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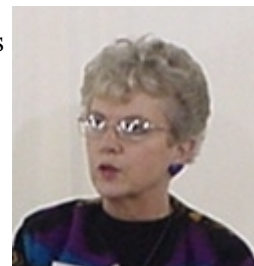
phi, in Corydon/Evansville, in Pendleton, and on January 13, Thorntown. Temperatures may have been below zero, but six hardy gourdheads met at the Thorntown Public Library to create the Sugar Creek Gourd Patch. Six others expressed interest but were unable to attend. The group plans to meet on January 28 to view the Jim Story video, on February 11 to view the Carolyn Rushton "Across Indiana" DVD and learn basic woodburning, and on February 25 to begin making gifts for Christmas 2009. On September 25-28 at the Sugar Creek Art Center and during the 36-year-old Festival of the Turning Leaves the group plans to host a Crown of Thorntown Gourd Exhibition. Enthusiasm was high as jewelry, hats, painting, and pyrography were discussed. IGS memberships were paid and one professional gardener summed up the feeling of the group, "I want to do it all!" The age range is currently 46 to 92, but younger members will be encouraged to participate.

All patches receive free booth space at IGS fall and spring membership meetings/festivals and may receive financial support if approved by the president and two directors who are appointed to assist the patch.

Contact Karen Niemeyer (see officer list) for more information about participation in existing patches or the formation of new ones. Spring will come 'round again and that is the perfect time to sprout a gourd patch to meet local needs and interests. The IGS leadership is willing to visit and provide demonstrations, lectures, and classes, as well as guidance.

Is this the time for a Gourd Challenge? How many active patches can be sprouted between now and the State Show on March 27-29? We'll list all patches, contact information, activities and membership totals in the next issue!

Until then,
Happy Gourding!



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