



THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2015



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Lone Star Gourd Festival Classes and Registration Form

Choosing Power Carving Bits from Woodcarving Magazine



President's Message by Shelia Guidry

Chapter News

Texas Gourd Society

Kappa Chapter of The American Gourd Society

Welcome to our 3 new gourd patches.

Bay Area Gourd Patch

C.C. Rice, Patch Leader

Baytown Art League

110 West Texas

Avenue Baytown, TX

77520 ph: 409-945-2892

email: cricetc@comcast.net

Concho Valley Gourd Patch

Beth Lively, Patch Leader

San Angelo, TX area ph:

325-456-4556

email: blively@wcc.net

The Greater San Antonio Gourd Patch

Darla Vosburg –Patch Leader

San Antonio Area

Ph: 210-846-5494

Email: dvosburg@satx.rr.com

In order to help the new patches get started, I would like a list of members willing to teach a class at one of the new patches. It will be up to the teacher and the patch to decide cost of classes. I would also like to post on the website, a list of teachers who are willing to travel teach at other patches.

The Lone Star Gourd Festival is getting closer. I hope everyone is working on gourds for competition. We need to show the public what all can be done with the lonely gourd to turn it into a work of art or a utilitarian piece to actually use.

I have rack cards with show info for anyone wanting to give them out. Email me at sheliaathome@aol.com and give me name and address where you would like rack cards mailed. If you do craft or art shows, this would be a great place to hand out the rack cards. Or if you are members of art centers or art galleries, check and see if you can leave some rack cards.

If you have not made hotel reservations, at last time I checked Hampton Inns still had open rooms. TGS has a contract at reduced rates starting at \$114 a night. You will need to use the code "TGS" when you make reservations. If there are no more rooms under TGS, let me know and I will contact them to add more to the contract if they still have rooms.

Rickie Newell, the Gourdette editor, needs articles, tips, hints, instructions and any other gourd related articles. This is our magazine and we all need to help.

Vickie Echols Hartman has classes posted on the website already.

If you have not paid for a booth for the show, John Flewharty still has some open.

Happy Gourding to all

Shelia Guidry, 2015 Texas Gourd Society President

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If not go to www.TexasGourdSociety.org and
renew your membership today.

**TGS now accepting membership renewals via
PayPal!!!**



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.

2015 TGS Executive Board

OFFICERS

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www.americangourdsociety-org

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TGS Patch contacts

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TGS Concho Valley Gourd Patch - San Angelo, TX area
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Or Becky Wise 817-726-6653 dbwise@swbell.net
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Website: www.facebook.com/DallasGourdPatch

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

TGS Southeast Texas Gourd Patch - Houston TX area
Contact: Buddy Trotter 281-300-5013
Website: www.artisanart.biz/tgs_southeast

TGS West Texas Gourd Patch - Lubbock TX area
Contact: Charla Johnson 806-795-4405 CharKlass@aol.com
Or Paula Bownds bownds@windstream.net

TGS Patch Happenings

Arlington Gourd

Patch

Arlington Gourd Patch has had an eventful 2015 so far. In January, AGP member, Nancy Walsh, led a workshop in faux beading applied to a gourd. Nancy's gourd work is quite professional, and her pieces have very few flaws. It was a challenge to keep up with her fine techniques.



In February, we were privileged to have Sue Haberer leading us in a lampshade creation. Her work is beautiful, and the entire patch worked at honing their skills to match Sue's. We appreciate the time she gave to us so we could learn this great technique.



Julie Lind, one of our members, directed us in adding a leather rim onto the top of our gourd. We had done this technique once before, but we wanted our new members to have a chance to learn it. Julie has experimented with leather on several of her projects, and it was a pleasure to learn from her.



Arlington Gourd Patch voted to have our own "mini-gourd challenge" this year to see how it will work within our group. The theme will be "Into the Woods". We will use natural items on our pieces, and there will be 3 required elements: cut-outs, earthtone colors, and natural gourd. Members will work on this challenge from now until September when we will present the finished project to the group.

Coastal Bend Gourd Patch

Coastal Bend Gourd Patch is moving forward with a heavy heart after the loss of Don Vyskocil. He will be greatly missed but we will carry on.



In January, we had a New Year's party instead of having a Christmas party and everyone had a good time.

In February, we discussed and brought examples of how to decorate rims of gourds.

In March, we discussed and looked at ways to make stands or make gourds stand up. "Chuck", my son's black lab decided he needed to join our patch but he is only good at eating gourds.

Safe travels to our "snow birds" going back north and look forward to seeing you next winter.



NEW! Greater San Antonio Gourd Patch

We have had our 1st meeting and decided on our name, "Greater San Antonio Patch." There will be no dues at this time, however we will take up a donation for the program teacher of the day. This is to cover her or his expenses.

We will meet at Bluebonnet & Texas Gifts (1827 Pat Booker Road, Universal City, Texas 78148) near Randolph Air Force Base on the 3rd Saturday monthly.

Teresa has agreed to teach March 21 project of a gourd birdhouse. And Nita has agreed to bring tools of the trade for us to learn about and how to use them. Any new members, please bring any item to show and share with the others. There will be some gourds for sale that day.

Future projects are pending. We have a lot to learn as most of us are painters at this time.

Please spread the word and let our patch grow. Being willing to teach and share with others is the only way for us to grow. RSVP would be appreciated.

Thank You,

Darla Vosburg dvosburg@satx.rr.com

[210-846-5494](tel:210-846-5494)

NEW! Concho Valley Gourd Patch

Burrrrrrr...the first organizational meeting of the Concho Valley Gourd Patch was canceled due to the "icy" weather we had in February. That one may have been frozen out, but the first patch meeting on Saturday, March 14 was a "blazing" success. There were 5 members present. Beth and Jim Lively lead the meeting and opened with an overview of gourds and what beautiful art they can become.



We then had a demonstration on how to cut a martin gourd to make a birdhouse by Jim. The project for the meeting was using three colors of ink dyes to create a blended finish on a martin gourd birdhouse. They turned out beautiful!!!! Everyone present enjoyed the work of art they created. We discussed the next meeting which will be Saturday, April 18th, at the Lively's house in Eden.



Beth hosted The Eden Time Out Club Tuesday, March 17 for a program on gourds and gourd art. They did a gourd dish cut from the bottom of a canteen gourd. They ink dyed the outside of the gourd and then decoupaged butterfly rice paper napkins on the inside. They can be used for jewelry trays, candle holders, candy dishes or just gourd art pieces to display or give as gifts. There were 12 Time Out Club members present and a guest teacher's helper. Information was shared about the Concho Valley Gourd Patch and several ladies signed up for the next meeting.

So, our patch member numbers grew!!!! The Concho Valley Gourd Patch is off to a super start!!

If you would like to join us, please contact Beth Lively at blively@wcc.net 325-456-4556 or Jim Lively at jolively@wcc.net 325-869-0042.

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 by going to the following link:

www.texasgourdsociety.org/gourdzette-copies.html

You will see a link to this issue and many of the back issues published by the Texas Gourdzette. Issues posted online are in color.

Guadalupe Gourd Patch

The Guadalupe Gourd Patch has been busy learning new techniques. In March, Sharon Harrison showed us all how to make a Thunder Drum. This was probably our longest meeting, since everyone was having a blast making theirs.



At the April meeting we changed course and learned closed coiling using Waxed Linen. We had to use at least two colors.

We also discussed the upcoming **Southwest Fine Art Gourd Show**, held at the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center here in Kerrville. The show begins on May 21 with the awards reception on May 23. The last day is July 5. Our patch volunteers to receive the entries and set up the show. Also, we help provide the food for the reception. A lot of fine gourd artists from around the country will show their beautiful art. Both the March and April meetings were held in the home of Judy Richie in Kerrville.



Our May meeting will be held on the 11th at Ann Little's home in Fredericksburg. Sharon Harrison will show us all how to do Inverted Coiling with leather.

The Guadalupe Gourd Patch, meets on the second of every month from 10 to 2pm. We have a wonderful potluck lunch. Come and join us. We have a Yahoo group forum for our members.

Need Donations for the Children's Classes

Rona Thornton who will hold 2 sessions of children's classes at 10 am and 2 pm during the Festival has requested donations of supplies. Gourds, paint, paint brushes, ribbon, glitter, paper towels and anything else children can use to decorate a gourd are requested.

If you are coming to the Spring meeting, please bring your donations.

The TGS Demonstration Booth

While attending the Gourd Festival be sure to come by the Demo Booth. We will have experienced gourd members available to answer your questions on how to grow, harvest, clean, cut, color and design your gourd. If you want a functional piece or an art piece, we will be glad to help you. Our society is based on sharing the many ways to use this wonderful gift, the gourd. We will have demonstrations every day.

10:00am Roy Cavarretta will show you how to chip carve.

11:00am Cal Stewart will demonstrate how to create a Mimbres pottery finish on your gourd.

12:00pm John Flewharty will show you how to build a birdhouse to attract your favorite feathered friend.

1:00pm Mary Tarver will create beauty on the gourd with alcohol ink dyes.

2:00pm Lelia and Jimmy Sublett will show you how to use a pattern for a leather rim around your gourd.

Jimmy will demonstrate different tools that can be used on gourds.



Membership Matters

Texas Gourd Society has a new membership chair, Joel Hartman, and he is trying to update our membership roll. Joel has not gotten all the info from Joe Pritchard to know for sure who has or has not renewed their membership.

Everyone has until after the Lone Star Festival (August 2, 2015) to let us know if you have paid your 2015 dues. If Joel has not received dues or confirmation that you paid by the end of the show, you will be taken off the membership list and you will not receive update emails from TGS.

Joel's mailing address for membership is:

His email is: jshartman@ymail.com

Texas Gourd Society

P.O. Box 317

Azel, Texas 76098

Wuertz Festival!

By Rickie Newell

I was thrilled to attend The Wuertz Farm's "Running of the Gourds" Gourd Festival last February. What a wonderful time I had!

The classes were amazing. I was awestruck when I sat down to learn from Bonnie Gibson, but she is clearly a sharing teacher and soon I was absorbed by learning a new technique and picking up all the little tips she drops along the way. Arturo Ramirez's confidence in your abilities and his humor combined with his knowledge to make this class one I mark as a high point. He's coming to our festival in July, so don't miss his classes.

Meeting and working with all the other Texans was also a true pleasure.



Clarissa Spence



Cheryl Trotter



Mike Ford

Deadline for submissions for the next issue is June 7!

Special Notice! Gourdzette Publishing Dates

The Texas Gourdzette is published quarterly for members of the Texas Gourd Society, Inc. Because our Festival is in August this year, our

Publishing Dates are: Q1: Jan/15 Q2: April/15 Q3: June/15 Q4: October/15

Deadline for submissions are: Q2: April 7, June 7, October 7

Please send your ideas, questions, photographs, and comments to: Editor, The Texas Gourdzette, 106 Rio Llano Drive, Llano, Texas 78643 Phone 830-613-4246 rickie.newell@gmail.com



TGS has permission to reprint this article
from *Woodcarving*
Illustrated Fall 2009 (issue 48) .

Choosing Power Carving Bits

by [FCP Mags](#) — December 22, 2009

In power carving, the bur or bit is the part of the tool that does that actual wood removal. The power carving tool, such as a flexible shaft machine or micro motor, spins the bit at a high speed and the cutting surface or abrasive on the bit removes the wood. Power carving bits go by names such as burs, cutters, carvers, stones, and discs.

Bits are manufactured from a variety of materials and are available in many shapes, head sizes, and shank sizes. The sheer volume of bits available can be overwhelming. By breaking down the categories and taking a look at the performance of the different types of bits, you can choose the best bit for the job.

Shank Diameter

The shank is the backbone of the bit. One end of the shank is inserted in the rotary power carver. The head of the bit is formed around the opposite end of the shank. The most common shank diameters are $\frac{1}{4}$ ", $\frac{1}{8}$ ", $\frac{3}{32}$ ", and $\frac{1}{16}$ ". Flexible shaft machines accept any of these diameters when equipped with the appropriate collet. Micro motors typically accept $\frac{1}{8}$ "- and $\frac{3}{32}$ "-diameter shanks, although, optional collets can be purchased for alternate size shanks. Air turbine machines use only friction bits with a $\frac{1}{16}$ "-diameter shank. Generally, the larger the size of the bit's head, the larger the diameter of the shank. Use the largest bit you comfortably can for the area you are carving. When inserting the bit into your rotary power carver, make sure the shank is as far into the tool as it will go.

Head Shape and Size

Bits are grouped into a few general shapes. The shape of the bit's head determines the contour of the cut. The larger the head, the more wood it will remove. Larger bits are generally used for roughing out a piece and smaller bits are used to add details.

Many of the shapes have very specific purposes, but we tend to use the ball, cylinder, flame, and pear-shaped bits the most.

**Bull nose/ball nose:**

- Combines a ball with a cylinder
- Use to make concave cuts and hollow out areas using the top
- Use the side to cut flat areas and round edges
- Creates a cut similar to a U-gouge with the top and a knife cut with the side

Grits and Materials

- Cylinder:** □ Use to cut flat areas, round edges, and make stop cuts and V-cuts
- Creates a cut similar to a knife or straight chisel
 - Hold the tool at an angle and use the top corner to make V-cuts
 - Smooth-end or safeend bits are the most useful



- Pear:** □ Use to round edges and create lumps

and bumps when bird carving

- Flame:** □ Use to make concave cuts and V-cuts, and to recess areas

- Creates a cut similar to a U-gouge when using its side and a V-tool when using the tip



- Large taper:** □ Use to round edges, make concave cuts, and access hard-to-reach areas

**Small Taper:**

- Use to access hard-to-reach and angled areas
- Create feather barbules and hair



- Ball:** □ Use to create concave cuts and to hollow out areas
- Creates a cut similar to a U-gouge

**Inverted Cone:**

- Use to make V-cuts for feather barbules and hair

**Oval:**

- Use to round edges, create lumps and bumps, and make concave cuts

**Disc:**

- Use to undercut feathers and make channel cuts
- Cut off thin pieces of unwanted wood

Bits are made from a variety of materials. These materials vary greatly in cost, cutting speed, durability, and the smoothness of the surface they leave behind. The most coarse and longlasting bits feature aggressive carbide points bonded to a metal shaft. These bits remove wood fast, but leave a rough surface. The finest cutting bits are man-made stones which produce a smooth surface. Coarse bits work best at slower rpm and finer bits work best at higher rpm.



Carbide-point Bits Brand

names:

Typhoon, Saburr Tooth, Kutzall

Average price per bit: \$15 to \$20

Shank diameters: 1/4", 1/8", 3/32"

Durability: High: we have several bits we have used for ten years without a noticeable change in their ability to remove wood

- Most aggressive bits available
- Used for rapid stock removal when roughing out both hard and soft wood
- Produce a relatively rough surface
- Typhoon, Saburr Tooth, and Kutzall Extreme make cleaner cuts, collect less debris, and are easier to clean because the points are structurally aligned
- Kutzall bits cut fast, but leave a rougher surface and can be difficult to clean
- Cut wood, acrylic, plaster, fiberglass



Carbide Cutters

Brand names:

Various

Average price per bit: \$12 to \$20 Shank

diameters: 1/4", 1/8", 3/32", 1/16" Durability:

High: long-lasting bits are nearly as durable as carbide-point bits

- Produce a relatively smooth surface on woods
- Available in fluted and cross-cut styles □
Large bits with 1/4"-diameter shafts useful for roughing out carvings
- Smaller bits can be used to add detail to carvings
- Cut wood, acrylic, plaster, and fiberglass



Carbide-grit Bits Brand

names:

Dura-Grit

Average price per bit: \$15

Shank diameters: 1/8"

Durability: High: tough carbide grit stays sharp and won't tear loose, but wears out faster than carbide cutters and carbide-point bits

- Available in several grits
- Available in most shapes including cutting wheels
- Cut wood, laminates, fiberglass, gourds, and ceramics



Mini Saw & Carving Drills

Brand names:

Various

Average price per bit: \$10

Shank diameters: 1/8", 3/32"

Durability: High: Mini saw drills are made from high-speed steel coated with titanium nitride; carving drills are made from high-tempered steel. Both types of drills have great heat resistance and life □ Used to drill holes and carve out from the holes on pierced turnings and relief carvings □ Difficult to

control on an in-the-round carving □ Cut wood up to 3/4" thick.

- Come in a variety of sizes



High-speed Steel Bits

Brand names:

Various

Average price per bit: \$11

Shank diameters: 1/8", 3/32"

Durability: Medium: longlasting, but not as durable as carbide bits

- Available in more shapes than carbide bits
- Useful for cutting grooves and countersinking
- Less expensive, but less durable than carbide, diamond, or ruby bits
- Cut wood, bone, antler, plastic, and soft metals



Stump Cutters

Brand names:

Various

Average price per bit: \$9 to \$11

Shank diameters: 3/32"

Durability: Medium: vanadium steel cutters last longer than high-speed steel bits, but not as long as

diamond or ruby bits

Serrated edges remove wood quickly, but leave a smooth surface

Cut most woods, bits wear out faster when

carving hard dense woods

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

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

AD RATES PER ISSUE

Single issue ads will run slightly 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

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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 March, June, Sept. or Dec.

Check should be made payable to:

The Texas Gourd Society

and mailed to:

1518 Airline Drive, Katy, TX 77493

GOURDZETTE EDITOR

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY

The Kappa Chapter, TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY (TGS) is part of the American Gourd Society (AGS). Membership benefits of TGS include quarterly newsletters called THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE, source information for seeds, gourds, educational materials, show information, tools, seminars, workshops, meetings, horticulture, demonstrations, ideas for embellishing and more. Texas is divided into regions called “TGS Gourd Patches”. Dues for TGS members are \$12 per year, expiring Dec. 31. Two state meetings are held: one in Spring and one in Fall.

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