



The Texas Gourdzette

Kappa Chapter

American Gourd Society

Volume 25, Issue 1
January 2019

Inside:

Patch Reports

Growing Luffa Gourds

Featured TGS Artist



**Our Cover Picture is a gourd
by Eleanor Wuthrich of the Bay Area Gourd Patch.**



President's Message by David Cleaveland

Chapter News

Texas Gourd Society

Kappa Chapter of the American Gourd Society

Greetings to the best gourd artists in the nation. I am proud to be your new president for the next two years and look forward to many exciting opportunities that will be available this year.

I hope you have checked out the website for the latest info on the competition for this years' festival. The new competition rules can be found in this edition of The Gourdzette also. Judy Richie and the Guadalupe Gourd Patch have done a great job in giving us a new and challenging competition. Check out the Alien Creature addition and the new challenge categories in each division. Get those creative juices flowing. Going to be fun.

As always, we are calling out for talented teachers to come and share new techniques and projects. Check the web site for all the information. Our class schedule will start on Wednesday and continue through Sunday. There will be multiple opportunities for you to find something new.

There are great vendor spots available on a first come, first serve basis, so get your request in early. John Flewharty will be this years' Vendor Chair.

Also, remember that membership dues for the year are owed now and should be sent to Membership Chair Debbie Clausen. Dues are \$15 and it includes the entire family for a year. Debbie's address is 5835 East Line Rd., Whitewright, Tx., 75491. Dues can also be paid online through the website using Paypal. While you are at it, join or renew your membership to AGS.

The Executive Board will be meeting January 19th to make several important decisions. Thank you for the questionnaire you completed. It gave us direction about these decisions and our future. 96 questionnaires were returned. Great job!

So...everyone, get busy on your gourd bench and let's have the greatest year ever in the Texas Gourd Society.

David Cleaveland, President



The Texas Gourd Society

Kappa Chapter of the American Gourd Society

Purpose: 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.

Officers for 2018

President	David Cleaveland	210-468-9924	david.cleaveland@yahoo.com
Vice President	Becky Klix	512-264-0019	outamygourdandglass@hotmail.com
Secretary	JoAnne Tompkins	281-497-3491	jtompkins7691@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Blanche Cavarretta	361-798-9538 361-772-6218	brcavarretta@sbcglobal.net
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Cheryl Trotter (2017-2019)	281-300-5013	4cheryltrotter@gmail.com
John Flewharty (2017-2019)	214-341-2641	dsf1511@verizon.com
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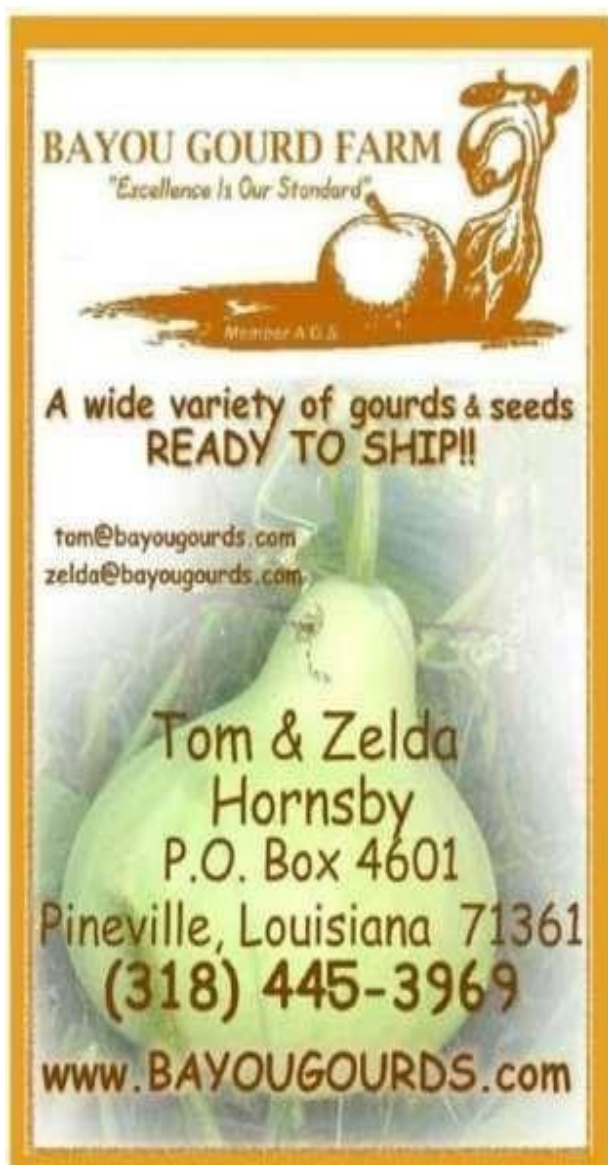


Membership Matters

Debbie Clausen who has agreed to take over Membership.

So please send 2019 dues to:

Texas Gourd Society
Debbie Clausen
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Whitewright, TX 75491



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or email agsmembership@comcast.net

Texas Gourd Society does NOT collect
dues for American Gourd Society

TGS Patch Contacts

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Contact: Joe Pritchard 817-909-2814 stormy7606@hotmail.com
Website: www.freewebs.com/ArlingtonGourdPatch

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Contact: Kay Langelly langleyjk@earthlink.net

TGS Capitol of Texas Gourd Patch - Austin, TX area
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TGS Concho Valley Gourd Patch - San Angelo, TX area
Contact: Beth Lively 325-456-4556 blively@wcc.net

TGS Cowtown Gourd Patch - Ft. Worth area
Contact: Cindy Lear 210-422-0286 cindylear@hotmail.com

TGS Dallas Gourd Patch - Dallas TX area
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Website: www.facebook.com/DallasGourdPatch

TGS Guadalupe Gourd Patch - Hill Country area
Contact: David Cleaveland 210-468-9924 david.cleaveland@yahoo.com

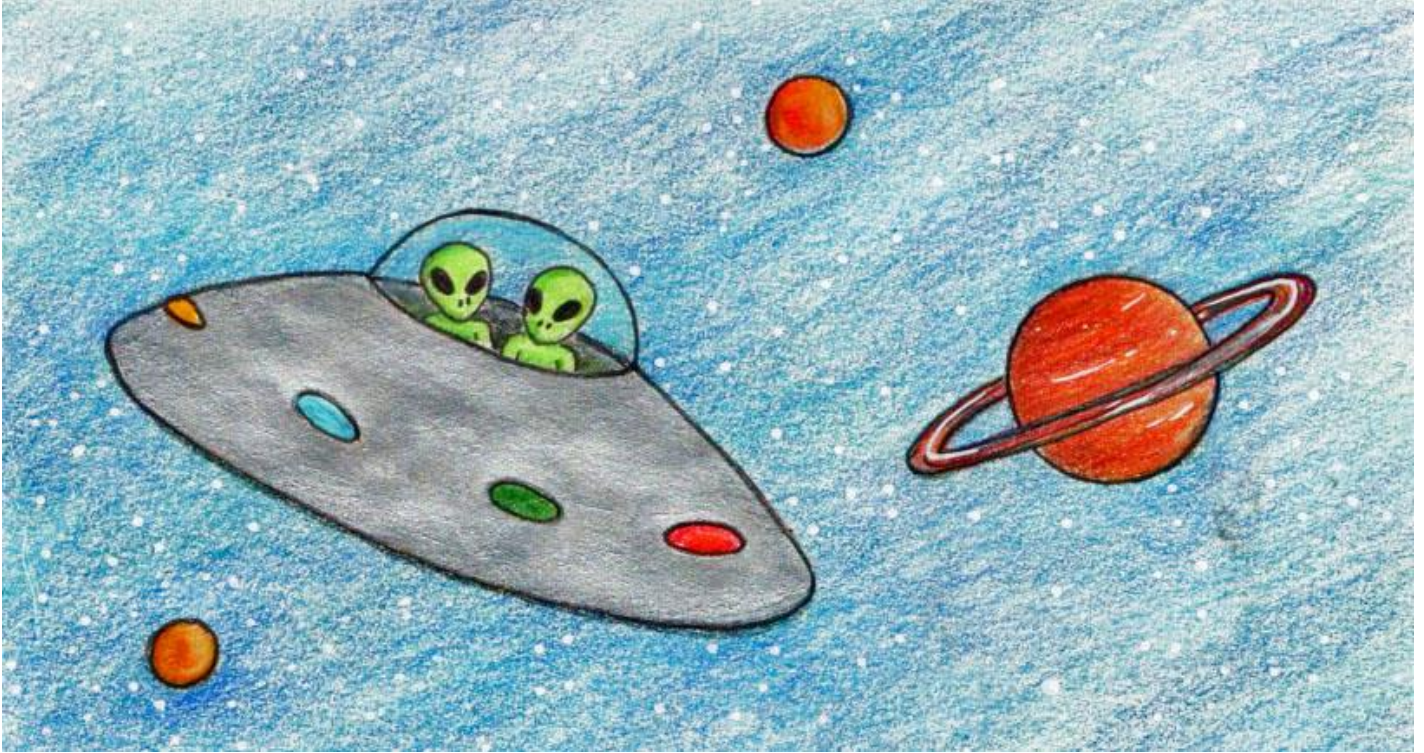
TGS Hill Country Gourd Patch - Burnet, Llano and more
Contact: Rickie Newell 830-613-4246 rickie.newell@gmail.com
Facebook: Hill Country Gourd Patch

TGS Southeast Texas Gourd Patch - Houston TX area
Contact: Penny Lyons txlyonsden@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.artisanart.biz/tgssoutheast

TGS West Texas Gourd Patch - Lubbock TX area
Contact: Paula Bownds bownds@windstream.net

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for the 2019 Lone Star Gourd Festival



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TGS Patch Happenings

Arlington Gourd Patch

The Arlington Gourd Patch invites everyone in our area to come to any of our meetings. We meet the third Sunday of each month, except August, at the Fielder House Museum, 1616 Abram Street (corner of Abram St and North Fielder Road), Arlington, TX, at 2:00 pm. Due to ongoing renovations at the Fielder House, we meet upstairs.

In October, Georgia Cunningham led the workshop on "Patina Metal Brads". In this workshop, we learned how to create a painted patina look on small brads and then to attach the brads to small egg gourds in a desired pattern. The brads on the gourds will be used in the January workshop on Knotless Netting, also to be led by Georgia

In November, the meeting was a Christmas party and snack potluck. We also had a gift exchange with gourd-related gifts. We were visited by our friend Jean Greenwell Browne.

There was no meeting in December, so everyone could spend time with their family and friends.

Bay Area Gourd Patch



The weather along the coast has been mostly sunny and warm with small cold fronts (well, cool fronts) here and there. The pecan trees have finished producing and we are now picking grapefruit in the back yard. Most of the craft shows are over and gourd art seems to be more popular than ever.

At the last meeting we made Christmas trees from gourd tops. Everyone had a different tree with some whimsical and some fall trees. January will be our planning meeting to elect a new patch leader and plan for classes.



CC Rice

Capital of Texas Gourd Patch



Howdy!
Welp, it has been pretty busy around here.

I received a note from a couple from the United Kingdom saying they were coming to Austin and would it be possible to meet with our patch - well yeah!!! John and Jane are a lovely couple and he grows and works with gourds at their home and both are crafty in other mediums! On their travels Wimberley was one of the stops along with camping at Inks Lake. John and Jane are at the top left of the photo,

next is Mike-in front of the table is Betsy and Yoanna. On the far right is Rona, Debbie (me!), and Jeanine.

We met in November with snowmen on our minds. It was a lot of fun and who would have thought that a snowman could stay warm in front of a heater and not melt, in fact, seeming to enjoy it!!!

January will be our next meeting where we will throw all our project ideas on the table and fit them into the calendar! If you would be interested in coming to one of our patch meetings, you are more than welcome. Have a wonderful New Year and keep on gourding!!!
Debbie



Coastal Bend Patch



Coastal Bend Gourd Patch Christmas Party was fun for all. Dirty Santa was played and a lot of “stealing “went on in our small group. Good food was also had by all. It is amazing the variety of food that comes with doing a pot luck. Hopefully we will be able to have more meetings in 2019 than we had in 2018. Shelia had to make several trips to Louisiana to take care of her mom and dad. Everything is in God’s hands.

In October, we made Halloween witches. No sure if anyone was scared by them but we had fun doing them. Maybe this Fall we will add ghosts to the collection.



Hill Country Gourd Patch



The Hill Country Gourd Patch held its meeting at The Llano Art Guild. We worked on small gourds with the plan to put them on wreaths for Christmas.

We let Cedar Fever win in December. Achooo!

Guadalupe Gourd Patch

The Guadalupe Gourd Patch is excited to say that the 2019 Competition Rules and Application are now on the TGS website. There are some major changes, so please read through the rules, carefully. We have removed some categories due to lack of interest the past years and have added some new ones. We have expanded the Youth categories and add a Youth Open category for the Celestial Beings. Youth can now have two entries.

We have added Challenge categories to the Intermediate, Advanced and Masters, as well as the Open Category, Celestial Beings. There will be one Challenge category for Intermediate, two for Advanced and four for Masters. Please note that those entering Masters are required to enter at least one Challenge. We felt that those who have reached the Masters Division should be able to meet this challenge. All the challenge categories are interesting and fun. We hope to see a record number of entries for this year.

Southeast Texas Gourd Patch



The Southeast Texas Patch had a great Christmas party at The Glazier Center and numerous gifts items were traded and some were “stolen” which produced some laughs and a few groans from members who got the gift they wanted and others who had to give up a treasured item.

At the January patch meeting, Margaret Bell volunteered to serve as secretary and Penny Lyons agreed to continue serving as president. Ideas for each month’s meeting were discussed and it was suggested that members bring a large gourd to each workshop and use the gourd as a sampler of ideas instead of bringing a different gourd for each workshop.



The Festival challenge was presented, and the patch determined what their group project would be. Roy will take care of getting the needed supplies and everyone participating will bring their idea to the April meeting showing the progress so far.

Two Invitations from The Dallas Gourd Patch!



“Woodland Creature Workshop”

March 15, 2019

(and possibly second day on
March 17)

We are very privileged to have Donna Armstrong coming on this date to teach us how to make these beautiful woodland

creatures! Donna is a very talented artist in just about every field but is one of the finest painters we have seen.

Class will be held at the Elks Lodge, 8550 Lullwater, Dallas on Friday, March 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are interested in joining this class please contact Dee Reichert at Dee22450@sbcglobal.net or 817-929-3191. Class fee is \$65 and many supplies will be furnished.

The class is being held the Friday **before** our TGS spring meeting. We hope that you will join us for both events. If this class fills, and we expect it to, we will host a second workshop on March 17, the day **after** the TGS spring meeting.

TGS Spring Meeting

March 16 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Dallas Gourd Patch is excited to host the TGS Spring Meeting on March 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 8550 Lullwater, Dallas, Texas. We will be furnishing a BBQ dinner for \$7 a plate. Food being made and served by the Dallas Gourd Patch members! (We have some great cooks!) There will be demo's following the meeting. Contact Dee Reichert at Dee22450@sbcglobal.net or 817-929-3191 for details

TGS Featured Artist

David Cleaveland



While in Tennessee several years ago, I saw a television program about gourd art. Never had heard of gourd art... but I was immediately fascinated with what I had seen and attended the festival advertised for the following weekend. It was amazing. A gourd artist there sold me a black trash bag full of tops and bottoms she had cut from gourds to do her work. She charged me \$3 for the bag and said "here, see what you can do". From that bag I created 21

birdhouses putting tops and bottoms together. They were the last birdhouses I ever made, but I was hooked. It didn't hurt that I sold every birdhouse. That was 4 1/2 years ago and now it is major part of my life.



There is a big influence of the Southwest and the Native American culture in my work today. That is because I was born in New Mexico and grew up there and in El Paso. I was around it all the time. The Southwest native culture is so distinctive and beautiful that nearly every gourd I do is influenced by that style. I am always anxious to see where each gourd takes me. While I have an idea about each gourd when I begin, it often evolves and grows into something quite different when it is completed.



I am a member of the Guadalupe Gourd Patch and have won ribbons at the Alabama Festival, Texas Festival, Kerrville Fine Art Gourd Show and New Braunfels Art League. I have been fortunate to be around outstanding gourd artists now for several years. Among them Judy Richie, Roy Cavarretta and others. My work is unique, but it is mine and I love sharing it with gourd art lovers everywhere.

~David Cleaveland

Ways and Means News

By Roy Cavarretta, Chairman

The Ways and Means Chair is responsible for creating opportunities that will raise money for the Texas Gourd Society. This year Roy Cavarretta has volunteered to be the chair of the 2019 fund raiser.

With good contributions to the silent auction, plus the raffle ticket sales, Ways and Means can be the most profitable revenue generator.

This year's Raffle will be similar to last year with the gourds being donated by Award Winning Gourd Artists.

This year, there will be an incentive for the TGS member that sells the most Raffle tickets prior to July 15, 2019. Raffle tickets will be available for pick up at the TGS Spring Meeting that is being held in Dallas on March 16, 2019. The incentive being offered is a Complimentary room at the Hampton Inn in Schertz, TX which is approximately 15 miles from the New Braunfels Convention Center, the location of the TGS Festival. The gourd festival will be open to the public on August 2 through August 4.

As Chair of Ways and Means, Roy is requesting that each patch assemble and donate a basket of gourds and/or gourd art related items. This could be supplies, books, burrs, embellishments, inks, paints, brushes etc. Roy is also asking for donations from individual members to donate a completed gourd of competition quality for the silent auction. You may also donate a piece of equipment or tool either new or in near-new condition to put into the silent auction. These items can be delivered to the TGS Festival at the Ways and Means Booth. If possible, please provide the approximate value with your donation to put on the bidding sheet along with recognition of you as the donator.

The Ways and Means silent auction will end at 4:15 p.m. Saturday afternoon, August 3, 2019. This will allow time the highest bidders to pick up their items Saturday afternoon. Those not present can be notified and can pick up their items on Sunday.

Luffa Gourds

by Joe Pritchard



There are three main types of gourds:

- Hard-shell
- Ornamental
- Luffa (Loofah)

Luffa gourds require the longest growing season of all gourds – they require at least 110 days to mature.

Luffa may be eaten when small (less than 12 cm or 4.5 inches in length) and still green. They are used in the Far East and India as a common ingredient in soups and stir-fried dishes.

Luffas should be planted in rows 6 feet to 9 feet apart and the plants should be 4 feet to 5 feet apart within the rows. Luffas have yellow flowers – like the ornamental gourds – and bloom during the day. Hard-shell gourds have white flowers and bloom at night.

Luffa gourds should be left to dry on the vine. Water evaporates through the skin of the gourd. They will discolor and become a dark brown as they dry. Gourds will also become extremely lightweight as the water evaporates.

Do not let Luffas hang in wet weather for long periods because the sponge inside will discolor.

Once the Luffa is completely dried, you are ready to harvest the sponge inside.

- cut off several inches of the stem end
- gently tap the open end against your hand to dislodge the seeds;
- submerge the gourd in a container of warm water, 5 to 20 minutes
- drain the gourd
- make a shallow cut the length of the outer shell; peel back the shell and lift out the sponge
- cut the sponge into pieces as desired – cut perpendicular to the long axis for bath sponges or along the long axis for mitts and pads
- run the pieces through the short, hot-water cycle with soap and a little bleach
- dry completely

The cleaned and dried sponges may be tinted using Rit Dye products. Color your sponges to match a bath gift basket you are preparing. If you make soap, place pieces of luffa sponge in the soap bars to create a “scrubbing” soap.

Keep the luffa sponge healthy!

Rinse your loofah well after each use and squeeze and shake out excess water.

Keep your loofah dry to prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for nasty germs.

Soak your loofah in diluted bleach for five minutes each week to kill bacteria and germs.

You can periodically microwave a synthetic loofah for two minutes to decontaminate it. Make sure there are no metal parts.

Give your loofah a spin in your washing machine! You should wash it every week in cold water using a mild or gentle cycle. Do not put the sponge in the dryer as the natural fibers will melt.

THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE IS A BENEFIT OF TGS MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to view this and back issues in color
you can access them on the website.

<http://www.texasgourdsociety.org>



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AD RATES FOR 1 YEAR (4 issues) Includes a LINK on the TGS website to your website, or your email and/or phone number. Single issue ads do not receive a free website link.

Full Page AD (8.5 x 11 inches)	\$60 per issue
1/2 Page AD	\$30 per issue
1/3 Page AD	\$20 per issue
1/4 Page AD	\$15 per issue
1/6 Page AD (3 x 3.5 inches)	\$10 per issue

AD RATES PER ISSUE Single issue ads will run higher if you do not go with a full year – and, do not include a free link listed as “Gourdzette Advertisers”. Full Page AD (8.5 x 11 inches) \$70 per issue

1/2 Page AD	\$35 per issue
1/3 Page AD	\$25 per issue
1/4 Page AD	\$18 per issue
1/6 Page AD (3 x 3.5 inches)	\$12 per issue

Deadlines for ad changes are the first day of January, April, July, and October

Check should be made payable to:

Texas Gourd Society
Blanche Cavarretta, Treasurer
220 CR 90 E
Hallettsville, Texas 77964



Hordes of Gourds

Gourds for sale \$2 - \$8

Llano , Texas

Rickie Newell 830-613-4246