

IT WILL SOON BE SEED PACKAGING TIME AGAIN

I have reserved the room at the Thorntown Library again this year for our Seed Packaging Day on ?????? (I've asked for March 1, 2008).

As many of you know, during the past year, there has been a LOT of activity about what we are going to do and where we are headed with seeds.

We will be eliminating 10 varieties from the box this year, so we may have to either re-label those or print other information on the packages. The varieties eliminated were the "mixes", those that were "duplicates" of other varieties or of inferior quality, and those that were at the bottom of the list in sales over the last three years.

Steve Sullivan took on the task of Germination Studies of those seeds we already had in the Seed Box to assure that all are germinating properly. The results of the studies MAY require marking the correct germination rate on all packages of some varieties.

Although we haven't purchased as many seeds as in prior years we will be packaging about the same quantity with the seeds coming from the Pure Seed Project efforts.

We will also be figuring out what to do with our existing packages of PSP seeds as well. Some of those may need re-labeled to fold over into our Seed Box.

The white plastic boxes you have seen at past festivals will either disappear or will contain seed "sale specials" of the varieties being eliminated from the Seed Box.

We need to get as much of this done during the packaging day as I also have to update the two books we have for our customers to view.

SO, as usual, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!! Your help is requested and greatly appreciated in the packaging effort. I could not get this done by myself until about State Fair time, or later. And, it is a great time to get together or re-acquainted with all of your gourdhead friends again.

Jesse Glessner

Missing Travel Gourd

At our meeting after the show in Valparaiso someone brought up an item about a missing "Indiana Gourd Society Travelling Gourd". The gourd was described as having the shape of the state of Indiana inlaid in silver on it. It also had inlays of some crystal and the background of Gary on the surface. Please contact any of the IGS officers if you know where this gourd is. We would like to see it continue with its "travels".

Gourd Pests

**On how to control gourd pests, Dallas Lunsford reviewed back issues and this article was copied from *The Tendril*, Vol 2 No 2, Page 1
It was written by Ron Bair**

Just a short note for this growing season. For those pesky little striped and spotted cucumber beetles that seem to invade us all - Liquid Sevin does wonders! But be careful! Spray about 1 to 1 1/2 hours before dark AFTER THE HONEYBEES HAVE QUIT VISITING. DO NOT SPRAY IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY and if you don't have a very big bee population visiting your blossoms, you may want to leave a few of the pesky cucumber beetles for pollination purposes



These two photos showing IGS' booth activities were taken by Phil Moorhead at the Valparaiso Garden Show held on Saturday, January 19, 2008

