



President's Column

My Gourd Is Missing!! Supposedly 1540 people live in my small town of Thorntown, Indiana, and one of them—or, possibly, a visitor--has my one and only handsome, magnificent, large, lovely, delicate-green Marten House Gourd!! At 9:00 a.m. Friday, November 14, I called the town marshal to report the theft of my ONE gourd from the vine I had planted across the alley, across the grassy area that is the library's overflow parking lot. The marshal assured me that he would e-mail all the deputies so that all shifts would immediately know that they were to keep their eyes out for my gourd. Since this was my V.I.G. (Very Important Gourd), you will note, Dear Reader, that it is always capitalized as Marten House Gourd in this story.

This history of this gourd is worth noting, for its origin was the gourd farm of first vice-president and former IGS president Sid Meyers. At the spring meeting of Patch 1, I bought two plants. I plunked them with a prayer on the slightly hilly area I felt was too dangerous for our senior citizen to mow. I had applied RoundUp and then mulch but the prayer was very necessary for the area was not one I planned to water. These were gourd vines that would be on their own.

I'll admit that I finally yielded and watered just a bit, hoping to coax the healthy baby plants into a good start. One vine died rather promptly, but one persevered. I watched it anxiously, until finally in July I could say, "I have a gourd!" Anxiously, I awaited other gourds. Nary another one. You will recall that this was a challenging year for gourd-growing and that second vice-president Bill Freihofer amused the IGS board when he reported via e-mail, "I have a blossom!" and, later, "I have a gourd!"

So...I contented myself with watching my ONE Marten House Gourd develop. It did so beautifully. All fall I have enjoyed seeing it. We are all counseled to take mini-vacations, those brief moments when we go in our minds to a happy spot away from the tensions of the day. My light green Marten House Gourd was my mini-vacation. I love my work, but I also loved looking out my second story window and noting my lovely, healthy ONE gourd growing. Every morning when I parked for my work day, I looked to the far side of the stone lot, across the grassy lot, and noted my beautiful gourd's progress. I even made our gourd board mem-

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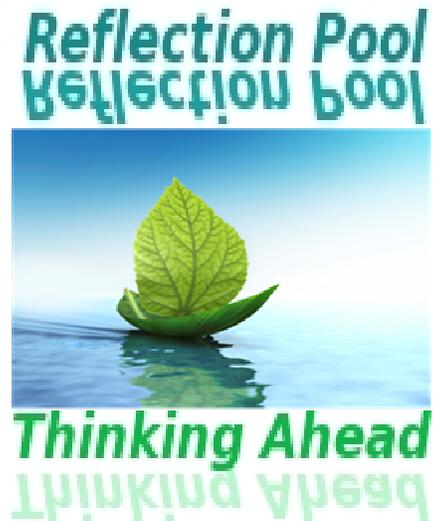


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