



## President's Column

### A GOURD PATCH IS NOT ALWAYS A PIECE OF GROUND

In Indiana there are two kinds of gourd patches. A patch may be the spot of earth in which gourders place their seeds and from which they harvest nature's fascinating gourd children. A patch may also be a group of people who come together to learn about, grow and/or craft with gourds.

The Indiana Gourd Society has changed the requirements for patches so that there are no longer any geographic boundaries. Anyone may start a patch without concerns about boundary lines. Patches represent groups of people with like interests who want to get together to talk about gourd growing, crafting, or gourds in general.

The requirements are simple: assemble at least two people with an interest in gourds, print from the IGS website the "New Patch Request Form", complete it, and mail or fax it to Karen Niemeyer, President, Indiana Gourd Society, Inc., 1217 Wesley Court, Thorntown, IN 46071-8955. Fax 765 436 7011. The form asks who will act as Patch Leader, the number of persons interested, what the interest is (growing, crafting, other), and what support is needed from IGS as well as how the formation of the patch will attract new IGS members..

It is important that the group be willing to be registered (submit the form), and that members be willing to pay the \$15.00 annual dues to IGS, and to follow the IGS mission statement and guidelines. The mission statement is "*The Indiana Gourd Society, through individual and organizational activities, promotes educational efforts which advance an appreciation for the gourd's role and significance in past and present cultures and for gourd cultivation, crafting and artistry.*" The standing rules and guidelines are available on the IGS web site.

For the time being Patch 1 in northern Indiana is the biggest gourd in the patch world. Under the leadership of Sid Meyers, the patch mans a booth at the January garden show in Valparaiso, hosts a late summer tour of gourd growers in the area, and provides the gourd-power for the annual state show now held in South Bend. In addition to Patch 1, which has been established for several years, patches formed under the new system include one in Johnson County, in Del-

(Continued on page 2)

## Wintersowing



## Spring Growing

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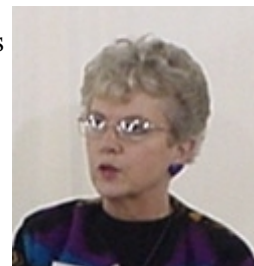
phi, in Corydon/Evansville, in Pendleton, and on January 13, Thorntown. Temperatures may have been below zero, but six hardy gourdheads met at the Thorntown Public Library to create the Sugar Creek Gourd Patch. Six others expressed interest but were unable to attend. The group plans to meet on January 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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## **FALL FESTIVAL FINALE**

Our IGS Annual Fall Festival, hosted at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, was a complete success. Our weather was moderate and attendance was good.

Many gourdos and gourdettes pitched in with very special effort to insure success of the Festival. To mention a few: Pat Moore, membership; Ron Pressel, pyrography; Dan Wallace, green cleaning; Emily Dillard, make it take it; Loretta Pressel, Ways & Means; Jesse Glessner, seed sales; Rich Rodriguez and Guy Shutt, auction; Carolyn Rush-ton, display; Steve Sullivan, seed germination; Joyce Dankowski, sponge painting, Guy & Lois Shutt, Kidz Korner. Thanks to each and every one of you!!

Vendors? You bet! All reported doing well. Vendors really add a lot to all of our shows. We had Helen Thomas, Phil and Jayne Hart, Joyce Dankowski, Wayne and Patty Blacker and Helen Parker. I hope you'll all return next year!!

Oh yes! Phil and Ruth Moorhead attended. You bet. Thanks for all your great help and advice during and before the Festival. Sid had to work. Thanks for helping, Renee.

Next year? No final plans as yet, but stay tuned. Plant early. Plant many. Water. Grow. Harvest. Green clean. Decorate. Keep. Sell. Share. Give. ENJOY and GREAT GOURDING. **Suggestions for improving the show are always welcome.**

Bill Freihofer

### ***Wintergrowing Article On Insert Page***

The Master Gardeners Show at Valparaiso is now over and all IGS members present seemed to have been busy, busy, busy with customers (or at least their questions) most of the day. We did have a chance to talk to a young lady who had an unusual display set up close to our area. The display was about Wintersowing. I gained permission to reprint an article in this issue of *The Tendril* so all of our members could read it.

We hope you enjoy the article. We also hope that some of our members actually try this and use the report form as a courtesy to the Wintergrowing Web site and IGS as well. In fact you might write up your experiences and we will put the article in *The Tendril* at some future date.

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## *Meet The Members*

### “Team Pressel” - Loretta and Ron Pressel

Many of you may know the Pressels as the workers behind the Ways and Means tables, but there is much more to these active members. Joining the Indiana Gourd Society in 2000, Ron and Loretta have been married for 15 years, having met in church. Loretta has five grandchildren; Ron has three, with three great grandchildren.

Ron has a deep farming background. He has a degree in Agronomy from Purdue, and runs a 350 acre farm, in Walkerton, LaPorte County. He enjoys antique farm equipment, when not farming or working on his gourd art. He has been the Director of Kankakee Valley Rural Electric Members Co-operative for 12 years. Most people don't know that he is also an electronic specialist in guided missiles. He has served the IGS in many capacities: 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P., director, state fair chairman for 3 years and volunteers to help with whatever projects are needed.



Loretta worked for 30 years as a quality control inspector at Hawmet, which makes parts for aircraft engines. She takes that quality control mindset with her to the garden, as she deals with their extensive vegetable and herb garden, flower garden, grape arbor and tree nursery. She has been a Master Gardener for 12 years. After reaping the rewards of the garden, she enjoys preserving the produce, and entering fairs with all kinds of preserves, canning and baking, as well as all kinds of crafts. Using gourds, she has done leather dyeing, painting, weaving, decoupage, and other techniques. Loretta is currently IGS Recording Secretary and has served as Ways and Means chair several times.

“Team Pressel” go to auctions together, travel together, work on gourds together, volunteer at the LaPorte County Fair Development Committee and Log Cabin Committee, recreating pioneer days with fun and food. They are leaders in their church.

They grow their gourds on trellises, and that covers approximately one acre. They've grown most varieties of gourds, especially extra long handled dippers, apples, and cannon balls.

Ron learned to woodburn from Joe Lee, though he has enjoyed drawing since second grade. This urge to draw has fascinated him, has been a strong, lifetime interest. Ron has researched the themes of Native American Culture for many years, to understand the patterns they chose, and the culture behind the patterns. It is with this kind of respect that Ron and Loretta, as do many of our gourd artists, work on their pieces. “Artists try to honor those cultures through their gourd pieces. They put part of their own souls into their work.” It shows.

by Ruth Moorhead



## **GOURD CLEANING**

There are two methods that I use: (1) Green clean. (2) Clean when dry. I use these methods for both ornamentals and hardshells. Green cleaning is the scraping the skin from green (fresh) gourds prior to the start of the curing process. Dry cleaning is done after gourds dry. I need to add that gourds can be cleaned anytime during the curing (drying) process. There is a stage in the drying process when the skin comes off easily. Observe gourds being cured outside and when the skin is soft and comes off in large pieces it is a good time to clean. Advantages of green cleaning are: You get gourds free of mold spots; Gourds dry fast. I have had green cleaned gourds dry in four weeks.

Green cleaning tips: It is important to select fully mature gourds because immature gourds will shrivel and crack during the drying process. Green cleaned gourds dry rapidly and cause cracking, & shriveling. With experience you will learn to read gourds, enabling you to determine which ones are mature. To remove the skin, scrape with a pocket or paring knife. The stem has a skin too which should be removed by scraping. When the scraping procedure is complete, wash (scrub) the gourd in warm, soap sudsy water with a copper or steel scouring pad to remove fine skin particles missed in the scraping process.

Gourd stem tips: Sometimes it takes me as long to clean a gourd stem as it does the gourd. I save gourd stems as replacements for lost or weak stems. When I judge gourds particular attention is paid to the stems. The appearance of a gourd stem can be enhanced by proper cleaning, sanding and cutting tip at an angle. Look at gourd stems on craft in gourd shows and see which ones are well groomed and those that are not.

From our IGS Archived Articles

**CURRENT TIP:** Try this for cleaning moldy gourds: A bucket of warm water, some dish soap, a little fabric softener and a bit of bleach. Weight the gourd for a complete soak. Let soak for two hours. Use a plastic handled stainless scrubber to easily scrub off the mold. Clean the stem area and the “belly button” area with a knife.

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## 2009 Show Updates

### Show Chair Report

Time for count down!!! We have less than 3 months left before the show is here. Excitement is brewing, and we hope it will be fun for everyone again this year at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds. Alice has some schools lined up for exhibition, along with another for the art raffle. Ida has been getting registrations for the workshops, and Joyce is working at getting the volunteers lined up. I have been contacting those who helped out last year, and getting advertising for our event lined up. About the only thing that we will need help with besides set up and tear down is for everyone to wish, pray, and hope for good weather. I figure if we all strive for the same thing, tolerable weather, then hopefully it will come to be!! We look forward to presenting "Gourds-Going to the Birds" in 2009.

See you at the show,  
Renee Meyers, Show Chair

### Workshops! Workshops! Workshops!

Hello Everyone

I hope you are all getting excited about the Spring (State) Show. I think this will be a long winter and we all need something to look forward to, I know I do. I hope you are reading our show book from front to back. There is a lot of important information about entering in the competition besides checking out all the workshops we are offering this year.

We have tried to offer a variety of workshops to give you an opportunity to learn new things to do with your gourds. We hope to attract more men to our workshops as well as the ladies and young people. I know there are a lot of talented guys so don't be shy. If there is something in specific any of you would like us to have a workshop on, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please get your workshop applications in as soon as possible. All classes are still open at this time.

See you at the show.

Ida Kennedy, Workshop Chairperson

Volunteers needed for the Spring Show. Volunteer get limited entry to the show, depending on amount of volunteer time, plus the benefits of associating with a great group of people and advancing the cause of the IGS.

### 2009 Show Book Errata

**PLEASE! Make these changes in your book or on your calendar .**

#### Page 2 Below Workshops

#### Left Side Days and Dates Should Be The Following

**Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>**

#### Workshop Registration Form—Pg 29

**Friday classes: March 27**  
**Saturday classes: March 28**  
**Sunday classes: March 29**

**On page 2, the correct dates for the show are Friday (March 27), Saturday (March 28) and Sunday (March 29). The April dates are not correct. Sorry for the confusion.**

**– Tom Benedict is the new vendor chair, his address is 6875 St. Rd 17, Plymouth, IN 46563, phone 574 936 4805 or vendor-chair@indianagourdsociety.org. Please send vendor registration forms for the state show to him.**

**– Class 82 description should be "80 and 81", not 82 and 83.**

**– On page 13, the "Class 60-64 Requirements" should apply to Class 60-63 only.**

**– Class 90 the description should say "This class must be pre-registered", not division.**

## ***Patch Opportunities***

I recently heard a lobbyist state that “government is run by those who show up”. After 4 years as president of the IGS I feel certain that to some degree that is true even within our great organization. HOWEVER, there is a great opportunity available to all members of the IGS. Renee and I have been receiving considerable recognition for the accomplishments of Patch 1. The truth of the matter is that we only facilitate an active and energetic group of people. Without these people Patch 1 would not exist and be so successful.

This is all noteworthy because any group of members can start a patch. You will find applications and requirements in other places such as, The Tendril, our website, or any executive board member. The beauty of our current set up is that a group of people who get together because of the gourd can bond together with other gourdheads. Not only can this be a very enjoyable period of time, it also gives that group of people a voice within the IGS. Each patch will eventually develop their own identity, and some one active within the IGS will recognize this

identity and know how to use it to benefit the entire IGS.

These patches have very few restrictions. You can be a group of growers, crafters, artists, or just plain gourdheads, or any combination of the above. This is a good opportunity to learn from others, as most gourdheads are very knowledgeable and willing to share with others. We have learned more from our patch members, than we had ever thought possible.

We live one mile from the Michigan state line, and know all too well that a trip to Kentucky is at least a 5 hour venture. We also know that it will take approximately one and a half hours to go across the state. These times are using interstate highways. Which brings me to the point that the best way to truly have a Indiana Gourd Society, is for patches to form throughout the state. What seems large for one person or one patch could be quite small with several people in several patches. The gourd gives us excellent opportunities for enjoyment and fellowship and starting a new patch creates the opportunity for both. I encourage more people to consider starting a local patch.

Sid Meyers, 1 Vice President

## ***Notice About Workshop - State Show 2009***

I would like to let people know that we will be canceling some of the workshops if the signup is very low. We are looking for ways to cut expenses and this is probably a necessary step due to the circumstances of the economy and low registrations.

I would also like to remind people that the dates on the registration form are not correct. The dates should be Friday, March 27; Saturday, March 28; and Sunday, March 29. If you intend to sign up for a workshop you should do so immediately.

Ida Kennedy

## ***VOLUNTEERS***

Something important to all of our shows is our cadre of volunteers. But, we need more of our members to help carry out the 2009 State Show and to help man the 2009 State Fair booth.

Our volunteers get what we can afford as a non-profit society in the way of benefits—free entry to the shows for a limited time, depending on how much you volunteer. This is a great way to meet and connect with and get to know other members of the society. So, if you're interested, so are we.

Volunteer forms will be in the 2009 Show Catalog. Just fill out and submit. For the State Fair, just eMail anyone on the back cover of the Tendril with the dates and times you will be helping out.

Jesse

## ***Still Sharing Gourd Information***

I'd like to say hello to all my gourd friends. I didn't make it to any gourd meetings this year but I'm still spreading the word about gourds in my area by giving two gourd presentations in 2008. One to a Red Hat Society and another at a Mothers Day dinner. It's always fun to share information about gourds and let people see all the different possibilities you can do with them.

## ***Kids! Kids! & More Kids!***

Thanks to all that had the pleasure of getting some youths involved with this years state show.

If you could please pre-register their projects before the show, it will make it so much easier for all involved. All we need is their name – Div. 8 & the class they fit under class 96-103.

If you have high school students they may be entered under youth or into the adult division, again we ask for name-division & class.

Thank you,  
Alice Pawlowski Co-Chair 2009 State Show

## ***Learning About Gourd Crafts***

Do you have a special skill in crafting gourds? We are looking for articles for The Tendril as well as updating and adding to our Educational Articles. On one of these cold winter evenings curl up with your word processor and spell it out for us!



## ***STOP! Don't Throw Away Those MOLDY GOURDS!***

For all "newcomers" to the World of Gourds, one of the most common "bad habits", is to throw away those moldy, nasty looking gourds. Very commonly, when one first becomes acquainted with fresh gourds, and they begin to get moldy, this is what happens. However, not all gourds go through a molding stage, depending on their environment.

If the gourd is still firm to shape during this molding stage, it is going through its' natural "drying out" process. The moisture from within the gourd is escaping. The gourd is typically said to be 95%-99% water. Whatever the percentage is, it is quite high.

Common to a lot of folks, the skin is removed for preservation of the gourd. Although, it is not necessary to remove the skin for all its' intended uses (ex. birdhouses). Once a gourd is dry, the seeds will normally be able to be shaken loose, and will be able to hear rattle. It will keep indefinitely under the right environment, depending also, on its intent of use.

Usually, during the molding stage, the skin that is molding the most, can be removed very easily when submerged and scrubbed in a tub of warm water. Whereas the skin that is not molding can be very stubborn to remove and a scraping tool may be necessary to use. OR again, depending on its' intended use, this portion of the skin may be left intact indefinitely, or it may become moldy again later, and the skin removed at that time. Usually though, any gourd used for craftwork (ex. painting, etc.), it is recommended that all skin be removed.

As long as the gourd retains its' mature shape, and remains firm and solid to the touch, it will probably dry out for you. Some gourds have even been known to wrinkle somewhat and still continue to dry out. Pieces of these are capable of being used for various unique functions (ex. masks, headwear, jewelry, etc.). If gourds wrinkle and shrivel up, becoming mushy, and losing their shape, chances are, they weren't "mature" gourds when they were picked or when the plant died off. Sometimes when purchasing gourds at Festivals and such, it can be very hard to determine which gourds are mature and which ones aren't. Most of the time a mushy or soft gourd was harvested pre-maturely. When selecting "fresh picked" gourds, if you want "keepers", try to select good solid firm gourds for your best choice. However, some of these gourds may still be very solid, and haven't started to show their "immaturity" yet. It can be very frustrating, while at the same time, very fun making a decision. If you have the opportunity, ask the Grower. The increasing interest in gourds is seemingly growing by leaps-and-bounds. It seems as though someone is always looking for certain gourds.

The main thing to remember when working with gourd, is the many variables you have to deal with. The same attempt will not necessarily yield the same results every time. The overall environment plays the major factor (ex. moisture, sunlight, heat, humidity, wind, soil, etc.). There are so many different growing and crafting techniques that you can experience. I truly believe, this is why so many people have become intrigued with gourds.

So., when those gourds begin to mold on you this Fall and Winter, "Don't throw them out!" (Unless you just want to, or need to--- "which I hope not!") Clean-em up, and enter them in the Gourd Show(s), and/or share them with others ...and Gourd Luck!

From our IGS Archived Articles

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### ***Introducing***

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**Mary and Dick Segreto    [info@mardigourds.com](mailto:info@mardigourds.com)**



After MANY years of serving as the IGS Kid's Patch representatives, Guy and Lois Shutt have decided to hang up their paint and brushes. We in the society owe them a huge "Thank You" for the contributions that they made. We will still see them at IGS events, but not in their usual capacity. Thank you Guy and Lois for all you do for the society.

Mary Cuff has agreed to take over as the Kids Patch representative. Mary also loves kids, and I know that she will do the Shutt's proud. But she needs your help. To continue in this endeavor, I would like to ask for contributions. If you could bring a bottle of acrylic paint, and an inexpensive paint brush to the State Show for the kids to use, it would be appreciated. These products would then be used when the kids patch is done at the locations the IGS will have an event. There are always a lot of children that attend at these events, and we would like to supply them with the tools they need to create their own works of art. Sid and I will supply the egg gourds this year for the show, but if anyone else would like to bring any to the show, that would be great.



I thank you all for your help in helping the Kids Patch to succeed.

Renee Meyers, Show Chair

The entire IGS membership shares its gratitude to Guy and Lois also.

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## ***Patch 1 Report***

During 2008, Patch 1 has lost some members, and gained some. No matter how many we have, or where we are, we always seem to have a great time. During the year, we had a festival of our own, sold plants, crafted gourds, and had an auction. We also had a patch visit to see how others within our group grow their gourds, and ate a little food along the way. We always look forward to one or more in the group teaching a new technique, or giving a little clue to help them achieve the wanted result.

But we all look forward to the annual Christmas dinner, and gourd gift exchange. We all gathered at Christo's Family Dining in La Porte on January 4, and to add a plus to the event, the dinner was paid for thru efforts from those in the patch. We have a surplus in our account now, and we voted to use the money to pay for the meal. We earned this money thru the auctions that we have with our patch festivals, along with any vendor fees collected.

The gourd gift exchange is always worth the wait, with some VERY nice pieces being given. Below is a picture of this year's attendees. Pictured are first row; Flo Schneider, Loretta Pressel, Peg Miller, Robbie Hiduke, Brenda Rodriguez, Second row; Judy Millard, Ron Pressel, Sherry Benedict, Blanche Murrin, Alice Pawlowski, Ray Nixon, Sid Meyers, Third row; Jerry Millard, Derlene Olson, Tom Benedict, Mary Cuff, Rich Rodriguez. Missing were Joyce Dankowski, Ida Kennedy, and Kim and Bill Schultz.

By Renee Meyers





## Valpo Show Photos



A shot of the official IGS booth (not vendors) where many times we had people standing in line waiting to talk to one of the three people manning the booth. Some of our “new look” is showing on the table in the back. We had no floor space for the arbor setup but the table worked nicely. It isn’t all together yet, so you will have to come to the Spring show to see if we’ve completed the setup!

The items below were on display at the IGS tables as being representative of items that will be made in various workshops.

If you haven’t signed up for a workshop you may still be able to do so. Contact the Workshop Coordinator, Ida Kennedy -

[workshop@indianagourdsociety.org](mailto:workshop@indianagourdsociety.org)



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### ***Gourd Happenings In Our Gourdeous World***

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**February 6-8, 2009** Wuertz Farm's 6th Annual Gourd Festival in Casa Grande AZ.. Features over 100 Gourd Artists and Vendors, Reserved Classes, AzGS Judged Show, Sailing Regourda, Mini Gourdster Races, Gourd Games, Flash Gourdon, Non-Stop Live Musical Entertainment, Great Food & Thousands of Dried Gourds for Sale!

**February 20-22, 2009** Marion County Gourd Artist Show, The Market of Marion, Belleview, FL. Classes, vendors, judging. For information [www.themarketofmarion.com](http://www.themarketofmarion.com) (click on events and then Marion County Gourd show.)

**February 21, 2009** IGS Seed Packaging Day Thorntown Public Library, Thorntown, Indiana, from 9:00 AM until finished. A Board Meeting will immediately follow. [An IGS Event]

**Feb 27-Mar1, 2009** Florida Gourd Society 11th annual Florida Gourd Show in Palatka Florida

**March 27, 28, & 29, 2009** IGS State Gourd Show St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 5117 S. Ironwood Rd, South Bend, IN 46614 [Map](#)  
Admission: \$6 (this is a change from last year) for entire weekend, open to public  
Large gourd competition, Vendors, IGS Gourd store, Gourd Seeds

Demonstrations, kids booth, Auction Saturday and Sunday  
For additional info: Renee Meyers, 574-229-0895 or e-mail: [showchair@indianagourdsociety.org](mailto:showchair@indianagourdsociety.org)  
[An IGS Sponsored Event]

**April 19, 2009** 3rd annual Gourd Educational Day in Laurens, SC at Ghost Creek Gourd Farm. We will have classes, work stations, and a raffle. (9 am to 5 pm) For more information: [SCGourdSociety.com](http://SCGourdSociety.com)

**May 9, 2009** Mississippi Farms Gourd Festival Saturday 9am - 5pm classes will be offered. Adkins Farms, Booneville, MS 38829, [www.adkinsfarms.com](http://www.adkinsfarms.com)

**May 16, 2009** The Spring/Festival Membership Meeting LaPorte County Fairgrounds, LaPorte, IN. Sid Meyers, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President is the chairperson of this event.

**August 7—23, 2009** 2009 State Fair. Year of Tomatoes. See next Tendril issue for important information concerning your entries into State Fair competition, both from the State Fair and from the Indiana Gourd Society. Extended time period covers three weekends! Volunteers needed to man the booth for the extra week.

**Nov 7, 2009** IGS Fall Festival Saturday 9:00AM to 3:00PM, Lafayette, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds.

**THE TENDRIL**  
**P.O. BOX 822**  
**MARION, IN 46952**

**INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.**

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**All submissions due March 15, 2009**

**for the next Tendril Issue!**

**ADS ARE TO BE PREPAID. SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN JPEG FORMAT.**

All submissions welcome! **ARTICLES MUST BE IN MS WORD OR RTF FORMAT.** Send as an attachment to your eMail or mail your submissions to the above address. Please send us your pictures, stories, tutorials, and anything else gourd related plus your sug-

gestions for improving or inclusion in The Tendril.

**CHECK EXPIRATION DATE ABOVE YOUR ADDRESS! THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE**

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2" Column \$10	
1/4 page \$15	1/2 PAGE \$30
1/3 page \$22.50	Full page \$60

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*You can learn*

How to

# Winter Sow Seeds Outdoors



*This informational brochure has been produced by  
WinterSown Educational Organization*

Trudi Davidoff, President  
wintersown@optonline.net

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## WINTERSOWN.ORG

**HTTP://WINTERSOWN.ORG**

PHOTOS \* FREE SEEDS \* FAQs

## Winter Sowing is Easy to Do!

With this creative and easy germination method you will be able to start hardy and vigorous seedlings for pennies. Winter Sowing is done outdoors during Winter using mini-greenhouses made from recyclables; there are no heating devices, no energy wasting light set-ups or expensive seed starting devices.

*Container Examples: Milk Jugs, large soda bottles, dessert-topping tubs, fast-food salad bowls, clear cake boxes, cottage cheese tubs. Tops should be clear or translucent to let in natural daylight.*

*Add small holes to the top for air ventilation and the base for draining excess moisture. Tops should be at least 2" above the soil to allow for seedling growth.*

*Label container bottoms with waterproof marker.*

*Use quality soil or sowing mix; minimum 3" deep.*

*Moisten soil, sow seeds.*

*Attach lids to bottoms with duct or packing tape.*

*Place outside, sow more containers all winter!*

*Keep containers moist.*

*Seeds germinate as weather warms, increase ventilation or remove lids after germination.*

*Transplant small seedlings into garden after germination, no hardening-off is needed.*

Wildflower Seeds for Winter Sowing



## What can you Winter Sow?

*Here's some examples....*

**Annuals:** alyssum, bidens, calendula, dahlia, emilia, gaillardia, helianthus, lavatera, mirabilis, nicotiana, petunia, portulaca, rudbeckia, toadflax, viola

**Perennials:** bellis, digitalis, echinacea, flax, gaura, grasses, heuchera, inula, lewisia, malva, nepeta, oenothera, poppy, red hot poker, salvia, yarrow

**Herbs:** basil, chamomile, chives, dill, hyssop, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, sage, thyme

**Veggies:** beets, broccoli, cabbage, chard, carrots, celery, hot peppers, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions, radish, strawberries, tomatoes, winter squash

**You can Winter Sow:** Wildflowers, Bushes, Trees, Vines, Fruits—anything that grows in a temperate climate. *Some trees and shrubs may require long dormancy over a year to germinate.*

## WinterSown.Org

*Begin your Winter Sowing experience.*

*Your garden will never be the same again!*

**HTTP://WINTERSOWN.ORG**



## Your feedback is appreciated!

***Please write your growout data in the boxes. Please write clearly with dark ink.***

Garden Location Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ USDA Plant Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ My Initials Are: \_\_\_\_\_

***Learn to Winter Sow! Please visit WinterSown.Org ~ <http://www.wintersown.org>***

Variety Name:
Approximate Germination Percentage:
Did this plant grow well? Why?
Was this plant problematic? Why?
Would you recommend this plant? Why?

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Approximate Germination Percentage:
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Approximate Germination Percentage:
Did this plant grow well? Why?
Was this plant problematic? Why?
Would you recommend this plant? Why?

***This data sheet may be duplicated as needed. Mail or fax completed data sheet to:***  
**WinterSown Seed Variety Survey, 1989 School Street, East Meadow, NY 11554**  
**ph: (516) 794-3945 fax: (516) 832-7922**