



President's Column

Fabulous Fall Festival and Gourd-geous Gourds

One of the privileges of being president of the Indiana Gourd Society is the receiving of publications from the chapters in other states. There is only one problem with that privilege—more good ideas come across cyberspace than one can put to use in a season or a decade! Combine those mailings with that of our own society and the American Gourd Society, and this reader will happily seek a rainy day, snow day, vacation day, quiet evening, or being stopped in Indiana construction traffic as times when there are moments to read and learn about gourds and “gourd people.”

Another great way to learn and a great time to enjoy fellow gourders? Attend the annual fall meeting and festival of the Indiana Gourd Society. The 2008 fall festival will take place on November 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, 1401 Teal Road, Lafayette, IN. There will be no better place to learn about gourds on November 8 than at the fall festival—because Indiana’s gourd expertise will be there!

Better yet, admission is FREE! Chairman Bill Freihofer promises a great time for all “gourdos and gourdettes,” as he fondly addresses the teams who will be assisting with the event. Snacks and lunch will be available for a fee and are guaranteed to keep the energy levels high.

Look for sessions on seed germination, led by expert and Pure Seed project leader Steve Sullivan. “Green Cleaning” by Dan Wallace, “Weaving a Basket” by Ray Nixon, and Wood Burning by Ron Pressel are among the planned demonstrations. Emily Dillard has free Make-It-Take-It class planned, and this will be a time to take part in Emily’s passion for painting, pen and ink, colored pencil, and/or decoupage on gourds...she will bring out the artist in each of us. Vendor booths will offer dried gourds, painted and carved gourds, cut gourds, crafted gourds, and the IGS Ways and Means Committee’s stock of tee shirts, booklets, sweatshirts, and more. A vendor from China plans to spend the day at the festival and is applying for his visa. Look for the gourd Christmas tree and collect ideas for a family project. Even more important than the items in the booths is the expertise our experts are willing to share, making this an event for families and classrooms of students.

Festival chairman Bill Freihofer may be contacted at

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