



# THE TEXAS GOURDZETTE

Volume 11, issue 1

Texas Gourd Society

March 2006



## SPRING MEETING

Last year, at the 2005 Spring Meeting activities, Bev Tomek demonstrated "Embossing Metal Images" and Eve Dewvall and Lelia Sublett gave a hands-on class on paint marbilizing effects. This year will feature Judy Richie, TGS "Best of Show" winner with several blue ribbons, and winner of Judges' Choice and Best of Show in Arizona's Masters Division. Visit with Judy and other Gourders - discover their winning secrets. **Directions for the Spring Meeting can be found on PAGE 11.**

Probably, Growers will sell dry, cleaned gourds at the April First TGS Spring Meeting. We meet in the Ranger Room at the Convention center in Waco; you can get seeds and plants, too. Box Lunches are \$8 for choice of Ham or Turkey sandwich - \$5 for a chef's salad. Chips, fruit and drink included. Contact Clara Willibey no later than MARCH 20 for LUNCH RESERVATIONS 281-493-0117 or willibey@sbcglobal.net. VOTE for new officers at the meeting. The agenda, classes and demonstrations this year are listed below:

- 10:00 - 11:30 general meeting
- 11:30 - 12:15 lunch
- 12:15 - 2:00 demos/classes (see right)
- 2:00 - 4:00 board meeting

- 1) Judy Richie discusses her gourd work (12:15-12:45)
- 2) Rowena Philbeck dream catchers class (12:45-1:15)
- 3) Cindi Creswell will show gourd pins.(1:15 - 1:45)



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Robbie Pritchard**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a very happy and safe holiday season. I know we are all looking forward to a wonderful 2006.

I would like to send a special Get Well Soon wish on behalf of TGS to **Pete Kent**, recovering from recent surgery.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, I urge you to do so now; if you know of someone who hasn't renewed, please remind him or her to renew now. As you know, we changed the procedures last year so that everyone's membership is renewable in January of each year. Gerry Flewharty will be accepting TGS renewals at the Spring meeting or you mail her your renewal. I would like to also encourage everyone to be a member of the American Gourd Society; after all, they are our parent organization. There are many benefits to belonging to AGS, including their re-designed "**The Gourd**" quarterly magazine. You may download a

membership application for AGS at <http://www.americangourdsociety.org/join.html> or you may contact me ([robbiesgarden@hotmail.com](mailto:robbiesgarden@hotmail.com) or write to 7606 Ledbetter Road, Arlington, TX 76001-6908) and I will provide one to you – AGS dues are \$ 15.00 per year, due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. We have approached AGS about having one of their annual meetings here in Texas, hosted by TGS.

If you can help us out by volunteering to administer the TGS Ways and Means Committee, I would welcome your assistance. This position oversees the efforts to develop and implement additional ways to achieve income for TGS, including the CafePress TGS-logo items and other efforts. We also need someone to serve as Volunteer Coordinator for the Fall Show and Sell – please contact me if you can help out.

I want to say "Thank You" to everyone who is working to make TGS a continuing success and to evaluate and implement the changes our members suggest. It takes all of us to make it work! And thanks to all of you who represent and promote TGS at various shows, events, festivals, etc, throughout Texas and beyond. Face-to-face promotion is the best advertising we can have! Please let us know the efforts you make on behalf of TGS and gourds so we can recognize you.

Our Spring meeting is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, at the Waco Convention Center – please see the articles on pages 1 and 11 in this issue regarding the meeting and events. As most of you know, the Fall Show and Sell will also be in Waco, on November 11 and 12. November 10 will be a move-in day. The TGS Board has made several efforts to respond to concerns expressed on the questionnaire at last Fall's dinner. Under **Judy Richie**'s leadership, a committee has completely revamped the juried competition. I believe they have made very beneficial changes to the procedures and guidelines. An application form and guidelines may be found at the TGS website page [www.texasgourdsociety.org/TGS2006show.html](http://www.texasgourdsociety.org/TGS2006show.html) and scroll to select either 2006 Show Guidelines and Rules and/or Show Application. The competition will be in a separate room from the main exhibit hall this year. **Cindi Creswell** is arranging the educational part of our Fall Show—we have a separate room at the Waco Convention Center for our education events; the room can be divided into five rooms so we can accommodate classes of varying sizes. If you would like to lead a workshop/class at the Fall Show, please contact Cindi at [cidnboo@att.net](mailto:cidnboo@att.net) – she has developed a Teacher's application and contract. Further information regarding the classes will be coming soon. **Lynda Smith** is working on the Vendor packet and should have it available soon. Of course, as always, we will have the TGS Bookstore and the Kids Kraft Corner. All of this information will be placed on the TGS website as it becomes available from our hard-working committees. And there will be many more details in the next *Gourdzette*. The dinner and fall meeting is to be held on Friday night before the show; it is tentatively scheduled to be at the Waco Convention Center but we are exploring other venues. **Sue Haberer** is doing a wonderful job of pulling this all together.

Again – Thank You to everyone for all you do for TGS.  
I hope to see everyone in Waco on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robbie Pritchard".



# Texas Gourd Society

Presents its 2006 11th Annual "Show & Sell"

Saturday, November 11, 2006

Sunday, November 12, 2006



*Best of Show—2005  
(Judy Richie)*

## Waco Convention Center

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*President's Award—  
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#### Fall Show Contacts:

Show Chair: Sue Haberer [dhaberer@valornet.com](mailto:dhaberer@valornet.com) 806-894-1711

Vendor Chair: Lynda Smith [pennsmith@bigplanet.com](mailto:pennsmith@bigplanet.com) 214-339-7599

Show Competition: Judy Richie [judyrichie@yahoo.com](mailto:judyrichie@yahoo.com) 830-257-8939

Show Classes: Cindi Creswell [sidnboo@att.net](mailto:sidnboo@att.net) 817-244-0135

TGS President: Robbie Pritchard [robbiesgarden@hotmail.com](mailto:robbiesgarden@hotmail.com) 817-905-3178

## TGS MEMBER GOURD GROWERS – LET US KNOW IF YOU BELONG ON THIS LIST

Jack & Sarah Calender 15566 CR3110 Gladewater, TX 75647	JS Gourds 903-845-3695 gourds@hotmail.com	Bill & Pam Salzman 1001 Forgotten Land Alvarado, TX 76009	Gourds 817-790-8472 himandher5@prodigy.net
Virginia Clark 11341 Eddyburg Rd Newark, OH 43055	Foothills Farm 877-346-8445 clark@foothillsfarm.com www.foothillsfarm.com	Robert & Doris Schuetze 1207 N. 64 <sup>th</sup> St Waco, TX 76710	Gourds 254-772-4519
Charlotte Duke 1342 State Hwy 95 South Smithville, TX 78957	Dancing Feather Studio Diamond Y Farm-830-839-4220 yeisley@gvtc.com	Don & Mary Sills 3970 State Hwy 154 Marshall, TX 75670	Don's Gourd Farm 903-935-6871 Donsgourdfarm@direcway.com
Linda L. Higgins 1651 CR 4257 DeKalb, TX 75559	Lindy Crafts & Gourd Farm 903-667-5109	Kristi Sprinkle 699 Shiloh Road Bastrop, TX 78602	The Bastrop Gourd 512-308-0316 kristi@bga.com/512-585-4275
Tom and Zelda Hornsby PO Box 4601 Pineville, LA 71361	Bayou Gourds 318-640-4818 tom@bayougourds.com	Kim & Larry Wall County Rd 2095 Gause, TX 77857	This & That & Gourds 979-280-5197 belltrimmer@aol.com
Harry Hurley 259 Fletcher Ave Fuquay Varina, NC 27526	Carolina Gourds and Seeds 919-557-5946 harryhurley@hotmail.com www.carolinaqourdsandseeds.com	Carl & Cindy Weems 303 Gilmore Rd Brenham, TX 77833	Gay Hill Gourd Farm 979-277-0329 cweems@earthlink.net
Pete & Betty Kent 7521 Hoppe Sister Rd New Ulm, TX 78950	Kent Gourd Farm 979-357-2603 bpkent@industryinet.com	Rickie Wheeler 1745 Owl Road Lubbock, TX 79407	Gourds 806-787-7718 dhaberer@valornet.com
Bill & Sylvia Langston 793 VZ CR 3809 Wills Point, TX 75169	Gourds 903-873-3355 blang3000@aol.com	Mike Wood & Carol Steele 2803 FM 225 South Henderson, TX 75654	Lone Star Gourds 903-657-0486 csteele@cox-internet.com
Dorothy Miller 789 CR 146 San Saba, TX 76877	Gourd Mill 325-372-5210 dmiller2@centex.net	Gay Wright 174 Kellar Rd Smithville, TX 78957	Rising Dawn Gourd Farm 512-360-2023 alcyone@cmyfarm.com

## NEW MEMBERS

**Welcome! Join a Patch, ask questions, learn, volunteer & have fun.**

Lillian F. Cooper 5173 FM 3157 Cuero, TX 77954 361-277-2769 licoop@awecomenet.net	Barbara Dale 326 Wedgewood Ct Montgomery, TX 77356 936-597-6569 barbdale@consolidated.	Jim & Betsy Daspit 3778 Hwy 75 North Madisonville, TX 77864 936-348-9433 idaspit@rodzoo.com	Sherida D'Ambr 1609 Dove Lane Crowley, TX 76036 817-297-4041	Carole Decalf 12006 Rocky Knoll Dr Houston, TX 77077 281-759-5755 cdecalf@hotmail.com
Sylvia Gaines 1925 Baker Ridge Rd Sherman, TX 75090 903-891-8405 slgaines@isp.com	Autumn Harry 3612 County Rd 130 Caldwell, TX 77836 972-535-8122 autumn1H@juno.com	Sue McLane 132 Grant Ave San Antonio, TX 78209 210-828-2732 sue@mclanellc.com	Philipa Mosby 10483 CR 3253E Garrison, TX 75946 936-254-3631 fly@netdot.com	Joseph Nelson 1236 Glen Cove Dr Richardson, TX 75080 972-998-6130 in75080@yahoo.com
Margaret A Simpson 100 Garden Lane Roanoke, TX 76262 817-490-1150 silverback@charter.net	Patty Sorensen 683 Edgewood Dr Montgomery, TX 77356 936-597-6357 cpsorensen@consolidated.net	Mag Spaeth 5397 Tri-county Rd Mason, TX 76856 325-265-4377 pspaeth@hctc.net	Pinky Taylor 2016 Main #703 Houston, TX 77002 713-650-1556 pinkytaylor@rlcorp.com	Sharon Terral 1317 Inglewood Dr Stephenville, TX 76401 254-968-3002 qtteral@our-town.com
Shirley A Thomason 1236 Glen Cove Dr Richardson, TX 75080 972-998-6130 shatomabaskets@yahoo.com	Ricky Wheeler 1745 Owl Rd Lubbock, TX 79407 806-787-7718 dhaberer@valornet.com	Joan Zapata 9121 Jamaica Beach Galveston, TX 77554 409-737-5152	<b>Let us all welcome these new members. Call one in your area and invite to your next patch or TGS function.</b>	

## PATCH HAPPENINGS for December, January and February

**TGS CAPITAL OF TEXAS GOURD PATCH** had its first meeting of the new year February 4th. We had new members and new growers attend. It is exciting to see new faces. We had a record 22 gourd lovers in attendance! Rona Thornton chaired her first meeting. It was the first time we really had to squeeze everything into our 1-4PM agenda. Previously, we took less time to do everything we wanted to do. Since Ramon and Anne Williams are no longer growers supplying us with gourds at our meetings, we are delighted to have the Sprinkles of Bastrop joining us as dedicated growers raising gourds on some of their acreage. Now good gourds will be closer to home again. The most important thing we did was vote not to have our usual April 1st meeting so that we could all go to the spring meeting in Waco. We had many hands up desiring to do everything that would be available to us there. Carey Collier gave us a review on her class from Judy Richie that she took at the October Gourd Show and Sell. In between we had a lively show and tell. Charles and June Hanes brought everyone flanged copper tube pieces in three different sizes to use as guides when doing pine needle rims, and Rona demonstrated pine needle trim techniques, ending the afternoon. We welcome our new members and invite others to join us at our next meeting on June 4th.

**Contact** Rona Thornton, [ronat@austin.rr.com](mailto:ronat@austin.rr.com) 512-266-3810

**TGS WEST TEXAS GOURD PATCH** has a new gourd grower, Rick Wheeler, from Lubbock. Our gourd patch will visit Rick in February and will be able to purchase some of his gourds. Rick is a new TGS member and will soon be posted on our website as a grower. In January, we visited with the kids at the South Plains Food Bank and helped them decorate the gourds they grew last summer. We showed them how to cut and clean their gourds, and then some of the kids used dye to decorate their gourds and some used paints. They also used our tools to carve and engrave.

**Contact:** Sue Haberer – Levelland, TX 806-894-1711 or [dhaberer@valornet.com](mailto:dhaberer@valornet.com)

**TGS GUADALUPE GOURD PATCH** met in January and dealt with using leather dyes. The February meeting was held one week later than normal because six of our members (the Brunswicks, the Endicotts and the Richies) attended the Wuertz Gourd Festival and Arizona Gourd Society show in Casa Grande. At our February meeting we had a lesson on pine needle coiling. Several members have submitted work for the Southwest Gourd Art show to be held at the Kerr Arts and Culture Center from late May to early July. Judy Richie entered three pieces in the Arizona Gourd Society show and won two first places in the Adult Open Division and Judges Choice and Best of Show in the Masters Division. Gene and Elaine Endicott and John Brunswick helped with vendors booths and were extremely busy. Betty and John Brunswick also took some classes which were offered over the three days. Judy and Bob Richie ran their own booth. The festival attracted about 8,000 people over three days and some kind of entertainment was always going on. Hula dancing lessons were available for the stout hearted.

**Contact** Bob Richie [brichie@ktc.com](mailto:brichie@ktc.com) 830-357-8939 or Judy Richie at [jrichie@ktc.com](mailto:jrichie@ktc.com)

**TGS SOUTHEAST TEXAS GOURD PATCH** had a great Christmas Patch Party with lots of great gourd related gift swapping and stealing at the Willibey's home in December. Our January meeting was held at Darla Hines home where members brought their different woodburners and pens to share there skills and tools with others. We showed a great Cheryl Dow video on wood burning for those who wanted to view first before working. Our core leaders and members set a tentative schedule for the coming 2006 meeting plans. February took us back to the Willibey home for a demo by Bill on chip carving and then between several members we covered some basics on power carving. This meeting turned out wonderful because we had 6 new members come for their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with us! We wanted everyone to get their hands on the gouges and try all of the different burrs that we had for carving. Old and new members really make a good group, both inspiring each other. March will take our group out to the Weems, Gay Hill Gourd Farm where Cindy will try to teach us just what it takes to grow our wonderful art and craft media on a large scale. Four members have also completed our Patch section of the Texas Traveling Fund Raiser Gourd (two of our brand new gourders helped do the work - thanks Patty Sorensen and Barb Dale). If your Patch has not seen the gourd it really is something - 12 inches high, 14 ½ across and 45 inches around and that's before the attachments and without the lid!

**Contact:**—Darla Hines – Magnolia, 281-356-1340 - SE Patch website: [www.geocities.com/TGS\\_southeast](http://www.geocities.com/TGS_southeast).

**TGS THE HEART OF TEXAS GOURD PATCH** needs help-Sandee has been in the hospital and needs Patch help.

**Contact:** - Sandee Toone, 254-622-3566 [stoone@txun.net](mailto:stoone@txun.net)

**TGS DALLAS GOURD PATCH** February meeting was cancelled due to the predicted ice storm. We really hated to cancel but as it turned out, there were many accidents in and around Dallas, so guess we made the right decision. Our next meeting will be at Raymond's Bar B Q in Dallas, 10 AM to 2 PM, March 18th. Would love to see new faces along with the "old" ones. We will try a new clay found by Lynda Smith.  
**Contact:** Pat Duncan, 972-463-8668 or Lynda Smith, 214-339-7599.

**TGS COWTOWN PATCH** continues to have fun getting together. In January we had our Christmas white elephant swap. It's always great to see what everyone brings. After dinner in February Peggy Gilliland showed us her technique on wood burning. She had lots of great tips. This was Peggy's first public speaking and I thought she did a terrific job of holding everyone's attention. Barb Petroski showed off her winning entry in *Gourdgeous Beaded Gourds* by Nicole Campanella. A small publication but published none-the-less.  
**Contact:** Barbara Petroski 1413 Trammel Drive, Benbrook, TX 76126 ph: 817-249-2929 [lunarwind7@aol.com](mailto:lunarwind7@aol.com)  
Robbie Pritchard 7606 Ledbetter Road, Arlington, TX 76001-6908 ph: 817-905-3178:  
[robbiesgarden@hotmail.com](mailto:robbiesgarden@hotmail.com) website: <http://www.angelfire.com/tx5/cowtowngourdpatch>

**TGS ARLINGTON GOURD PATCH** - we hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. We did not meet in December due to the holidays. In January, our program was on "How to Color Your Gourd" – Cindi Creswell demonstrated several methods of doing so: stains, dyes, watercolors, and others. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Cindi Creswell and Esther Chambliss presented a program on gourds at the Lily B. Clayton Elementary School in Fort Worth. We cancelled our February meeting due to impending icy roads. The program "Pine Needle Weave on Gourd Rim", led by B.J. Conrad, has been rescheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> – we invite any one interested in learning this to attend our meeting. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, B.J., Linda Hughes, and Cindi Creswell will lead a workshop open to artists of all mediums to "learn Basket Weaving on Gourds" in Fort Worth. Our March program will feature Don Graves, a native Texas composter and Master Gardener giving us tips and hints on growing strategies for our gourds. We will also have a hands-on workshop, tentatively planned on painting on gourds. In April, we will be having a workshop on carving gourds – this one will be set up outdoors at our meeting. We will be participating at the annual Fort Worth Herb Show in May. We invite everyone to attend our meetings and workshops.

**Contact:** Cindi Creswell, [cidnboo@hotmail.com](mailto:cidnboo@hotmail.com), 817-244-0135 Joe Pritchard, [joe.pritchard@tccd.edu](mailto:joe.pritchard@tccd.edu), 817-909-2814 (Newsletter/Website). Email [arlingtongourdpatch@hotmail.com](mailto:arlingtongourdpatch@hotmail.com): Website [www.freewebs.com/arlingtongourdpatch](http://www.freewebs.com/arlingtongourdpatch).

**TGS EAST TEXAS PINEY WOODS GOURD PATCH** did not meet in December. During the Christmas holidays the patch delivered a large meat and cheese tray to Hobby Lobby for their employees. Hobby Lobby allows the patch to have meetings in their classroom. Kathy Baker delivered the first class of 2006. The January topic was "Creative Clay". Members and guest used modeling clay to create faces on gourds. The next meeting will be February 25 at the Trails County Arts Center in Winnsboro, TX from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The center is located at 200 Market Street (903 342 0686). Patty Burke will demonstrate a couching technique on gourds. The march 25 meeting will be held in Longview at Hobby Lobby.

**Contact information:** Patty Gilliland Email [calabash75605@aol.com](mailto:calabash75605@aol.com) 903 663 0017 Piney Woods  
**Web site** <http://www.geocities.com/pwgourds/patch.htm>

### **TGS TRAVELING GOURD REPORT** by Gerry Flewharty

The TGS Traveling Gourd has traveled a total of approximately 3,611 miles throughout the Lone Star State. It originally was transported on 12/20/2003. From the State Fair of Texas in Dallas on 10/23/2005, it went to Arlington, Levelland and Crosbyton. It is presently at the Pioneer Memorial Museum in Crosbyton where it will remain on exhibition until mid-March 2006, then the next stop will be at the Western Heritage Museum, Hobbs Jr. College, Hobbs, New Mexico. Hobbs is in New Mexico near the Western Texas border.



### **2006 TGS FALL SHOW CHAIRS**

**Show Chair - Sue Haberer** 806-894-1711 - [dhaberer@valornet.com](mailto:dhaberer@valornet.com)

**Competition - Chair Judy Richie** 830-257-8939 - [jrichie@yahoo.com](mailto:jrichie@yahoo.com)

**Vendor Chair - Lynda Smith** 214-339-7599 - [pennsmith@bigplanet.com](mailto:pennsmith@bigplanet.com)

**Show Classes – Cindi Creswell** 817-244-0135 - [cidnboo@att.net](mailto:cidnboo@att.net)

**TGS Pres. – Robbie Pritchard** 817-905-3178 - [robbiesgarden@hotmail.com](mailto:robbiesgarden@hotmail.com)

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**CAROL STEELE**  
Communications

903-657-0486 home

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 1-2 Indiana Gourd Society Show in Kokomo, Indiana – see Indiana Gourd Society web site
- April 8-9 Santa Clara Valley Carvers Wood Carving and Turning Show (includes Gourd Carving & Burning
- April 22 Wisconsin Gourd Festival at Shake Rag Alley Center for Arts in Mineral Point, WI
- April 29-30 Show me Gourd Society Festival at State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri – see website
- May 13-14 Annual Art Festival and Gourd Sale at Leiser Farms in Northern California
- May 19-21 Kentucky Gourd Show in Taylorsville – See website
- Jun 1-4 2006 Gourd Artists' Gathering in Cherokee, North Carolina – see website
- Jun 21-25 Wellburn Classes and Festival – De Luz Canyon, CA
- Jul 15-16 Georgia Gourd Show near Atlanta
- Jul 21-22 Pennsylvania Gourd Show in Paradise, PA
- Nov 11-12 **Texas Gourd Society Fall Show and Festival in Waco, TX**

**The Competition Committee** is very excited about changes that have been made for the Competition. It's all complete and on the TGS website. We hope to see a record number of entries this year. There will be several new awards, divisions and classes that will challenge your creativity. See all the competition categories – [www.texasgourdsociety.org](http://www.texasgourdsociety.org) – scroll to "Fall Show"-click "more information" scroll below poster.

**Southwest Gourd Fine Art Show** - The Kerr Arts and Cultural Center in Kerrville is sponsoring a juried fine art gourd show May 25 through July 9 with a reception and awards on May 27 4pm - 6pm. Most of the gourd artists are TGS members. We are very proud that KACC is helping to educate the public on gourd art. Their plans are to make this an annual event with it growing each year. We hope that you will come and see the show. For further information their website is [www.kackerrville.com](http://www.kackerrville.com) or contact Judy Richie.

**Traveling Raffle Gourd** by Judy Richie

I'm very proud of the artwork that the Capitol of Texas and Southeast Patches have done. It's now in the hands of the East Texas Pineywoods Patch. The theme for the gourd is "Cultures of Early Texas" with each patch having two cultures to depict. The Swiss and French were assigned to the Capitol of Texas Patch and the Southeast Patch had the Danes and American Colonists. The purpose of the Traveling Raffle Gourd is to involve many TGS Gourd members in this project, creating interest, selling raffle tickets and finally awarding the prize to the winning raffle ticket at the Fall Show in Waco. Check the website to see the patches' progress by November and see how you can help by buying (and selling) tickets. [www.texasgourdsociety.org](http://www.texasgourdsociety.org)



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Left – Very Thick, Large Canteens**

### Article by Betty Lewis

Thursday, January 12 was a memorable day for me and Jim. We were asked to participate in a Black History event at the Killeen Trimmier Elementary School Music Department. Dr. Lela Butler, whom we had met earlier, is the Director of Music at this school. She had been teaching her students the song “Follow the Drinking Gourd”, and asked us to do a Gourd program for her students, incorporating this into our presentation. We started our first program at 7:45, with about forty children, who came marching into the music department with a loud rendition of Follow the Drinking Gourd. We had set up tables with gourds that we felt would demonstrate the usage of gourds during that period of time. We showed them eating utensils, bowls and spoon gourds; bottle gourds for carrying water; and large gourds for transporting food and even their personal belongings.

We also told them how the dipper gourd was used as a symbol to communicate with the other slaves as they would sing this song when they couldn't talk amongst themselves. They saw the true meaning of singing Follow the Drinking Gourd when we showed them the connection between the dipper gourd and the North Star. We also showed them other gourds, like masks and rain sticks, and told them how they were made. Then we came to more modern times when we showed them how to craft them into Santas, pumpkins, bird houses, and bird feeders. Also how you can make musical instruments, shakers, and even drums. Finally, we allowed a few minutes to pass out gourds that we had donated for them to look closely at, feel, and get a true idea what a gourd is, since some of them had never seen a gourd.

This was repeated over and over as about 750 students came through the Music department. We left the school at 3:00 feeling very good.

As our Constitution, Article II states: “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”.

I think we covered it all that one day !!!

## GUIDELINES FOR GROWING GOURDS

editor note – this article is from Betty’s “archives”

by Betty Kent

1. Start your seeds indoor and early, I put mine in 4-inch pots sometime in February or March. They can be planted in the ground any time after frost or as late as May, or maybe June. Expect only 60-80% germination. (One year I had plants come up in September and gourds formed). If you put the seed in pots, transplant either after any chance of frost, or when the vine has four leaves. If the plant gets tall, plant deeply in the ground, as more roots will develop. Gourds are slow to germinate, often as long as 6 weeks. They also are slow to grow after transplanting. After about 2 weeks in the ground, they begin to grow rapidly - or they will wither and die.

Seeds can also be put into the ground very successfully. Put 5 or 6 seeds together, either in a mound or in a row, then later, remove the weak plants, leaving 2 or 3 plants growing together. Plant rows about 3 feet apart and mounds about the same, as gourd vines cover a lot of ground. It is a good idea to plant small gourds close to a fence or trellis.

2. Start with a small or medium sized variety of gourds, like dipper or birdhouse. These are two of the easiest gourds to grow.

3. Prepare the soil by adding plenty of compost and some general fertilizer. If the vine gets too much nitrogen later in growth, you'll get too much vine and not much fruit.

4. Pinch or cut off the main vine when it gets about 10 feet long. This will prompt the plant to form lateral side branches, which is where the female flowers form. The male flowers form first on the main vine; female flowers, which develop into gourds, are only on the laterals.

5. Hand pollination assures good fruit set and pure variety gourds. Lagenaria (hard-shelled gourds with white blossoms) bloom at night, so in the evening pick off two or three male flowers. The male flowers appear to be "standing up" above the leaves; they have long stems and there isn't a "baby gourd" bump (ovary) below the flower, as there is on the female flower. Rub the pollen from the male flowers' anther onto the stigma in the center of the female flower. The female flower is usually round bulb just below the flower. Such hand pollinating will give you more gourds. The more pollen grains that reach the female stigma (top of the part in the middle of the flower), the better chance for successful pollination.

6. Keep the gourds well watered until mid to late August, then taper off and stop watering. Usually by this time the gourds have stopped growing larger. Keeping the plants dry late in the season helps trigger them to ripen, mature and harden.

7. Leave gourds on the vines until the vines are completely dead if possible. Or if the stem is brown and the gourd has become lightweight, they may be cut down and brought into a barn, shed, house or any place which is fairly dry and well ventilated.

8. To cure gourds, they may be left outside, brought inside or left on the vine as long as the vine holds. When gourds are cut from the vine, they should be placed on pallets, screens, or any structure or support that allows the air to circulate around the gourds. Don't worry about mold, which forms on drying gourds, as this is normal. The mold often creates a lovely pattern or design. However, it can be scrubbed off with warm water and chore girl type scrubbers (stainless steel type). If a gourd shrivels or rots (becomes soft), it is not mature enough and should be discarded.



## TGS Spring Meeting

The **TGS Spring Meeting** will be held at the **Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Avenue, Waco, Texas, on Saturday April 1, 2006, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.** The meeting is in the Ranger Room. This room is at street level, through the main entrance on Washington Street and behind the main stairwell. Additional information will be found on page 1 of this issue of the *Gourdette*. The meeting will start at 10:00 am and will include a general business meeting to discuss TGS matters and also to provide information about the Fall Show and Sell. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the 2006 year. Sharon Copenhaver will be stepping down as our Treasurer – Barbara Petroski of Fort Worth will be nominated as the new Treasurer. Clara Willibey also will step down, having served as TGS Secretary for the past year; Nelma Fannin of Grand Prairie has been nominated to be the new Secretary.

There will be a **box lunch** at about 11:30. You may reserve your box lunch by contacting Clara Willibey [willibey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:willibey@sbcglobal.net) or call at 281-493-0117. The box lunch is \$ 8.00 and there is a choice of ham or turkey sandwich; it includes chips, fruit, and a drink. There will also be a Chef's salad lunch for \$ 5.00. Please make your reservation for the box lunch by March 20. We'll collect your payment at the meeting.

Cindi Creswell is arranging some demonstrations, talks, and hands-on workshops – these will begin following the lunch, at about 12:15. If you would like to conduct a seminar or workshop for us on April 1, please contact Cindi at [cidnboo@att.net](mailto:cidnboo@att.net). Following the conclusion of these educational seminars, the TGS Executive Board and Board of Directors will meet to discuss several matters relating to the Fall Show and Sell. All members are welcome to attend.

Growers will sell gourds at this meeting. They will probably be set up in the parking lot described below. We also have information from the Waco CC that vendors may bring their gourds into our meeting room to sell. Vendors, please check with Robbie Pritchard [robbiesgarden@hotmail.com](mailto:robbiesgarden@hotmail.com) 817-905-3178 or Sue Haberer 806-894-1711 [dhaberer@valornet.com](mailto:dhaberer@valornet.com) before the meeting for additional.

The Fall Show will also be held at the Waco Convention Center. Our education classes and workshops will be conducted in the Ranger Room, where our Spring meeting will be held. We will have two rooms upstairs for the Fall event—one for the main show and another for the juried competition. There are other events scheduled at the Convention Center for April 1<sup>st</sup>, but we hope everyone will be able to tour the facility and see where our Fall Show will be held.

**Directions to the Waco Convention Center:** From Interstate 35 in Waco, take the University Parks exit (Exit 335B) and proceed west on University Parks Drive, approximately 1 mile, to Washington Avenue. If you are coming from the Houston area traveling north on Highway 6, take the Highway 77 exit going SOUTH. Follow it to University Parks Drive. Turn right onto University Parks Drive, at the Ferrell Center, a golden-domed arena on the Baylor campus. Follow University Parks Drive until you arrive at Washington Avenue. Turn left on Washington Avenue; parking is available on the right past the Courtyard by Marriott Parking Lot – do NOT park in the Marriott lot unless you are staying there! They also advise to not park on Washington Avenue. Passenger drop-off at the door is available, but you may not park there.

We hope to see everyone in Waco on April 1<sup>st</sup>!!

The **TGS Spring Meeting Program** for April 1 will feature our very own multi-talented **Judy Richie** – Best of Show winner the past 2 years + 8 blue ribbons this year. She will share her artist insight about her work and answer questions. **Rowena Philbeck** will also be conducting a hands-on **mini workshop, lacing a dream catcher** on YOUR gourd. Bring a cleaned and cut gourd with a large enough hole on the side to lace your project. You can stain or add a finish to it or use it as a practice piece. The holes for the lacing will be done in class, tools provided. There will be a \$5.00 material and instructional fee. Also, a hands-on table will be available to 'play' with gourd pieces to try some different mediums. That will be a \$2.00 material fee. If you have any questions and/or plan to attend the workshop please R.S.V.P. to ensure an adequate amount of supplies for everyone. Send to: Cindi Creswell - [cidnboo@att.net](mailto:cidnboo@att.net) - Educational chairperson. Cindi will give a demonstration of Gourd Pins after Rowena's class.

### Texas Gourd Society Annual Dues

Payment of \$12 will be paid each year by TGS members. This will be pro-rated at \$1 per month to expire December 31 each year. See details on last page of this issue or the TGS website at:

[www.texasgourdsociety.org](http://www.texasgourdsociety.org)

### AGS COLLECTION OF DUES

To join or renew American Gourd Society membership, pay \$15 directly to AGS at PO Box 2186 Kokomo, IN 46904-2186, phone 765-453-5047, or send email. Texas Gourd Society no longer collects American Gourd Society Dues. Visit website: [www.americangourdsociety.org](http://www.americangourdsociety.org) or email

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## Gourd Instruments by Joe Pritchard

Gourds have served for centuries as the basis of musical instruments from rattles to banjos, sitars, and marimbas. Being hollow, a gourd serves as a natural resonating chamber, important in the manufacture of sound. Only bamboo rivals the gourd as the choice material for the construction of primitive musical instruments worldwide - the gourd instruments pictured here—except the sitar—were crafted by Bea and Larry Kruse, former TGS members, of Gourd Harmony, Inc. in Harker Heights.

An **Idiophone** is an instrument that produces sounds from the material of the instrument itself without the assistance of reeds, strings, or other externally applied resonators. The most common methods of creating sounds are through striking two objects together or through striking, rubbing, or scraping the instrument. These are probably the oldest type of instruments. These gourd instruments may be simple – the whole intact gourd with the seeds inside – or compound – a cut gourd with a handle attached and stones or seeds added to create the desired sound. The rattle is one of the most widespread of all idiophones. "**Shake-re**" is a general term used to describe a beaded gourd rattle. It originated in West Africa and is a handmade rattle consisting of a hollow gourd covered on the outside with a net of seeds, beads, shells, or any other available material. The Shake-re derives its distinctive sound from the netted arrangement of netted material that hits against the gourd's hard outer surface when the gourd is shaken. This instrument continues to grow in popularity and is rapidly becoming a part of contemporary musical expression. If you watch "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno", you will usually see the girl in the band using a Shake-re during the song as the show begins – but that is usually the only time during the show that you see it. The "**Ipu**" is the concussion drum of Hawaii. It is a large bottle gourd with the top removed. Sounds are created with the Ipu by slapping the gourd with the hand or by dropping or thumping the gourd on the padded ground. "**Guiros**" are a type of friction Idiophone. They are created by cutting a sound hole or by removing the end of an elongated gourd. Grooves are cut across the gourd's surface, and rubbing a wire or thin wooden stick across those grooves produces sound. Other Idiophones include the "thumb piano" of Africa and the wooden-keyed xylophones or marimbas of Africa and South America; in these, the instrument sounds are amplified through the addition of gourds as resonators. The **rain stick** made from a gourd would be another type of idiophone. Small dowels or rods are played across the gourd; seeds may be left in or replaced with beads, beans, gravel, or other small objects. Turning the rain stick on end produces a sound similar to falling rain as the material cascades across the inserted rods. The rain stick was probably invented in the desert region of Chile in an effort to encourage rain in their arid region.

An **Aerophone** is an instrument that produces sound by using air as the primary vibrating means; the sound is produced without the use of strings or with a membranes and without the vibration of the instrument itself. Traditional Africa is filled variety of horn-like instruments either made from gourds entirely or in which gourds are used as a component. The long necks of dipper gourds are often fashioned into multi-holed flutes. There are many examples of trumpet-type horns and double- and single-reeded oboe and clarinet types of instruments. Some are as simple as gourd whistles. Nose flutes have been found in Polynesia and in the Native North American Southeast; these are single- to triple-holed instruments made from small pear-shaped gourds and blown "bottle-neck" fashion. Another example of an aerophone is the Hawaiian "swing-top" instrument – a small gourd with its top removed and swung by a string around the head; it produces a high-pitched whistling sound.

A third class of instruments is the **Membranophone**; this instrument produces tones by vibrating a membrane stretched across a resonating chamber. The drum is the most common gourd instrument in this class; the gourd's natural hollow resonating chamber makes it a perfect material. Cutting the end off a gourd, cleaning out the gourd, and stretching a wet rawhide over the cut end, and securing the rawhide creates the drum. The sounds are made by striking the rawhide with ones hand or with wooden sticks. The gourd drum almost certainly originated in Africa. A kazoo is another type of Membranophone.

The fourth class of instruments is the **Chordophone**. This group of instruments produces sound primarily by way of a vibrating string or strings stretched between two points. The gourd functions to amplify the sound of the plucked strings. Instruments in this class include lutes, violins, guitars, zithers, and harps. The **sitar** has a long neck, 20 frets, and originally had three strings; the modern **sitar** has many more strings. The frets are movable to produce a wide variety of modes and tunings. The **veena** is a similar instrument but has 24 frets, four main strings, and three supporting strings. These instruments are popular in India, and Chordophones are found throughout Africa. It is said that Pablo Casals learned to play on a gourd cello.



**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 the TGS are \$12 per year prorated at \$1 per month, expiring Dec 31.

Two state meetings are held: one in spring and one fall.

**TGS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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