



President's Message

Our retiring president Sid Meyers is known for his energy, his talent, and his passion for gourds. Now is the time for friends of IGS and for IGS members to applaud his leadership and integrity. We might also smile a bit, for he called it exactly right in his final president's message published in the March issue of "The Tendril". His statement was, "With this election (May 3), will be the end of my term as your President.....I will not disappear from sight." We cannot let a good man go, can we? We elected him first vice president!! I truly appreciate the good judgment of the IGS membership in doing so, because there are several of us new to our recently elected positions. We look forward to Sid's guidance as well as that of other talented and experienced IGS leaders.

Agreeing to serve as your President is, for me, an intellectual risk. That is a good thing. While studying and teaching time management, teamwork, and organizational skills, I learned the value of taking one intellectual risk every day. Try something challenging, experiment with something new, have a new thought, move out of the comfort zone, take the risk and learn. It keeps the world shiny and exciting. We took our intellectual risk by moving the state show to South Bend for 2008. I agree with resulting observations: THE EXCITEMENT IS BACK!! The enthusiasm we observed at the state show more than made up for the challenges of coping with a new (to us), albeit very fine, facility.

In studying Alzheimer's Disease for the past five years, I have noted the recommendations for minimizing the possibilities of developing the disease: learn something new after reaching the age of 60, associate with positive people, keep active. There are other recommendations, but do you see a pattern there? With our gourd friends, who are among the world's most generous people about sharing ideas and techniques, we continually learn new skills, whether over the age of 60 or under. Have you ever seen a negative gourdhead? If so, only for a very brief time. Gourders are among the most cheerful, creative and positive people with whom I associate. When I am absent from gourd activities for any period of time, I miss the enthusiasm and the passions.

Activity? Whether planting, cultivating, harvesting, lugging equipment to shows, or setting up tables and booths—the activity never ends. Celebrate it—we are engaging in missional discontinuity, my favorite pastime: doing several things at once. We are combating dementia and supporting IGS at the same time. Don't you love a win-win opportunity?

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Pssst!!! Spring Into A New Phase



It's growing season!

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