



THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 4

October 2017



BEST OF SHOW

Best of Division

First Place

Shelia Guidry

MASTERS DIVISION

Category: My Idea

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President's Message by Shelia Guidry

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The last few months have been a trying time. I hope everyone came through the Hurricane with little or no damage. I do know that Zeldajean Byrd, who lives in Houston did have a lot of water in her house. Please let me know anyone that has lost gourd supplies and gourd tools due to the hurricane. I am sure as an organization, TGS members can pull together and donate gourd items to those that have lost them to the hurricane. I know some people would say that these items are not critical to survive, but personally, I do know that they are truly helpful for mental health. To be able to do something you truly love and not think about anything else is a break we all need.

Thank you to all who helped in any way with the 2017 Lone Star Gourd Festival. The festival did make a profit of **\$1194.05**. Without all the hard work of the chairs and all the volunteers, we would not be able to do a Festival. Thanks to the teachers, vendors and to those who took classes. Thanks to all who bought raffle tickets and who bought items from Ways and Means. And thanks to anyone else who helped in any way.

Congratulations to winners of the raffle gourds-

FIRST PLACE (Bonnie Gibson's gourd) – Dixie Hollers

SECOND PLACE (Shelia Guidry's gourd) - Joe Pritchard

THIRD PLACE (Roy Cavarretta's gourd) - Rona Thornton

And congratulations to all those who participated in competition and won awards. Congratulations to John Flewharty – Texas my Texas Award, Mike Ford- People's Choice Award, and to Shelia Guidry – Best in Show (OH- THAT IS ME).

2018 Officers and Board members were elected at the Fall meeting during the Festival. President Shelia Guidry has 1 more year on her term (and YES, 2018 will be my last year as president). Treasurer Blanche Cavarretta has agreed to another 2year term. And Vice President Don Sharp, Secretary Joanne Tompkin, and Past President Suzanne Haffey have all agreed for another term. David Cleaveland and Rickie Newell were elected as Board members for 3year terms. Thanks to all.

Mark your calendar- The 2018 Lone Star Gourd Festival will be Aug 1-5. 2019 will be July 31- Aug 4 and 2020 will be July 29- Aug 2.

Shelia Guidry, 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 2017

President	Shelia Guidry Cell	337-376-9690 864-569-9595	sheliaathome@aol.com
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Texas Gourd Society does NOT collect dues
for American Gourd Society

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Grand Winners

2017 Lone Star Gourd Festival



**VIP Award
People's Choice Award
First Place
Mike Ford
MASTERS DIVISION
Category: Fantasy/Whimsical**

All the other winners can be found- On TGS website - www.texasgourdsociety.org

- go to Festival (top left)
- go down to 2017 Competition and click there to see all the other winners.

TGS Patch Happenings

Capitol of Texas Gourd Patch

Howdy! The Festival was fun, really enjoyed popping into the different classes, and did take one also! Rona Thornton won Roy Cavarretta's gourd in the drawing, and our own Mike Ford won the VIP Award and the People's Choice Award.

Way to go!!

In September we met and worked on Mexican Luminaries. We had lots of clever ideas floating and ending up on the gourds!

It is always interesting to talk and swap ideas and knowledge from the members of our Patch. Until the next newsletter, keep gourding and have wonderful holidays!

Yours in gourding, Debbie Garcia

Coastal Bend Gourd Patch

Coastal Bend Gourd Patch has only had one meeting in the last few months. Life has been a little hectic. In July my mother fell and broke her hip so I spent a month in Louisiana. We did not meet in August because of the Festival. And then there was "Harvey the Hurricane." Corpus Christi did not suffer much damage but only 40 miles away, one of our members, Phil and his wife Mary lost their 5th wheel in which they live. Thank goodness, they had evacuated. They should have a new trailer soon and still plan on staying in Rockport. Phil could not wait for the September gourd meeting so life could get back to normal.

We did meet in September and made witches. One gourd painted green, green clay, plastic eyes and wool dyed green for hair and voila- one witch. Black hats, old candle holders spray painted white or black and Halloween fabric gathered up and glued to candle holder made a perfect stand for our "lovely" witches. Our witches are eagerly awaiting Halloween.

Next month, maybe a scarecrow to go with the witch.

Shelia Guidry, patch leader



Dallas Gourd Patch

Here's what we have been up to....



The Dallas Gourd patch has been in full summer mode these past few months. We met in July where Dee Reichert instructed us on how to do a "Faux Stone Finish". She shared her tutorial with us as we made quite a mess but had so much fun getting dirty! We wrapped up donation items and planned for our fall endeavors.

We skipped our normal August meeting while we attended the Texas State Gourd Festival in New Braunfels, where we had two members, Dee Reichert and Sue Haberer who taught classes for several days. Sue taught a Membres class, a carving class, a faux tooled leather class, and manned her beautiful booth. Dee taught a

"Decayed Wood" carving class and a fun-filled "Monster Gourd House" class where she picked up two new patch members! Our patch manned the Admissions table with Gay Lynn Bynum in charge. She welcomed over 500 attendees and numerous students. Debbie Clausen took on the challenge of arranging members from all over the state to give free demos in the exhibit hall. Several of our members had booths in the exhibit hall as well as a Patch booth manned by Jean and Walter Wharton and other volunteers. And we came home with several ribbons from the Junior class to the Master class!!!



In September we were shown a demo by Dee Reichert and Becky Truex using pigment powders to create a beautiful gourd finish. Picture attached.

We are now in full Fall swing doing demos for the State Fair of Texas and the Dallas Arboretum.

We are demoing every week during the month of October at the Arboretum where we are surrounded by literally hundreds of pumpkins, squash and gourds! What a beautiful setting and we are

honored to be involved in promoting gourds.

Every year the Arboretum allows our patch to gather gourds from their displays as they finish up their fall and move into Christmas. Because of their

generosity we repay them by making fall and Halloween gourds to sell in their gift shop. It's a win/win situation. And we appreciate Pat Duncan's hard work of getting it all done!

As I write this update, we are headed to the first Saturday of the Great State Fair of Texas to do our first demo. There will be four of us, Pat Duncan, Mari Tarver, Linda Hughes and Becky Truex who will be showing the hundreds of people how to carve, paint, wood burn and apply ink dye to gourds. Returning on two separate days in October will be Marla Garber, demoing gourd sculpture, and Sue Haberer, John Flewharty, and Sharon Cook demoing wood burning, carving, and painting. Last year we had so many people around our demo tables that we were blocking the aisles!

Mid October we will gather at the Clausen Gourd Farm in Whitewright for a carving demo by Sue Haberer and also enjoy a potluck lunch!

November will bring us home to our regular meeting place where we will learn marbling on ornamental gourds. Just in time for Christmas!

I have to say that this year has been a very full year for our patch. We have made and donated gourd art and taught and promoted the art of gourding to hundreds of people. I am very blessed to be around such talented, gifted, and generous gourdheads!

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>

Tissue Paper Texture

contributed by Sue Haberer

Using white tissue paper, the kind you use for wrapping gifts or stuffing into sacks, tear into 1" or 2" squares. Tear off all the straight, cut edges. You want all sides of the square to be torn. Working in small areas, coat the section of the gourd you are texturing with the acrylic matte gel. Pick up a square of tissue paper with your brush and place onto the area to be textured. Then brush it with another coat of matte gel - wrinkling the paper as you brush. Repeat the squares, OVERLAPPING each square.

Let dry. Stain or paint as desired.

Matte Gel



Tissue Paper Squares



Membership Matters

Texas Gourd Society's membership chair, Blanche Cavarretta, is updating our membership roll. If she has not received dues or confirmation that you have paid current dues, you will be taken off the membership list and you will not receive update emails from TGS.

Her mailing address for membership is:
Her email is brcavarretta@sbcglobal.net

Texas Gourd Society
Blanche Cavarretta
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"Best customer service EVER!" Kathy Kelley

Texas Gourd Society Shines at the Texas State Fair

The Dallas Gourd Patch was asked to do three demos during this year's fair. Our first demo was completed with remarkable success on the first Saturday of the fair with two more demos scheduled on Oct 4 and Oct 12.



It was a great kick off with Pat Duncan, Becky Truex, Linda Hughes, Mari Tarver and Dee Reichert manning the booth. We demonstrated, alcohol inks, dot painting, wood burning and carving to the hundreds of patrons that passed by our booth.

On October 4, Marla Garber will be demonstrating gourd sculpture. Sue Haberer, John Flewharty and Sharon Cook will be demonstrating carving, painting and wood burning on the Oct 12.

And to top it off we will be demoing every week during October at the Dallas Arboretum. Dallas Gourd Patch is certainly getting the word out about the art of gourds!

Using Botanicals to Create Beautiful Gourds

by Rebecca Bowden Narramore

Retirement has brought many joys not the least of which is the opportunity to indulge my passion for creating art. I first came to gourd art after seeing a fine art gourd exhibit by John Hernandez in Oklahoma. His work so impressed me that I took a class with him to learn some fundamentals. Since that time, I have enjoyed experimenting with a variety of techniques for decorating gourds. Using dried botanicals for decoration is a process that creates interesting textures, colors, and design elements.

Since I press and dry all my own botanicals, I offer a brief word about that process. Techniques for wildflower preservation include drying by pressing to produce a flat profile that lends itself to application on a smooth surface. Many wildflowers dry beautifully and even retain a substantial portion of their color. Gaillardia, golden rod, corn flowers, wild ferns, native grasses, and white flowers work particularly well for pressing. It is unnecessary to purchase expensive flower drying equipment because it is simple to dry wildflowers and grasses using easy low-tech methods and materials. Simply place the chosen botanical between two sheets of smooth tissue paper, place the paper-and-botanical sandwich between pages of a large book, weight the book with three or four heavy books, and in two to three weeks the specimen will be ready for a gourd project.

I have used dried specimens to decorate gourds with truly beautiful results. After applying ink dyes to the gourd body, I allow the piece to dry for at least twenty-four hours. I then apply any additional decoration I might use such as pine needle weaving around the top of the gourd. I am then ready to apply the pressed wildflower or herb. Application requires patience and careful use of super glue to avoid getting glue on the surface of the project or on the fingers. Super glue is, of course, a bit more difficult to use than white glue, but the results will be better because super glue dries much more quickly than white glue. Tools such as extremely thin tweezers are useful for holding the dried plant in place while the super glue sets.



When the glue has dried completely and the flower or botanical is securely mounted, apply several coats of clear acrylic varnish or polyurethane to protect both the dried plant and the piece on which it is applied including any pine needle weaving. This first example is a piece with an applied gaillardia and pine needle weaving around the top of the gourd. Other wildflowers and grasses make stunning applications as well.

The other photograph shows an unopened gourd with applied sage that was pressed and dried. Culinary herbs make particularly lovely applications. The slightly raised nature of the applied dried botanical makes for pleasing texture, color, and visual interest while providing artistic satisfaction and delight in natural beauty that can be enjoyed for many years.



Bead Woven Gourd Rim

by Pat Spain



Clean and paint a thin shelled gourd. Make rim smooth, **DO NOT DRILL HOLES** for class please use a small gourd; 4 inches in diameter would be great.

Supply List:

- Fabric to cover rim, 3/4-inch-wide strip on the bias of Ultrasuede fabric or thin leather (optional but makes the beads lie smoother and closer together)
- Alelene's Stop Fraying if using fabric
- Fabri-Tac if using leather
- Crafter's Pick Fabric Stiffener (optional) to use after beading is done.
- Pin vise (used to hold the needle to pierce gourd) **must have**
- #8 Glover needles
- #10 Sharps needles
- Beading thread. (Color to match beads)
- Thread Heaven thread conditioner or Beeswax (you can buy beeswax in a holder at the fabric store)
- Seed beads (3 colors to match your paint makes a nice trim design but you can use one color if you desire) size 11
- Small pliers (used to pull needle through sometimes)
- Thimble (if you sew with one) also good to pick up loose unused beads to place back in vile.
- The Picot I refer to is a 3 bead loop the same color as the rim color.

- The rim and 3-bead picot are always the same color (Color #1) alternate Bead colors #2 and #3 after each #1 color 3-bead picot

Step 1: Draw a line around the outside of the rim $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the top with a thin line Sharpie.

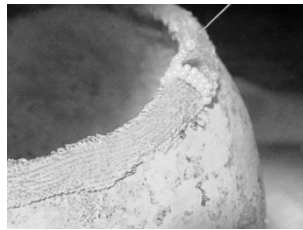
Step 2: Trim the rim with fabric. Cut a 3/4-inch-wide piece of Ultrasuede fabric on the bias the length around the outside of the rim. With the Stop Fraying, dot along the center on the wrong side of the fabric then spread it from edge to edges press the fabric around the rim adding Stop Fraying to the gourd on both sides inside the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch line. Place the fabric even with or barely covering the outside $\frac{1}{4}$ inch line-over the rim and to the back side. The Stop fraying will adhere to the gourd like glue. Let dry. If the fabric pulls away from the gourd a little, the beads and thread will hold it in place, so don't worry about it.

Step 3. Bead color #1. Draw a piece of thread about 36+ inches long. Pass thread through beeswax or conditioner. Thread your needle. Make a small knot in the thread and clip tail next to knot. In the front at the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch line run needle between the gourd and the fabric, pulling the thread to the front (outside) of the gourd just above the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch line so your knot is concealed between the gourd and the fabric. At the edge of the fabric, just under the thread, pierce the gourd with your pin vise held needle straight in from front to the inside to make a hole. You'll be surprised how easy

this process is. Run your needle and thread through the hole you just drilled to the inside of the gourd and pull it up tight. Now it is time to start your bead rim. You won't know just how many bead it will take to make the loop of beads over the rim so thread on 13 beads and push them all the way down the thread to the back of the first hole bring the beads up over the rim to the front and if that is the prefect number of bead to completely cove from the back of the hole, over the rim and to the first the hole, you're set to start beading, if not, add or subtract the number of beads until it is perfect. When the number is a perfect fit, run your needle and thread back through that first hole, pull up tight and thread on the number of bead you decided to use for a loop.



Now take the pin vise and press another hole to the right, at the same level just at the $\frac{1}{4}$ line and the width of a seed bead.



With the needle and thread, put on beads pass through the hole from front to back, pull up tight, thread on beads, make hole, pass needle through from front to back until you have completely covered the rim of the gourd. When you have finished with the rim beading, pull the needle and thread through the fabric at the inside of the gourd at the first hole where you started your beading and make a secure knot. You can run Fabri-Tac over the knot to make it even more secure, if you want. Throughout the beading when you run out of thread, pull another 36+ inches, run through beeswax or conditioner, thread the needle, make a small knot and run through the fabric in the inside of the gourd at the hole you just finished, for safety, make a stitch just under the hole. Thread on your beads, go up over the rim to the front, make the next hole and continue all around.

Step 4: Trim Pattern

ROW 1: Bead color #2. Pull a 36+ inch piece of thread, run through beeswax or conditioner, make a small knot, run between gourd and fabric just at a hole run the needle and thread up that row of 13 beads inside the beads (what I call the loop) come out of #9 bead at the back of the rim and go across at #9 of the next row and go down inside the beads of that row and out the #1 bead on the front of the rim, thread on three beads (picot) and go back up inside 9 beads of the next loop row, over and down inside to bead #1 thread on 3 beads go up through bead #1 come out at bead #9 at the inside of the rim cross over to the next row bead # 9 running thread through beads to bead # 1, thread on three bead picot. Continue all the way around the rim. When you run out of thread, knot at the inside of the rim just like before. Tie a knot and start at the front just like when making the first row around the rim. If there are an odd number of loops, make the last picot by going in and out of the same down side of the 13-bead loop. Run the needle and thread into second beads of the picot to start a new row.



ROW 2: Bead color #3. Thread on 5 beads of a contrasting color (bead color #3), run needle and thread through the second bead of the 3-bead picot making a 5 bead loop, repeat until completely around the rim.

ROW 3: Bead color #2. Continuing with same thread, to start row #3 run needle and thread through the center bead, bead of row #2 (the 5 bead loop) . Pick up 7 beads with your second color and continue around the gourd making 7 bead loops just as in row #2



ROW 4: Bead color #1. Run the needle and thread down through #1 bead of that loop the center bead of the previous row, through #1 and 2 of Row 2 through 1, 2, 3 of ROW 3 which is the middle bead of the Row 3 loop. Thread on 3 beads of color #1, run needle and thread back up bead 4, 5 and center bead of previous row, down through bead 1,2,3 of next loop, thread on three beads and continue this picot row until around gourd.



ROW 5: Bead color #2. Go through the #2 bead of the 3-bead picot and continue around gourd as in ROW 3 picking up 9 beads for this row's loop.

ROW 6: Bead color #1. Repeat ROW 4 by making a 3-bead picot in the middle bead of the loop of the previous row. Continue around Gourd

ROW 7: Bead color #3. Go through the #2 bead of the 3-bead picot and continue around gourd as in ROW 3, picking up 11 beads for the row's loop.

ROW 8: Bead color #1. Repeat ROW 4 making a 3-bead picot



ROW 9: Bead color #2. Go through the #2 bead of the 3-bead picot and continue around the gourd as in ROW 3, picking up 13 beads for that row's loop.

ROW 10: Color #1. Repeat ROW 4, making a 3-bead picot.

Take the needle thread back up and through the original rim beading row make a knot in the fabric on the back side of the rim. Clip thread and secure knot with Fabrc-Tac.

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.

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Deadlines for ad changes are the first day of March, June, Sept. or Dec.

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