



THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1

March 2017



Cheryl Trotter's Inspirational "My Idea"
entry from LSGF 2016

Gourd Patch News

Tool Talk – Gourd Cleaners

Mike Munter's Patina'd Feathers

Here, Piggy, Piggy!



President's Message by Shelia Guidry

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

The Spring meeting was March 11 at Texlake girl scout camp near Austin. It is such a beautiful area. But it did rain and rain and rain all the way from Corpus Christi to the camp. But I made it there with no issues. And about 30 other brave souls also ventured through the rain to get to the meeting.

Vickie Hartman, education chair(classes) plans on having all the classes for the Festival ready and posted on the TGS website no later than the end of March.

Ways and Means headed up by the Baytown Gourd Patch has some exciting plans for the Festival. A Bonnie Gibson gourd will be the focal point of the raffle this year. Bonnie Gibson does such beautiful work. Go to <http://www.arizonagourds.com/> or google Bonnie Gibson and click on images to see her gourds and be amazed. Along with Bonnie's gourd, there will be 2 more gourds from TGS members that will also be raffled. I have donated one so we need one more. **Please let CC Rice at cricetc@comcast.net and me at sheliaathome@aol.com know if you are willing to donate the 3rd raffle gourd and send a picture as soon as possible.** But we need to sell tickets. Most patches were represented at the Spring meeting and are bringing tickets to the patches. But if your patch did not get tickets, I will mail some to you. And if you do not belong to a patch, I will be happy to mail tickets for you to sell also. You can print the page with the pictures of the gourds to show people. I will update the pictures as soon as someone donates the third gourd and send the picture to everyone.

But that is not all – There will be a live auction at the Festival. It will be Aug 19 around noon. Decorated gourds from the patches or anyone who would like to donate one will be auctioned. There will also be a silent auction with donated items from patches and hopefully from vendors also. **So patches - start working on auction gourds and items.**

Plans for selling German pastries and coffee at the festival are also in the works and hopefully we can advertise to people to come enjoy coffee and pastry and look at all the wonderful gourd art.

Patches also picked up rackcards for everyone to hand out at Craft and art festivals you participate in, Art Centers, Galleries that you have gourds in, craft stores if they let you, school art teachers, garden centers and anywhere you can think of to advertise the Festival. Please let me know if you need rackcards and raffle tickets and I will mail them to you.

There are still vendor spaces available so if you are planning to rent one go the www.texasgourdsociety.org , click on "Festival," then scroll down to vendor information.

The contract is signed with the Hampton Inns that most of us have stayed at for the past 3 years for the Lone Star Gourd Festival. The rate this year is \$92 a night which is the cheapest rate they have. If you have previously used the military rate, this will be the same rate (\$92) so please ask for the Texas gourd society rate instead of military so we get to count you for the contract. The phone # to make reservations is 210-566-6110 and ask for the Texas Gourd Society rate of \$92. The address is [17702 Ih-35 N, Schertz, TX 78154](#) and is just a few exits south on IH 35. It is a nice, clean hotel and has a very good breakfast.

Shelia Guidry, president sheliaathome@aol.com 337-376-9690

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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Secretary	JoAnne Tompkins	281-497-3491	jtompkins7691@yahoo.com
Treasurer and Membership	Blanche Cavarretta	361-798-9538 361-772-6218	brcavarretta@sbcglobal.net
Past President	Suzanne Haffey	512-431-6030	bettiesuz@yahoo.com

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Rona Thornton (2015-17)	512-468-0700	rona.thornton8@gmail.com
Cheryl Trotter (2017-2019)	281-300-5013	4cheryltrotter@gmail.com
John Flewharty (2017-2019)	214-341-2641	dsf1511@verizon.com
Carey Collier (2015- 2017)	512-264-0436	cacollie2002@yahoo.com
Mari Tarver (2016-2018)	972-524-9488	maritarver@mypbmail.com
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TGS Website

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Gourdzette Editor

Rickie Newell	830-613-4246	rickie.newell@gmail.com
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www.americangourdsociety-org

agsmembership@comcast.net

TGS Patch Contacts

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TGS Capitol of Texas Gourd Patch - Austin, TX area
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TGS Coastal Bend Gourd Patch - Corpus Christi, TX area
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TGS Dallas Gourd Patch - Dallas TX area
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TGS Greater San Antonio Gourd Patch - San Antonio area
Contact: Michelle Montgomery, 210-846-5494 mr.mrs.monty@gmail.com

TGS Guadalupe Gourd Patch - Hill Country area
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Or Judy Richie judyrichie@yahoo.com

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

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Website: www.artisanart.biz/tgssoutheast

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

TGS Patch Happenings

Bay Area Gourd Patch



Months after the Lone Star festival, everyone was still talking about Linda Hughes' chicken gourds! So, we made our own in January. We had several of the Baytown Art League members attend that class. In February, we learned to inlay on a gourd and next month we will be making a basket pattern.

The Bay Area Patch is chairing Ways & Means at the festival and we hope to see lots of people in the booth!

The raffle is one of TGS' main fund raisers and helps them continue to bring the festival and professional classes to us. We are asking each TGS member sell 25 raffle tickets minimum. Raffle tickets are \$1/each or 6 for \$5 so they are very easy to sell.

We want to have fun with this and reward the highest ticket seller. Any person selling \$100 of tickets or more will have their name entered in a drawing for a free class up to \$75 value at the next festival.

The grand prize for the raffle is Hiding Out In Plain Sight by Bonnie Gibson. There will be 2 additional gourds drawn for 2nd and 3rd place. Shelia Guidry has donated one and we are hoping one of our Master's Division artists can donate another. Contact Shelia or C.C. Rice if you can do so.



Bonnie Gibson



Shelia Guidry

We will also have a silent auction and a live auction at the festival as an additional fund raiser. Patches are asked to donate 1-2 items that we can auction off. These can be art gourds, tools or other items that would interest the membership and the public.

Pick up raffle tickets from C.C. Rice by email at cricetc@comcast.net or call 409-945-2892.

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

220 CR 90E

Hallettsville, Texas 77964

Coastal Bend Gourd Patch



We are a small but active patch. In January, we did some weaving on the middle of the gourd.

In February, we finished weaving on the top of the gourd. Beads were used to finish the top.



Coastal Bend Gourd Patch. Just email or call Shelia Guidry at sheliaathome@aol.com phone 337-376-9690 or cell 864-569-9595.

It's A Date!

Lone Star Gourd Festival Dates

2017- Aug 16-20

2018 - Aug 1-5

2019 - July 31-Aug 4

2020 - July 29 - Aug 2

2021 - July 28 - Aug 1

Dallas Gourd Patch

The Dallas Gourd Patch met in February. New officers were welcomed.

They are: President, Dee Reichert.... Vice President, Mari Tarver.... Secretary, Jean Wharton....Treasurer, Pat Duncan. We also announced that Mari Tarver is now co-admin with Dee on the DGP Facebook page and Becky Truex will also co-chair the monthly Demos and workshops with Dee.

We started the year off with a bang, a three-month long demo and workshop.

In February, we had a two hour demo on clays, hosted by Dee Reichert and John Flewharty. We learned all the ins, outs, dos, don'ts and pros and cons of Apoxie Sculpt, Quickwood, paper/air dry clays and polymer clay. Dee then showed us how to sculpt hands, faces, eyeballs, feet, etc.

In March, we will take what we learned about clays and apply that knowledge in a gourd/clay sculpting workshop. Pat Duncan, Linda Hughes, and Dee Reichert will help guide us through the workshop.

April will be hosted by Pat Duncan, Sharon Cook, and Sylvia Gaines. They will give a workshop on painting our sculptured gourds. Sounds like fun, huh?!

Oh! And a HUGE thank you goes to Pat Duncan for being our treasurer for 24 YEARS!!!

Guadalupe Gourd Patch

The Guadalupe Gourd Patch is alive and well. We have been having some wonderful meetings.



In December, we had a Christmas party for members and spouses. There was a gourd ornament exchange among members.

The January meeting project was decoupage fabric on a gourd ornament. We had a ball with this project. For February, we did the first technique of a two-part project. We woodburned a flower design on a gourd. Planned for March is coloring the design with Colored Pencils.

We are looking forward to having a booth again at the Lone Star Gourd Festival. Many of our members will have gourd art for sale and are, also, planning to enter Competition.

Hill Country Gourd Patch

Our January meeting was a continuation of the coiling we began in December. Our members are brave and curious about every angle of gourd craft. And we are having lots of fun also.

The February meeting was concentrated on growing gourds. We also held a seed exchange of different varieties of gourds. Next fall should find the Hill Country awash in thick hard-shelled gourds of all sorts.

Our March meeting was our first foray into carving. The patch grew by three members. We worked a bit on filigree, discussed different bits and carvers, and finished with a try at wonders of Saber Tooth carbide burs.

Our April meeting will be meeting the lovely and talented and ever-so-gracious Miss Dee Reichert, who will instruct our patch in pine needle coiling. WHeee!

Southeast Gourd Patch

In February, our patch met at Margaret Bell's Home where we learned how to make a doll shape from 2 gourds. Below are a couple of photos to show Gourdzette readers.



Gloria and Howard Drab



Darla Hines with neighbors Noah and Judah

News from Hellen Martin

Hellen Martin has been a busy, busy gourd artist. She sends this bit of news on her promotions of gourd art.



Longhorn Piece - The Margaret Harwell Art Museum in Missouri held an exhibit from December 3 through January 29. They invited one artist from all 50 states to represent their state in the exhibit. I was selected to represent Texas and sent them the Longhorn piece. Their FB page is "Margaret Harwell Art Museum" if anyone wishes to get information about the museum.



Loving Western - This is a piece I did for the Colorado Indian Market and Southwest Showcase held in Denver. The show was held January 20-22, 2017. This show is a large event with top Southwest, Native American, and Western artists having booths. Of course, I had a booth displaying my gourds.



Comanche Nation's Poster - The Comanche Nation contacted me because they wanted to use one of my pieces on one of their posters for their 2016 Comanche Nation's Festival, which is a yearly event. The Comanche Nation festival was held September 30 through October 2, 2016. I received a special invitation to be present during their art awards. Even though I have a Comanche heritage, I'm not a member of any tribe. (need to work on that!) Therefore, I was unable to participate in the art competition.

Editor'

Looks to me like Texas has a treasure in Hellen Martin!

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>

MIKE MUNTER'S PATINA'D FEATHERS TUTORIAL



Patina'd Feather Tutorial

Materials:

- Bamboo skewers
- Watercolor paper
- White glue
- High Density modeling paste (Pebeo Michael's)
- Sculpt Nouveau metal coating (Bronze or Brass)
- Sculpt Nouveau patina
www.brickintheyard.com / 888 676-2489
- Acrylic paint
- Sandpaper

Tools:

- Pencil
- Xacto knife #11 blade
- Small clamps (alligator)
- Small paintbrush
- Mister/Spray bottle



Procedures:

Draw and cut out a feather shape from watercolor paper. Cut bamboo skewer to length of feather spine. Drill a 3/64" hole in skewer at the base of the feather. With an Xacto knife #11 blade, split the long length of the skewer from the hole down. Then taper the skewer to the shape of a feather spine with a knife or sandpaper.

Slip the paper feather into the slit in the spine and draw lines along both sides of the spine on both sides of the feather. Remove the feather from the spine and run a small bead of glue down the center of the feather and re-insert in the spine. Wipe off excess glue and clamp spine tight to the feather.

When the glue has dried texturize both sides of the feather with high density modeling paste using a small paintbrush. When dry paint with 2 coats of metal coating, allowing to dry between coats. Apply a 3rd coat to one side and while still wet spray with patina. Repeat on the other side of the feather. As it dries the feather will turn to the patina color. When dry paint the spine as desired.

Tool Talk

A New Feature by C. C. Rice

Gourd Cleaners

Wear a good dust mask when cutting or cleaning gourds! Preferably a half face respirator.

Cleaning the gourd is sometimes easy and sometimes not so much. Occasionally I open one and it is so dry I'm able to pull the seeds and membrane right out and scrape the sides with a hand scraper and I'm done. But then there are those that have that thick pesky white membrane all over the place.

Hand scrapers

These are great for getting the bulk of the membrane out. Know that they are very sharp on both sides of the metal loop all the way into the handle. There is no safe place for fingers except on the wood. I cut myself finding that out because in using the scraper, to avoid pulling the blade right out of the handle, I put my thumb on the cutting edge. I don't like these much but they do have their purpose and I still use them regularly. Much more cautiously now though!



Welburn Easy Cleaner Ball



For dry cleaning, this is a really good tool. They are available from Welburn Gourd Farm. I prefer the 2" balls in the long handles. They can be used in a hand drill or a drill press. I found the shafts to be true so that there is no significant wobble when using the tool.

I use both the course and fine grit. I use them in a drill press I stole from my husband so that I can hold the gourd with both hands. If you use them with a hand drill, put a rubberized or latex mat in your lap to help hold the gourd secure.

These cleaners are very effective and long lasting. The fine grit helps smooth the inside to minimize finish sanding later. Sometimes I don't even do any further sanding. But every gourd is different.

If your gourd had a pretty, fresh, white membrane, inside - that can still be somewhat difficult to remove. After removing as much of it as I can by hand, I use the coarse grit ball and apply a fair amount of pressure to the side of the ball to get it to cut through the membrane. But it will definitely do the job and it is much faster than hand scraping.

You do have to be careful if you are running the ball through a narrow opening in a gourd as it can catch and jerk the gourd. This is not as much an issue when using it on a hand drill as when you are using it with a drill press. I do use a foot pedal on my drill press for control but I have had it jerk the gourd and cause me to let go. The press, however, doesn't let go right away. Kind of makes you want to do the old Rufus Thomas "Jump Back" with a little "Funky Chicken" thrown in as you flap your arms trying to get away.

Wear safety glasses or better, a face shield, when using the drill press. Keep long hair tied back and tucked inside clothing or under a hat. And no loose sleeves or other loose clothing near rotating equipment. Be mindful of what could catch in it.

Carbide Mushroom Cleaner, medium grit

This is a very aggressive cleaner. It will remove that stubborn white membrane with very little pressure. The medium grit leaves deep groves in the gourd and must be further sanded to smooth the interior. Had I known, I would have purchased the fine grit. I also found the shaft is not as true as the Welburn cleaner. Although the shaft was not as long as the Welburn cleaner, there was sufficient wobble on my drill press - at low speed - to be annoying. These cleaners are also quite a bit more expensive than the Welburn cleaner because of the carbide surface.



If you have experience with a tool you can share with TGS, please submit a review to Rickie Newell at Rickie.newell@gmail.com

Spring Meeting 2017



Curiosity Cabin – where we had Spring meeting



2 Mikes – Mike Munter and Mike Ford.

“And just what are you doing”



Prettiest cactus fiber I ever saw. Mari Tarver, Cheryl Trotter, Joann Tompkins, Mike Ford and Mike Munter



Roy Cavarretta demos chip carving and what type of gourd to use.



Mike Munter taught us how to make the Indian feathers from watercolor paper, Pebeo high density texture paste and Sculpt Nouveau metal coating.

Here, Piggy, Piggy.... a personal gourding story by Rita Osuch

Rita Osuch moved from up north Chicago way to New Braunfels and works for the Comal County Sheriff's Office in the Civil/Warrant Division.

"It took me 8 months get this job (which I just LOVE!!) and I needed to settle into work routine before an artist routine. Eventually it began seeping out that I am an artist after two of my gourd sculptures took 1st place in my division of 55 and older in woodworking. This 1st place win in September 2016 gave me the push to expose my artistry more publicly, so I applied for a Texas Sales Tax ID to be able to sell my works.

When I look at an object, I see the shape. A ball, a circle, a book, a rectangle. When I saw the mini bottle gourds, all I saw was pigs. At times the mini bottle has a very prominent nose area. If the nose is not so prominent, I have to form one out of air dry clay. When I brought the first batch of completed pigs in to work in October, there was an HUGE interest and they began to sell. Then the brown pigs with mud turned into black and white Hampshire pigs (so much so that the new Sheriff, Mark Reynolds has 2 in his office.) Another Deputy has requested a commission piece of a Blue Lives Matter pig.

The branches for his feet need to be systematically cut at various angles from the Y angles of branches. Each pig begins to take on his own shape and persona when he's painted, the eye areas drilled, the feet holes are drilled and finally the ear pieces cracked out from gourd scraps and finally touch up paint. I made a mistake pig once by drilling his feet askew from his nose/eyes eyeline. Well then he sat with a cocked head and just had this 'where's my food' look. So I guess he really wasn't a mistake pig at all, but just added to his attitude look."



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
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 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 March, June, Sept. or Dec.

Check should be made payable to:

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



All Hands on Deck!

These brave people are the committee heads who will produce next year's Gourdfest. They can use some help, folks. Take the time to let them know you will help with Lone Star Gourd Festival 2017. Publicity is really needed but remember, you will have guidance.

Show Chair	Debbie Clausen 210-468-9924 John Flewharty 214-341-2614	dclausen82@verizon.net dsf1511@verizon.net
Publicity	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Vendors	Linda Hughes 817-368-3400	lamonelinda2@yahoo.com
Ways and Means	CC Rice 409-530-2892	cricetc@comcast.net
Competition	Nita Beard 979-280-0411	ngbeard@sbcglobal.net
Education	Vickie Hartman 951-491-9051	vickiesvessels@ymail.com
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Set up and breakdown	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
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Demo	Lelia & Jimmy Sublett 512-847-8102	jsublett4@austin.rr.com
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