin Anderson won a blue ribbon in the Open 3-D Gourd Professional Division and a Fine Arts Open Division Best of Show for her dragon (the first time gourds have ever won a "Fine Arts Best of Show" at the National Fair). The schedule of the fair makes it possible for gourd artists to enter both the Georgia National Fair Fine Arts Competition and the GGS GourdFest competition. 2025 should see more than eight artists entered in the state fair. Watch the website for more information or contact Karin Anderson with any questions. Now that winter has arrived, it's a great time to work on gourds and let all those creative juices loose and see what you can create.

Stay warm and enjoy gourd crafting.

Troy Tatum, President, Georgia Gourd Society

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## *Message from our Vice President....*

Hello all,

Our 2024 GourdFest was a great success. Classes were well attended and the Competition was exceptional. Mark your calendar for the 2025 Show which will be the last weekend in October, Oct 24th - 26th.

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2025 theme "What Bugs you?" Lots of possibilities, so have fun with it.

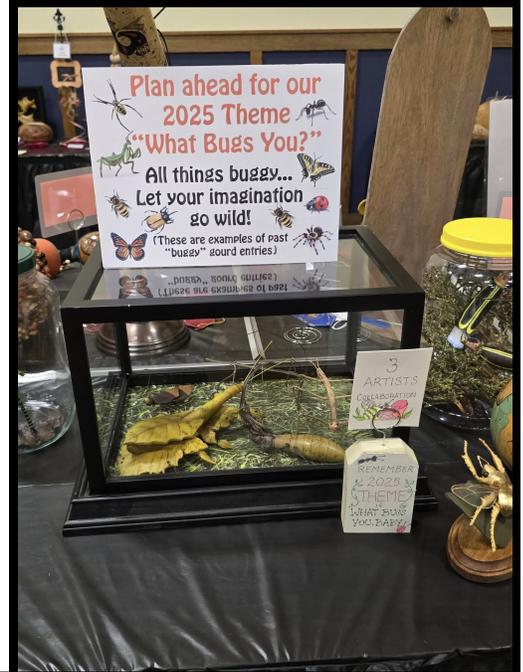
We have a new Spring event March 29th & 30th in Griffin. Stay tuned for more information on that. We will have classes, demos and as always fun getting together with fellow gourd artists.

As a reminder, if you judged or clerked at our GourdFest, make sure to update your activity on the AGS website.

[www.americangourdsociety.org](http://www.americangourdsociety.org)

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Beth Westberry, VP GGS



## *Message from our Show Chair.....*

Well Gourders we had another fabulous show! And all the credit goes to the great volunteers, the judges & clerks, everyone who entered competition, taught classes, took classes—without ALL of you we could not have such a wonderful GourdFest-so I just want to say "Thank you" one more time.

Now let's get planning for next year—2025 "What's Bugging You?"—all little insect bugs, ants, flies, & various other lil creepy crawlers...

Happy Gourding all,

Holly Gallagher, Show Chair

## *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](mailto: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](mailto: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 )*

## Message from our Competition Chair....

Hey all,

Karin Anderson, the Competition Chair, announced that the 150+ show entries came from 27 different artists and 2 exhibitors. The Winners of the various categories are as follows:

- Best of Novice: Deb White
- Best of Intermediate: Dolly Watt
- Best of Master: Colleen Brooks
- Best of Open: Beth Westberry
- Best New Artist: Deb White
- Best of Show: Dolly Watt
- People's Choice: Dolly Watt
- Most Humorous: Leslie Meier

Plan now to attend 2025 GourdFest will be held October 24, 25, & 26. The Theme is "What Bugs You?" so something buggy or insect themed. The 2026 Theme will be "Under the Big Top," so all things circus themed, in case you want a BIG headstart. As always, any GGS approved techniques are allowed.

Can't wait to see what you create!!! See you all soon,

Karin Anderson,  
Competition Chair,  
Georgia Gourd Society





Most Humorous Division  
Leslie Meier

Best of Intermediate Division

Peoples Choice Award  
Dolly Watt



Best of Novice Division & Best New Artist  
Deb White



Best of Masters Division  
Colleen Brooks



Best of Open Division  
Beth Westberry

# 2024 Theme Category "Dragons"



Leslie Meier  
1st Place



Leslie Meier & Judy Fleming  
1st Place—Collaborative



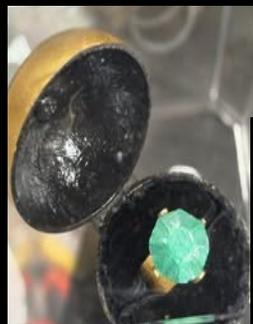
Sara  
Faulkner  
2nd Place



Nicole  
Angel  
3rd Place



A few of the  
BEAUTIFUL  
Gourd  
Art  
Entries



More of the  
BEAUTIFUL  
Gourd  
Art  
Entries



More of the  
BEAUTIFUL  
Gourd  
Art  
Entries



And a few more  
photos of the  
BEAUTIFUL  
Gourd  
Art

Entries and a few  
candid shots of  
vendors, guests and  
the volunteers who  
made our Festival  
a success...





A VERY Special Thanks to the wonderful Instructors who came to our festival and shared their fabulous talents with us. You, & the great classes you brought to Georgia, to draw in students, made this years GourdFest such a success.

We THANK YOU, from the bottom of our gourds!!!





# Georgia National Fair Entries & GGS Booth





So ...I was thinking....again....the Fair posted on their website that 545,382 visitors came thru the fair this year. And that made me think, If only half of them strolled thru the fine arts competition, 272,691 people saw our Gourd Art!!! Then, I was thinking....again....that half of those people may have never seen gourd art before !!! TOTALLY AWESOME Right?!?—so we may have just introduced over 136,345 people, to the wonderful world of gourd art! So to say this is an opportunity to grow our Georgia Gourd Society is truly an understatement.

Please Mark your Calendars now ...plan to join us next year. Whether you enter your Gourd Art or come out & help with the GGS booth, your participation is needed.

This year was my first year entering pieces, and even though I did not win a ribbon, the experience was fabulous. I WILL definitely participate again next year. Many of us do other types of art as well as gourd art, the Georgia National Fair has categories for everything. I challenge each of you to enter your art-Gourds, sewing, felting, crochet, paintings or any other type of art. I was so amazed at the entries, the beautiful works of art There was so very much incredible works of art on display. Plan now to enter yours next year! If this helps-awards are monetary! Oh and I saved the best for last—our very own Karin Anderson won Open Division-BEST IOF SHOW with her Gourd Dragon—to my knowledge this is the very 1st time a Gourd Art piece won this achievement.

our very own Karin Anderson won Open Division-BEST IOF SHOW with her Gourd Dragon—to my knowledge this is the very 1st time a Gourd Art piece won this achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS

KARIN!!!

WAY TO GO!!!!



## GGG Merchandise Market....



To order please contact Diane Ricker

[Dmricker48@yahoo.com](mailto: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 discount .....Only \$40

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

If you 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 to garden clubs; 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 don'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](mailto:jeakin19@gmail.com)  
To pay by credit card please contact Tom Ricker via email to [tomricker45@gmail.com](mailto: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.