



THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 4

October 2018



Best in Show 2018

by Roy Poma

Inside:

Make a Birdhouse the Right Way

An Out-of-this-World Idea for 2019

Patch News!



President's Message by Shelia Guidry

Chapter News
Texas Gourd Society
Kappa Chapter of the American Gourd Society

Congratulations to Roy Poma, Best in Show at this year's Lone Star Gourd Festival. And congratulations to all winners and thank you to all who entered competition. There were some beautiful, unique, colorful, intense, creative, surprising and amazing gourds. There are a lot of talented gourd artists, young and old and in-between and thanks for all the entries.

I am grateful for all who helped in any way with the Festival. It takes an army to do everything that is needed to put on the Lone Star Gourd Festival. David Cleaveland, incoming president, will need help especially filling the chair positions still vacant- Vendor Chair, Hospitality, Ways & Means and Set Up/Tear Down. Please talk with your patch and volunteer for one of these positions. Support from all patches is needed to keep the Festival alive and profitable.

TGS did make a profit again this year from the Festival. TGS made approx. \$2276. A profit has been made every year that the Festival has been in New Braunfels. But I know some vendors have seen a decline in sales. A new advertising agency has been hired and we will give it another year and see what happens. Hopefully, with Texas Highway event magazine doing an article on the Festival to run next year, we will see an increase in admissions.

A **big thank you** to Michael Smith for taking the pictures of the competition winners. We definitely could not afford to hire someone who does as good a job as you do.

Due to the amount of memory that pictures take up on the website, the competition pictures will be on the Festival tab on the website and will not be repeated in the Gourdlette. To see the pictures, go to www.texasgourdsociety.org then go to right top of page and click on Festival. If you receive your Gourdlette in the mail, the pictures will be in your Gourdlette.

Minutes to the Fall Meeting are included in this Gourdlette so those that did not attend can see them. Minutes will be approved at the Spring meeting. The Dallas patch will have the Spring meeting in 2019 at the Elks Club on the third Saturday in March. Thank you, Dallas Patch for stepping forward to host the Spring meeting. Hill country patches or Houston area patches, please think about being host next year.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me over the past 5 years especially Blanche and CC who have always been there for me to fall back on for help. At times it has been a difficult task but my heart and soul were always in it. And I will continue to support and help TGS.

Shelia Guidry, 2018 TGS President

Shelia Guidry, 2018 Texas Gourd Society 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	Shelia Guidry Cell	337-376-9690 864-569-9595	sheliaathome@aol.com
Vice President	Don Sharp	214-213-8131	dsharp14@aol.com
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Membership	Debbie Clausen	903-364-5475	dclausen82@verizon.net
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Board members

Cheryl Trotter (2017-2019)	281-300-5013	4cheryltrotter@gmail.com
John Flewharty (2017-2019)	214-341-2641	dsf1511@verizon.com
Mari Tarver (2016-2018)	972-524-9488	maritarver@mypbmail.com
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Gourdzette Editor

Rickie Newell	830-613-4246	rickie.newell@gmail.com
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Membership Matters

Blanche Cavarretta has been wearing 2 hats for TGS for several years now. Thanks so much to Blanche for handling Membership along with Treasurer. And a big thank you to Debbie Clausen who has agreed to take over Membership.

So please send 2019 dues to:

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Debbie Clausen
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or email agsmembership@comcast.net

Texas Gourd Society does NOT collect dues
for American Gourd Society

TGS Patch Contacts

TGS Arlington Gourd Patch - Arlington, TX area
Contact: Joe Pritchard 817-909-2814 stormy7606@hotmail.com
Website: www.freewebs.com/ArlingtonGourdPatch

TGS Bay Area Gourd Patch - Baytown TX area
Contact: Kay Langely langlevjk@earthlink.net

TGS Capitol of Texas Gourd Patch - Austin, TX area
Contact: Debbie Garcia momadot@sbcglobal.net

TGS Coastal Bend Gourd Patch - Corpus Christi, TX area
Contact: Shelia Guidry 337-376-9690 Sheliaathome@aol.com

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
Contact: Dee Reichert 817-929-3191 dee22450@abcgloba.net
Website: www.facebook.com/DallasGourdPatch

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

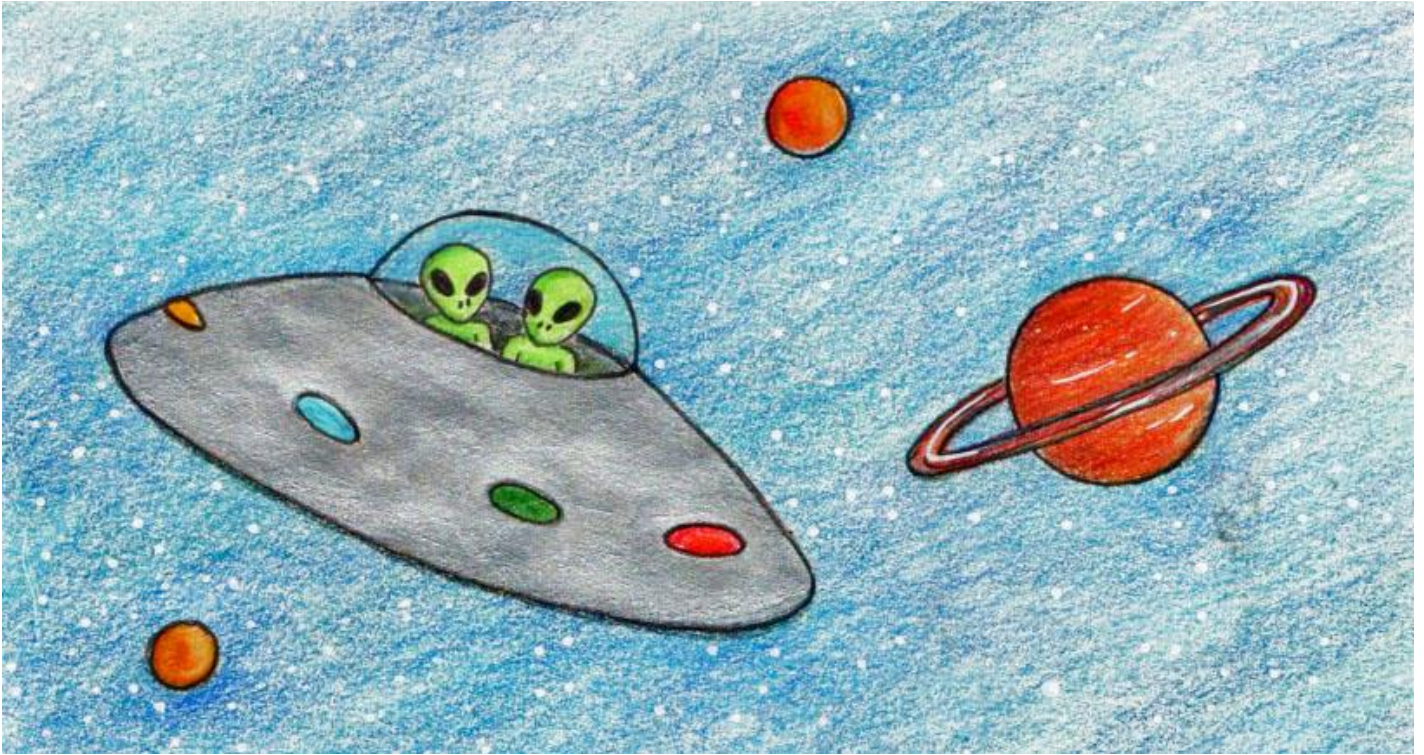
TGS Hill Country Gourd Patch - Burnet, Llano and more
Contact: Rickie Newell 830-613-4246 rickie.newell@gmail.com
Facebook: Hill Country Gourd Patch

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

Calling all Celestial Beings

for the 2019 Lone Star Gourd Festival



Fast Forward to the Future and create a visitor from or beyond the Milky Way. Intergalactic Gathering is an Open Category and is eligible for the Best of Show Award. Open your mind and imagination and make the best creature ever. Two heads? Multiple arms? Legs? Purple or whatever color turns you on. Let's see your wild side. We are announcing this category so you will have plenty of time to create this wonderful being. Name your being along with its Planet. Tell us it's story. Let's break the record for the number of entries in a category. Just imagine the Competition Room filled with Out-of-this-World beings. Since this is an Open Category it will not be judged for a Best of Division, but will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards. And, don't forget, it will be eligible for Best of Show and any other major award.

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TGS Patch Happenings

Bay Area Gourd Patch

The Bay Area patch meets every 3rd Friday at 9am at the Santa Fe, Texas Community Center. New TGS members are welcome to join us. They will need to join the Community Center for \$10/year.

We got rid of Harvey, but here it is raining again for a week. And the rain brought the mosquitos back. Some are so tiny you can't feel them bite. And some were the biggest I've seen in a lifetime on the coast!. You can't get in the door without 100 of them coming in with you!



During July, Neva Cauley taught weaving with wire. We did not meet in August due to the festival. In September, we worked on carving a coiled section of gourd using different burrs that included a wheel, inverted cone, and the SaburTooth concave cylinder.

Next month we will be making a holiday gourd and we are planning what to make for our patch booth next year.



Capital of Texas Gourd Patch

Howdy everyone! What a fun fest it was this year. Seeing old friends and making new ones is what it is all about! I learned a lot of "behind the scenes" this year. I helped with the setting up and tearing down of the competition area and took the competition pieces to be photographed. It does take a lot of people to make the festival run, and I strongly suggest that if you can help, please do so!

Our patch got into the swing of Halloween at the last meeting. Everyone had a different idea of what they wanted to make, and all was good and at times spooky! Lynda made a witch that was gorgeous along with being a "witch". Lovely eyeshadow, ruby red lips, and even though her hands were creepy, lovely red fingernail polish! Yoanna did some wood burning and used the wood burning buddy for ventilation. What a tool! You would never have known she was doing any burning! So we had bats, kitties, scarecrows, candy corn!

Our next meeting will be in November where we will learn the technique of applying texture to snowmen. Maybe the weather might even be a bit cooler!

If you are interested in joining / getting more information, please send an e-mail to Debbie Garcia.

Cowtown Gourd Patch



For our September meeting, Nancy Walsh taught acrylic pouring.



For show and tell, Susan Ashley brought 2 of her finished gourds



and Nancy Walsh brought 2 gourds she finished from taking Bonnie Gibson's classes at the conference.



Our group has decided on a group project for next year's conference.

Cindy Lear



Hill Country Gourd Patch

We had a lovely day on Rickie's porch in August just after Festival. We all made thunder gourds. We very much looked forward to meeting in September, but the rain was nonstop. Good for our Llano River and the Lakes of the Hill Country, but not so much fun for the gourd artists that day.

And now we can see the ultimate benefit of that wet two weeks. The gourd vines are exploding with extra-large fruit. It's going to be a busy few months, for sure. This is a picture of the gourd vines that have volunteered just around Rickie's porch. The real gourd garden is growing behind a deer fence.

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www.facebook.com/groups/pyrography.gourd.art.1

Email: nedra@sawdustconnection.com

Guadalupe Gourd Patch



We are having a great time in our patch meetings. Our numbers are growing, and we fill up Judy's house to the max every time.

We spent our time in July getting ready for the Festival. Laying out the booth, gathering supplies for sale and making tree ornaments for the donation to the tree. As usual, the designs were colorful and quirky. Each one a Christmas Delight.

We did not meet in August due to the proximity to our successful festival in New Braunfels. Everyone needed a break. Our Patch volunteered for the competition next year, so we spent time planning many surprises for next year.

In September everyone brought projects worked on in the great classes we had this year. So many new ideas and even though many of the gourds were from the same class, they all were totally different.

Great fun seeing everyone's creativity at work. And the many new techniques learned.

We hope we may have 3 new members from the festival. If you're looking for a patch where you will be challenged and be surrounded by great gourd friends, you are invited to Guadalupe Gourd Patch. We meet the second Saturday of the month, 10:00 till 2:00. And we have great food supplied by our members. We would love to have you.



David Cleaveland

A Competition note from Judy Richie:

The Guadalupe Gourd Patch will be heading up Competition for the 2019 Lone Star Gourd Festival. I am asking all patch leaders to canvas your members at your next meeting about what categories they would like to see added to the competition. While not all suggestions can be added, we would like to have at least one from each patch. We will be going through all the categories and checking to see how many entries there has been for the last 3 years. So, we possibly will be deleting some of them for lack of interest.

Also, there will be a Patch Challenge. This will be a grouping of your choice, such as a Hobbit village, a gathering of fairies, desert animals, etc. This something for the whole patch to participate in and there will be an award for the best grouping. We are giving y'all plenty of time to create the best.

Be sure and watch for a themed, special category that will be announced later. We think that it's going to generate a lot of attention.

Southeast Texas Patch

The Southeast Texas Patch oversaw the Competition at the TGS Festival, August 1-5, 2018, in New Braunfels. We had many of our members enter gourds, work as judges and scribes for the judging of entries, provide food for the vendors, take classes and help out when needed in Admissions and Ways and Means.

We were also happy to bring home several ribbons as well as one Best of Division. Winners in the Novice Division were: Kelly Clawson-1st in Carved, Fantasy, Southwest, Holiday, Mixed Media, 2nd in Spirit figure, Pyrography, Miniature, Mask, 3rd in Wearable and Painted; Cheryl Mohn-3rd in Vessels; Winners in the Intermediate Division were: Nita Beard-1st in Vessels and Musical, 3rd in Wearable, Gloria Drab-2nd in Fantasy, 3rd in Vessels; Bobby Thornton-3rd in Carving, 1st in Mixed Media, Animal Designs, Pyrography, Masks, Southwest and 1st in Fiberworks--which also was Best of Division; Winners in the Advanced Division were: Joanne Tompkins-1st in Fiber Works and 3rd in Mixed Media; Blanche Cavarretta-1st in Vessels and Animal Design and 2nd in Mixed Media and Texas our Texas; and Winners in the Masters Division were: Roy Cavarretta-1st in Spirit Figure and 2nd in Nature's Wonder, Pyrography and Southwest.

Congratulations to all the winners from our patch and looking forward to 2019 with more entries which hopefully will mean more ribbons. Our patch will oversee Admissions for the 2019 Festival--more on that closer to the Festival.



Bobby Thornton
Best of Division
Intermediate
Fiberworks

Minutes (as submitted) of TGS FALL MEETING

Location: New Braunfels, TX

8/4/2018

Thank you:

Thank you to Pumpkin Hollow Gourds for rising to the occasion when Bayou Gourds could not attend due to Zelda Hornsby's injuries and agreeing to come to our festival at the last minute with all your wonderful gourds. We were all very pleased with the quality and variety of your gourds.

Thank you to all the Officers, Committee Chairs and other volunteers. Because of all your time and hard work, we had another successful festival. A special thank you to Michael Smith, who has volunteered the past three years to take the photographs of all the first place winners in each division/category. He is a professional photographer and because of him we have beautiful representations of our work on our website for everyone to appreciate.

It's a lot more fun when you are involved in some aspect of bringing the world of gourds to those who are new to the medium or helping those who are creating art with this medium with classes, advice and supplies. We have a new group of officers and committee chairs for next year and I encourage all members to get involved. WE NEED YOU AND YOU WILL FIND IT FUN AND REWARDING!

Thank you to our outgoing President, Shelia Guidry, for her leadership and service these past three years, and thank you to David Cleaveland for agreeing to lead us next year. Thank you also to outgoing committee chairs, Blanche Cavarretta (Membership), Nita Beard (Competition), Vicki Echols (Education), Sharon Flewharty (Admissions), Neva Caulay (Vendor) and Penny Lyons and Abby Sandlin (Hospitality).

Call to Order and Minutes:

Meeting called to order by President, Shelia Guidry. The Secretary, Joanne Tompkins, read the minutes from the spring meeting and they were adopted by the membership.

Treasurer's Report – Blanche Cavarretta:

Starting Balance as of 8/4/2018: \$16,415.29

Expenses since 1/1/2018: \$8,177.18 (still outstanding direct expenses of apx. \$9,520.00)

Receipts since 1/1/2018: \$17,111.29

Ending Balance: \$25,863.71

Membership Report – Blanche Cavarretta: NOTE: Membership Report overlooked at meeting but following is an addendum.

We began the year with 160 members. The number paid as of August 4, 2018, is 141, 15 of whom became new members at the 2018 Festival.

Website – C.C. Rice:

There is a problem with Paypal and a requirement for a paid security certificate. The update of the website will be on hold until after the festival.

Gourdzette – Ricki Newell

Need articles, photographs and activities from the Festival for the October issue. The deadline is September 25, 2018.

Vendor – Neva Caulay

Discussion concerning badges for vendor booths, including support persons. Vendor committee or show chair needs to be responsible for providing badges based upon the vendor applications. Applications supposed to list the head of the booth along with two workers. Patches also pay as a vendor and get two badges per patch. The guidelines need to be updated as Neva said she received no instructions and did not know what Vendor committee supposed to do about badges. Membership approved motion to ask the Board to decide how to handle name badges, what cost would be to provide blank cards and holders and printing.

Education – Vicki Echols

Bonnie Gibson had 142 students which was great except it made it difficult for other teachers to get students. There were cancellations of classes because teacher felt there were not enough students to make it worthwhile. Vicki will prepare a report and make suggestions for next year so Board can decide on a policy for teacher cancellations.

Competition – Nita Beard

There were 153 competition gourds entered this year, 20 less than last year. We need more people to pre-registration to reduce the wait time on delivery day. Mike Ford indicated we may need to adjust fees to make it more of an incentive to pre-register. This year it was just \$1.00 more per entry to register late than early. Nita indicated she had prepared a notebook to pass to the new Competition chair concerning list of judges, where to purchase ribbons, etc. Roy Poma won People's Choice with his beautiful carving with the hummingbirds.

Set-up and Tear-Down:

There is no chair for this important position but THANK YOU to Howard and Gloria Drab, Jimmy Rice and Roy Cavarretta for arriving early Wednesday morning and bringing all the items from storage. By the time committee chair and vendor booth persons arrived to begin setting up, everything was already laid out. It made a beautiful beginning to a difficult task. Also, on Sunday there were multiple volunteers to help with the take-down. Thanks to all who helped with this task!

Admissions – Sharon Flewharty

Sharon reported there were 225 attendees on Friday and 209 on Saturday. Sharon said she would prepare a description of Admissions duties to pass along to the next chair.

Ways and Means

No one came forward to accept the position of chair of this important committee, but C.C. Rice, Mike Ford and Shelia Guidry stepped in to work with the publicity person to make posters for distribution, set up the auction items, etc. Mike Ford redesigned the Lone Star Gourd Festival logo, which now says "Lone Star Gourd Festival and Art Show." Attached is a report showing the advertising mediums and coverage with flyers and posters.

Demos Report:

Roy Cavarretta, Marla Garber, Sue Haberer and Shelia Guidry did demos. Shelia asked more members to step up to do demos.

Kid's Corner – Rona Thornton:

This was Rona's 4th year to do the "Kid's Corner." She thanked everyone who has donated supplies for her to use so that she has not had to spend any of TGS money for this very successful activity. In fact, it has been so successful, that adults have also wanted to take part. Therefore, Rona would like to rename the Kid's Corner something like "Family Fun Center" or "Imagination Station" to be more inclusive.

Old Business:

Darlene Thornton worked hard on getting a teacher's workshop together, worked up a curriculum and has made a monumental effort to interest the New Braunfels ISD in this program. She has been met with a wall of bureaucracy and is very disappointed. However, when she arrived for the Festival, she contacted Comal ISD and received a warm reception to her ideas. She gave the information to the Curriculum Director and will follow up to hopefully have something in place for next year.

Kelly Clawson reported no one but Roy Cavarretta gave her anything for a video of gourd work but Darlene has been taking photographs at the festival classes of people working showing progression. Please support Kelly for this project.

New Business:

We have a new contract so we will stay where we are for next year. Discussion of location will take place later.

The New Braunfels Art League gave David Cleaveland a warm welcome and asked each of us as individuals to enter their juried show to get involved in the local art scene. This reception is much different than what Shelia experienced. (Note: Shelia has since sent out an email with all the requirements/information concerning entering this juried show.)

Election of Officers:

David Cleaveland was elected President by acclamation.

Becky Klix was elected Vice President by acclamation.

Blanche Cavarretta will serve as Treasurer for another year.

Debbie Clausen was elected as Membership Chair by acclamation.

Roy Cavarretta and Judy Richie were elected to the BOD by acclamation to fill the vacancies left by retiring members Mary Tarver and Linda Hughes. The other Board members currently are Cheryl Trotter, John Flewharty, Rickie Newell and David Cleaveland.

Committee Chairs:

John Flewharty volunteered as show chair.

Guadalupe Patch volunteered as Competition Chair.

South East Patch volunteered as Admissions Chair.

Shelia Guidry volunteered as Education Chair.

Publicity: New Agency

These chairs were elected by acclamation. Still need to fill Vendor Chair, Hospitality, Ways & Means and Set Up/Tear Down.

Other New Business:

Suggestion was made and it was agreed to rotate the location of the Spring meeting between Houston, Dallas and the Hill Country (for example) so that more people can attend. The Dallas patch will have the meeting in 2019 at the Elks Club on the third Saturday in March. When it is their turn, the patch in that area will be responsible for finding a place to have the meeting. John Flewharty volunteered to divide the state into 3 or 4 geographic areas and prepare a map for us to review at the Spring meeting.

Texas Highways is going to feature us in their events magazine next year before the Festival. Debbie Clausen said she would contact the Sherman Events Program two weeks before the Festival to get us on their calendar. Several members suggested we buy ad space in Texas Co-op magazine since so many people have indicated they learned of the Festival through that magazine.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Joanne Tompkins

Make a Birdhouse from a Gourd!

(A great project to work on with your children/grandchildren)

Joe Pritchard would like to thank Tom Hornsby of Bayou Gourds for some of the information in this article.



If you have a spare gourd around the house and a little time, why not make a birdhouse? It's a simple project that will provide you the opportunity to watch birds nest and raise a family. Of course, not all birds will build a nest in a bird house.

The birdhouse gourd is probably the most commonly grown hard-shell gourd. They usually average 8" in diameter and 12" tall. Some bottle gourds may also be used to craft a birdhouse.

Wear a dust mask!!

The first step to cleaning up the gourds is lots of sanding. An electric sander speeds up this process, but sandpaper works just as well. When you have finished, the gourds should be lighter in color and very smooth.

Cut an entrance hole in your gourd— a 1 & 1/2" hole will satisfy just about all birds; a suggested guide is provided below, also. Use an Exacto knife, jigsaw, Dremel, or other device to cut the hole. The easiest to use is the hole saw attachment for a power drill.

Use a long-handled spoon or other device to clean out the seeds and other material from inside the gourd; it does not have to be perfectly clean.

Drill at least four small holes in the bottom of the gourd for drainage, or baby birds could drown when the home fills with rainwater.

You should paint the birdhouse a light color to reflect heat. A dark color will absorb heat from the sun and baby birds could die from high temperatures. Any good quality exterior paint will work. Never paint the inside because the odor from the paint could affect the birds.

Type of Bird	Size Gourd	Size Hole
House or Bewick Wren	7" to 9"	1"
Chickadee	7" to 9"	1 1/4"
Downy Woodpecker	7" to 9"	1 1/4"
Tree Swallow	7" to 9"	1 1/2"
Bluebird	7" to 9"	1 1/2"
Carolina Wren	7" to 9"	1 1/2"
Crested Flycatcher	8" to 10"	2"
Purple Martin	8" to 10"	2"
Small Owl	8" to 10"	2 1/2"
Flicker	10" to 12"	2 1/2"

Spray a coat of clear polyurethane on the outside of the house to protect the finish and seal the house.

Drill two small holes near the top of the birdhouse and insert a wire hanger or thread a wire through the holes to make a hanger.

If the birdhouse is mounted on a post, place a tin baffle on the post to prevent predators such as house cats, raccoons and snakes from reaching the house and its occupants.

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.

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THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

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:

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Blanche Cavarretta, Treasurer
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Hordes of Gourds

Gourds for sale \$2, \$3, \$4

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Rickie Newell 830-613-4246