

# YOUR NEWSLETTER

At the spring membership meeting, 2006, the executive board asked the membership to approve a \$5.00 increase in membership fees. The reason stated for the increase was that The Tendril would become a bi-monthly newsletter sent out First Class mail. As a result of this measure \$9300 was budgeted for publication and postage of The Tendril. With ever increasing printing and postage costs we find that this is still a difficult accomplishment.

With the continued problem in this area and the increase in computer and internet use, the executive board has now made another decision concerning your newsletter. The Tendril is now available on line. The advantage for the IGS is decreased publishing and postage costs. There are also advantages for the membership. The electronic newsletter will be the exact same newsletter as the published edition; BUT because it doesn't go to the printer, the pictures will be in color. The cost of printing color pictures makes this an impossible option for the printed copy. You will see the electronic newsletter about 2 weeks sooner than by mail. When the newsletter has gone thru its final check and is ready to go to the printer, you will be notified by email. At that time you can go to the appropriate website and receive your electronic newsletter in color. By December we expect to have a "members-only" section of the web where you can see Tendril archives, as well as other material expressly for members. We will have more information in the next issue.

The electronic newsletter is an option determined by each dues paying member. In the future, you will only receive the electronic copy unless you contact Dallas Lunsford. For now, you can check out the new electronic copy of this Tendril by going to:

**[http://www.indianagourdsociety.org/tendril/07\\_04\\_trwxrt23af.pdf](http://www.indianagourdsociety.org/tendril/07_04_trwxrt23af.pdf)**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, spring weather is finally starting to tease us and our thoughts are on final preparations for our state show. As you read this, the show will be behind us. Along with the weekend that passes all too quickly for most, will be the opportunities to renew friendships and excite a new crop of gourdheads with the joys of our passion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from Phil Moorhead and his committee to the volunteer who spent 1 hour helping put on our great show. Volunteers truly are the back bone of our society.

We now turn our thoughts to our Spring Festival/Membership meeting. Pat Buedel will be in charge of this event, along with help from local IGS member Karen Neimeyer. This year's festival will be May 12 at the Boone County fairgrounds in Lebanon. Early preparations point toward a unique and exciting day. There will be much activity at the fairgrounds that day, and Pat and Karen have plans for drawing some of those people into our event. There will be vendors and demonstrations, as usual, along with some exciting new twists. If you haven't attended one of our festival/membership meetings in recent years, this will certainly be one to check out. Also happening that day will be election of officers. We will be electing 3 directors, along with a treasurer. This is your opportunity for input into the operations of your society, and I implore all to attend.

Unfortunately, because of outside circumstances, Cheryl Harshman has been replaced as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. The Harshman family has been hit with an unusual amount of illness and misfortune, starting with Dick's illness, and passing. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family and we certainly hope things turn around for them soon. In the mean time, Steve Sullivan has stepped forward and agreed to fill the remainder of Cheryl's term. Steve has served as Vice President previously and actually completed Dick Harshman's term as President when Dick had his original heart attack. We appreciate Steve's acceptance and look forward to benefiting from his experience.

I hope everybody is well into their new year of gourding, whether it is as an artist, or grower, or both. Until next time, happy gourding.

**Sid Meyers— IGS President**