



President's Message

Ida Kennedy, IGS President

Hello everyone,

Hope you are having a good gourd summer. My gourds are doing well so far but I have been doing a lot of pollinating to help them along. After the first week of August, I quit pollinating all of my big gourds. I go to the garden late morning (after I let the bees get their pollen) and pinch off most of the new male and female blossoms so that the plants energy will go to the gourds already growing. I will keep pollinating the small gourds for a while since they mature in a shorter time period. I have been growing gourds for about 15 years and each year I learn a new trick. Here is one to try. Some gourds don't open until very late at night so early afternoon I lightly cover the female blossom with a plastic sandwich baggie with a few holes poked in it. I use a small safety pin to poke air holes in the baggie, and then use the pin to keep the baggie that I wrap loosely over the female blossom and under the vine where it is attached, held in place. Then, I tape a couple male blossoms shut for each female I want to pollinate. Next morning about 6am I go out and pinch off the taped male blossom, split it open with my thumb nail, gather as much pollen as I can on a Q tip, pollinate the female blossom by gently brushing the Q tip over the middle of the female blossom. I then tape the female blossom shut and tag it. So far this has worked very well for me this year. The gourds that are late night bloomers are bananas, basket balls, and the mini hard shell gourds. The rest of the gourds I pollinate by going out early afternoon to cover and tape the blossoms and then go back around 8 pm to hand pollinate the same way as above. With the shortage of bees the last few years, I think you have to do some hand pollinating or you won't have much success raising gourds. Hope these tips are helpful.

Diane Werblo 2014 State Fair Winner



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IGS FALL FESTIVAL

On October 25, 2014, we will be having our Fall Festival at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point, Indiana and I would like to invite all members and all our patches to attend. We are giving free spaces to any member or patch that would like to sell or display their crafts at our show. You would only need to furnish your own table and chairs or we could supply for a fee. We had a great time last year and I think this year will be even better. We are going to have a "Scarecrow Contest" and "Best Treat Container" contest with a People's Choice award of \$10.00 for each. ",
(Continued on p. 4)

PATCH NEWS

Central Indiana Patch - Diane Werblo & Mac McCrary

The July 3rd meeting for the Central Indiana Patch was cancelled because of a conflict with music and fire-works at Garfield Park where we hold our meetings. There will be no meeting in August due to the Indiana State Fair; members are encouraged to visit the IGS booth in the Ag-Hort Bldg (Spanish-style white stucco with the tile roof) anytime between 9 am and 9 pm, Aug. 1-17, to see the display and to give the workers a break. We will meet Sept. 4 at GPAC from 6-8 pm. Show and Tell will be terrific! (Mac has an elegant black-on-black gourd; I have a purple paisley wonder. I'm sure Bill Freihofer, Ann Stankiewicz, Sue Ferrell and some of the rest of you have fantastic work. We want to welcome enthusiastic new member, Penny Boyce, recently of Ohio. Condolences to Cathy Burton on the tragic loss of her husband from injuries in a car crash.

Sugar Creek Gourd Patch & Thorn Tree Gourd Patch – Karen Niemeyer

Ardie Bowles and Karen Niemeyer of Thorntown are working with gourd patch members almost every Wednesday in Thorntown. The Sugar Creek GP meets from 6-8:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays, and the Thorn Tree GP meets from 2-4:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Under the tutelage of member Beth Morris, members have made and painted giraffes and will begin in August working with waxed crayon art. They have twelve entries in the Indiana State Fair and are happy to report five blue, four red, two white, and one fourth-place ribbon. Readers must be sure to visit the fair and see Carol Ward's zebra; Carol is the newest member of the gourd patches and is inspiring participants with her creativity. They have entered as the Ardie Bowles Family, per the farm/family guidelines of the State Fair Agort They are now trying to complete projects for the October 25 fall festival in Lake County. In addition, the patch is hard at work cleaning small gourds and shards for Karen to deliver to the IGS booth at the State Fair. Any reader with gourds and shards is invited to contribute them to IGS for use at various festivals, shows and fairs...we are in the wonderful position of having a hard time meeting the enthusiastic demand of visitors!

New Patch Forming Linda's Gourd Patch

First gathering Sep. 13, 2014 at 2:00 pm with a pitch in dinner, meat provided by Keith.
Location: Keith's house, 8647 N 300 W, Fortville IN 46040.

Topic: Show and Tell about gourds. We will have quarterly meetings

Like us on Facebook!



Search "Indiana Gourd Society"

From the Archive: Gourd Harvest by Ron Bair

By *Ron Bair* Date: Unknown

As fall is rapidly approaching, so is gourd harvest time. Many of us have been anxiously waiting to pick our gourds. But wait! Don't pick them too early. This is a very common mistake. The gourds need to be fully mature. The vines should be turning brown and dying back, and the stems of the gourds should be turning brown also. The gourd itself should be very firm and hard to squeeze.

Most people in Indiana will wait till it frosts a couple times before harvesting. The light frosts won't generally harm the gourds if fully matured. If gourds are picked and harvested before they are fully mature they may spoil and rot. A lot of people have made this mistake of harvesting them too early and end up with big disappointments when they shrivel up and rot. An immature gourd will not maintain its shape. Generally, the most mature gourds will be nearest the base of the plant. Commonly, there will be immature gourds near the end of the vines. In essence, the first gourds on the plant will be the first to mature.

Upon harvesting your gourds, an anvil pruner works quite well to cut the stem from the vine. Try to leave at least a couple inches of stem with your gourds. Excess and unwanted stem can be cut again later.

All gourds will generally become moldy during the drying out process. The molding is natural; it is Mother Nature's way of the moisture escaping from within the gourd. When gourds are harvested they are about 95% or more water. They will lose all their moisture as they dry out. During the drying out process a person may want to periodically wipe the mold off, or they may choose to let it dry naturally with the molding effects embedded into the shell of the gourd. If you should choose to wipe the mold off, some people will mix 10 parts of room temperature water to 1 part of bleach and wipe this solution with a moistened cloth over the gourd. Rinse with clean water thoroughly and wipe dry.

Gourds may take two to six months, or longer, to become completely dried. Generally, the larger the gourd, usually takes a longer drying time. Gourds need plenty of air circulation during drying. Rotation is very important for a quicker drying time. Try to rotate from bottom to top at least once a month, or more often. If gourds are not rotated during drying process they may develop a ball of hard mass consisting of seeds and pith. When the gourd is shaken it sounds like a hard ball inside them upon drying. If rotated periodically, a person should be able to hear the seeds rattle when dried. Once the seeds begin to rattle they are dry enough to cut open and start crafting.

Gourds may be left outside over winter hanging on the vines or set aside somewhere else. They still need good air circulation around them. It is advised not to let them sit directly on the ground. By setting on the ground they can absorb more moisture and cause interference with the drying process, and may even cause them to rot where they set.

All gourds, both the ornamentals and the hard shells, have a thin layer of skin that needs to be removed before crafting begins. The skin can be removed when they are completely dried, or during the drying process. Sometimes, some of the skin will peel off when you wipe the mold off. Other times it may be very stubborn and may need to be scraped off with a knife or similar tool. Soaking the gourds in warm water will aid in skin removal. A copper scouring pad will help remove small particles. Gourds can be lots of fun raising them. Give gourds a try and have a successful harvest.

IGS FALL FESTIVAL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

All participants in our Fall Show; members, non-members, vendors and helpers are welcome to join the fun. You don't need a booth space to enter a "Scarecrow or Treat Container". If you have gourds available, try to incorporate them in your "Scarecrow or Treat Container participants in our Fall Show; members, non-members, vendors and helpers are welcome to join the fun. If not, let your imagination go wild and come up with your own Fall or Halloween theme ideas. Each patch member in a Patch Booth can enter their own "Scarecrow or Treat Container". Please make all "Scarecrows" self-standing so we can display them better. There will also be make-it-take-it, and more, fun for the kids. This year we are inviting woodcarvers and basket weavers to join us as vendors and participants. If you know anyone who may be interested, please let them know about our show. There will be a \$20 fee per space for non-members, or they can become an IGS member for \$15 a year.

Please contact Ida Kennedy 219-767-2901 ikennedy5@msn.com or Frances Bascom at 765-661-8140 by September 30, 2014 to reserve a spot. Thanks for all your past support and hope to see some of you at the fall show.

Ida Kennedy
President, IGS



State Fair Volunteers

Fran Bascom
Bill Freihofer
Ida Kennedy
Mac McCarty
Phil Moorhead
Jesse Glessner
Gabrial Molina
Karen Niemeyer
Pat Moore

Sincerely, Pat, Phil, and Jesse

When I grew my spinners I grew them on tee-pees far from the other squash and gourds I was growing so that I could save the seeds and not have them pollinate with other squash family member plants. I also grew scarlet runner beans with them for color and a rat-tail radish plant, which is also an heirloom seed. The rat-tail radish can grow up to 4 foot and has small white flowers and bean pods. It's an attractive plant and I plant radishes near squash because it is a natural repellent for the cucumber beetle. - See more at: <http://thegardenersrake.com/growing-gourds-tennessee-spinning-gourd#sthash.qgWJO36Q.dpuf>

Courtesy Jesse Glessner, from the internet at:
<http://thegardenersrake.com/growing-gourds-tennessee-spinning-gourd>

GIANT PUMPKINS AND GRIT AND GOURDS! (Karen Niemeyer)

If you have not looked at the magazine Grit on our adult periodicals shelving, this is the time to start. Take a look at the Sept.-Oct. issue and read about the giant pumpkins. In 1904 a man from Ontario exhibited a 403-pound squash at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, also known as the St. Louis World's Fair. It was the biggest vegetable of any sort ever grown and remained that way for the next 72 years. Since then, competition has become fierce for giant pumpkin growing. The current record, held by Tim Mathison of Napa Valley, California, was set in 2013. His pumpkin weighed in at 2,032 pounds. Every year since 2009 has seen a new world record. At the Indiana State Fair each year we enjoy the giant pumpkins and squash in the Agriculture Horticulture Building. IGS members volunteer to work the Indiana Gourd Society's booth in the same Hort Building and get to enjoy the amazing pumpkins, squash, and gourds, all members of the *Cucurbitaceae* family. If you want to grow giant pumpkins, the magazine suggests you purchase Dill's Atlantic Giant seeds, a variety bred by Howard Dill of Nova Scotia.

VENDOR APPLICATION

Event: Indiana Gourd Society Fall Festival
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2014
Time: 9am to 3pm CST
Place: Lake County Fairgrounds, Industrial Building
Address: 889 South Court Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307
219-663-3617 lake-county-fair.com

We are looking for Gourd Crafters, Wood Crafters and Basket Crafters for our Fall Festival. Please contact us if you are interested.

IGS Members: 1 (8X10) space free. Donation of a gourd item valued at \$20 or more for our raffle would be appreciated. There will be a \$10.00 charge for each 8’ table and \$3.00 for each chair. You can bring your own if you would like to. (1st space free-Extra spaces available for \$20.00).

*Number of spaces wanted: 1 free+ _____@(\$20) Tables @ (\$10)_____ Chairs@ (\$3) _____
Total due \$_____

Non IGS Members: Each (8X10) space will cost \$20.00 plus \$10.00 for each 8’ table and \$3.00 for each chair. You may bring your own table and chairs if you would like to. Any contributions to our auction would be greatly appreciated.

*Number of spaces wanted _____@ (\$20) Tables _____@ (\$10) Chairs _____@(\$5)
Total due \$_____

Set up time: 3 to 7 pm CST Friday or 7 to 9 am CST Saturday October 25th. Let me know if you plan on setting up on Friday night. The building will be locked up at 7 pm unless we contact the fairgrounds. Overnight parking will be allowed.

Please return to me by September 30th, 2014.

Name: _____
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____
Address: _____

It would be appreciated if vendors would do demos in their area to promote crafting and encourage people to take up our hobbies.

Thank you for your interest and support of our Society.
Please make checks payable to: Indiana Gourd Society
c/o Ida Kennedy 5615 S 425 W, LaPorte, Indiana 46350
lkennedy5@msn.com 219-767-2901

* * * IGS Events * * *

2014—IGS Fall Festival & Membership

October 25 (9am-3pm), 2014 (CST)
Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN
Free admission, Open to the public. Vendors, IGS Gourd store, seeds, demos, kid's booth, gourd auction or raffle.
Gourd Gurus available to answer questions
Membership meeting follows Show at 3:30 pm.
Contact: Ida Kennedy, e-mail ikennedy5@msn.com

2015—IGS State Gourd Show

May 2/3, 2015 (EST)
Boone County Fairgrounds, Lebanon, IN
More information later!

GENERAL EVENTS

February/March—Seed harvest/packing days
For additional dates see: www.indianagourdsociety.org

ROAD TRIPS

2014—courtesy of AGS
(www.americangourdsociety.org)

Sept / Oct / Nov

Sept 6-7 North Carolina Gourd Show, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC
www.ncgourdsociety.org

Sept 13-14 New York State Gourd Fest, Cutler Gardens at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Binghamton, NY
www.americangourdsociety.org/NewYork

Sept 17-21 Florida Gourd Society Retreat, Paisley, FL www.flgourdsoc.org

Sept 20-21 Illinois Gourd Show, Chicago Botanic Garden
www.illinoisgourdsociety.org

Sept 20-21 Michigan Gourd Society, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park

Sept 20-21 Mississippi Gourd Festival, Smith Co. Ag Complex, Raleigh MS
www.mississippigourdsociety.org

Sept 26-28 Georgia Gourd Fest, Griffin GA
www.georgiagourdsociety.com

Sept 27-28 Davis Ranch Gourd Festival, Sloughouse CA
www.californiagourdsociety.com

Oct 3-5 Ohio Gourd Society, Delaware OH
www.ohiogourdsociety.com

Oct 18-19 Alabama Gourd Show, Cullman Civic Center, Cullman AL
www.alabamagourdsociety.org

Nov 1-2 Virginia Gourd Festival, Middletown VA
www.virginaloversgourdsociety.org

Nov 1-2 Idaho Gourd Festival, Boise ID
www.idahogourdsociety.org

Nov 15-16 Washington State Juried Art Show, Country Village, Bothell WA
www.wagourdsociety.org

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC. <input type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> RENEW ID# _____	
Membership Application	DATE: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year @ \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 year @ \$40.00 Patch # _____	
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Visit the IGS Web site at: www.indianagourdsociety.org	

From the 2014
IGS State
Show: Anyone
know who this
is?



"Budding Gourd Artists
(5-8 years old) from the
2014 IGS State Show"



THE TENDRIL

P.O. BOX 822

MARION, IN 46952

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.

The editors reserve the right to edit any submissions for content and consistency. All contents copyrighted, see below. For permission to reprint excerpts, please contact Phil Moorhead (see below for contact info).

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**NEW submissions due the 15th of the
odd numbered months for the next
Tendril Issue!**

**CHECK EXPIRATION DATE
ABOVE YOUR
ADDRESS!
THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST
ISSUE**

All submissions welcome!

**ARTICLES MUST BE IN MS
WORD OR RTF FORMAT.**

Send as an attachment to your email or mail your submissions to the above address. Please send us your pictures, stories, tutorials, and anything else gourd related plus your suggestions for improving or inclusion in The Tendril.

IGS Executive Board

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president@

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1stvp@

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AFTER THE @ SYMBOL**