

# MEET THE TEACHERS!

## MISSISSIPPI GOURD FESTIVAL, 2019



### **MARLA GARBER—Frankston, Texas**

I have been working on gourds for 18 years. I started out painting birdhouses and snowmen. The last five years, I have started to enjoy carving and woodburning on gourds.

I'm a member of the Dallas Gourd Patch and really enjoy getting together as a patch. Our patch is busy doing demos at the Texas State Fair and the Dallas Arboretum.

I have been teaching classes at gourd festivals for three years. 2017 was the first time I entered a piece at the Lone Star Gourd Festival and won the Peoples' Choice Award. My art work has been in the Studio C Art Gallery in Corpus Christi, TX, and has won many ribbons at different gourd shows.—*Marla Garber*

### **ELIZABETH WEST—Cullman, Alabama**

Elizabeth is a charter member of the Mississippi Gourd Society; also a member of the American Gourd Society, and member and Past President of the Alabama Gourd Society.

She began painting on gourds in the late 1990's and has since progressed to many other techniques, including carving, woodburning, pen-and-ink, and weaving. She belongs to the River City and Cullman Area gourd patches in Alabama.



### **KATIE WESTMORELAND—Vinemont, Alabama**

My name is Katie Westmoreland and gourds are my game! My passion was found in 2008 while attending my very first gourd show in Alabama. I knew then that I wanted to grow gourds for others to make their creations.

I have been crafting all of my life, but had put it down for 10 years, until I discovered so many different things that people were doing with a gourd. Everything I saw, I wanted to try to do! A self-taught artist, I started growing them, taking classes, playing with different mediums and have not been bored with them yet. It's true what they say, "Gourds are a way of life."

Sharing is an exciting way to pass on knowledge, tips, and tricks that have been learned over time. It's always exciting to see faces light up when there is that moment when you relay a message and someone else is able to apply it to their creativity. Looking forward to many more years with gourds and gourd folks.—*Katie Westmoreland*

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**SARAH KEMP—Greensburg, Louisiana**

Sarah has explored a multitude of hobbies, including most fiber arts (quilting, knitting, crochet, spinning and weaving), bead crafts, natural dyes, basket making, stained glass, and pine needle baskets. She transitioned into gourd crafts from the pine needle baskets, attending her first gourd festival at Ray Davis' farm in 2004.

She is a founding member of the Mississippi Gourd Society (2007), and is involved in all aspects of the group. She has served as Show Chair and Classes Chair for the past 2 festivals, as well as Secretary. She demonstrates gourd craft whenever possible, and has volunteered at the Gourd Gathering at Cherokee, NC, for years.

**LINDA HADDER—Trussville, Alabama**

I started tole painting classes in 1982. Several years later, I painted on my first gourds. However it was not until I attended the Alabama Gourd Festival around the mid 2000s did I get hooked. I enjoy painting, carving, inking, burning and sculpting on gourds. I taught my first class at the Washington State Gourd Society Workshop in 2016. I never stop learning from my gourd friends and I enjoy sharing and encouraging other gourders as they encourage me. I belong to the American Gourd Society, Alabama Gourd Society, the Cullman patch, Mississippi Gourd Society, and Washington State Gourd Society.—*Linda Hadder*



**GEORGIE FOSTER—Hattiesburg, Mississippi (bio not yet submitted)**

**SUE HOLLON-TABER—Belton, Missouri (bio not yet submitted)**