

Indiana Gourd Society By-Laws

1. The name of the corporation shall be "Indiana Gourd Society, Inc." The corporation will be referred to as IGS throughout the bylaws.
2. The legal address will be the address of the treasurer.
3. The purpose of the corporation shall be:
 - a) Presentation of an annual gourd show in Indiana by members of the society where teaching classes, demonstrations, and lectures are given on gourd horticulture and craft/artwork. Gourds and gourd art are exhibited. All aspects of the show are performed by members. Proceeds from this show represent approximately 80% of the income of the corporation and the preparations for the show, which goes on all year, represents 50% of our time. The show is in progress over an extended weekend and is open to the public;
 - b) Seed saving and/or exchange, especially old varieties, which are in danger of disappearing, and newly developed varieties. These are available to members throughout the year. Seed sales represent approximately 10% of our income;
 - c) Exhibition of fresh, preserved, and crafted gourds in county/state fair horticulture exhibits. Exhibition at the Indiana State Fair, annually for the entire run of the fair. This is one of the main avenues of presenting gourd knowledge, horticulture and art to the public;
 - d) Educational programs for members. Subjects discussed are better gourd production techniques, disease and insect control methods, preservation techniques, and crafting/artwork on gourds. These are presented to members by means of several newsletters annually, educational pamphlets, brochures, lectures, and demonstrations at several gourd meetings throughout the year. Dues from memberships represent approximately 10% of income for the corporation;
 - e) Continue to function as the ETA Chapter of American Gourd Society, Inc.;
 - f) Development of true-to-type seeds via growth of varieties in isolation;
 - g) Presentation of demonstrations to garden clubs and master gardener groups;
 - h) Other charitable and exempt purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code, as amended;
 - i) To cooperate with other gourd societies in advancing our purposes and enhancing the dissemination of information relative to gourd culture, history, development, pure seeds, nourishment, growth, crafting, and usages of gourds generally.
4. The mission statement of the corporation shall be (a) to promote educational efforts which advance an appreciation for the gourd's role and significance in past and present cultures, (b) to promote gourd cultivation, (c) to promote gourd crafting and artistry.
5. Membership in IGS shall be open to everyone willing to support the activities of the society

and pay the membership dues fee. There are no initiation fees. Each adult in good standing shall have the privilege of full membership. A family membership includes all related members of a family living at one dwelling.

6. The corporation board of directors shall be elected by the membership present at the fall membership meeting. The date and location of this meeting will be determined by the board of directors. The president will cause the publication of this meeting in the IGS newsletter and website at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The membership shall elect FIVE (5) board of directors members in even-numbered years for a two year term. The board shall then meet and elect SIX (6) officers. If there are not sufficient members willing to serve on the board to cause a vote to fill the vacancies, the president will declare the proposed slate as elected. If there are not sufficient members willing to fill all vacancies, the president will declare those positions vacant until the following year. Board members and officers must be members of the society. No member of the board of directors or officers will be paid, except documented expenses in support of the society.
7. New board members and officers elected at the fall membership meeting and board meeting will be installed as officers on January 1 of the following year. A membership quorum shall consist of the members present at the meeting. The board of directors will elect a president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and membership secretary. The president and treasurer are the only officers who may bind the IGS to a contract.
8. The president may appoint committees, with approval of the board of directors, charged with specific tasks.
9. The president, with the assistance of the treasurer, will present a proposed budget to the board of directors. The fiscal year of the IGS will be July 1 to June 30.
10. These by-laws cancel and revoke the present constitution and standing rules. These by-laws may be amended by a simple majority vote of board of directors.
11. In the event of dissolution of the Indiana Gourd Society, Inc., all debts shall be paid, then any remaining assets will be forwarded to the American Gourd Society, Inc. No refunds or monies will be returned to IGS members.
12. Any item not covered in the corporate by-laws will be governed by the then current Indiana Nonprofit Corporation Act.

May 2, 2015