

President's Message

It's Fair Time and Gourd Stuff

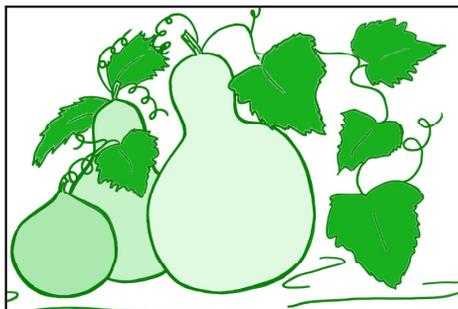
By Karen K. Niemeyer

It's fair time all across Indiana, and in Boone County I am very happy to see at least four more people than in 2010 entering gourd projects in the open show. As chair of the show and as a committee member for 35 years, I try every year to have 25 entries. This year I thought I might have only one exhibit but lucked into seven gourds that had never seen the light of the open show. For the first time since 1976 I had no entry in the culinary department. What to do?

The same thing we do for our gourd shows...promise ourselves that we shall get busy and complete something soon or regularly so that we will be ready for next year. Are you ready for the Indiana Gourd Society's fall meeting on Novem-

ber 5 and the state show in April? NOW is the time to get started, and if you are ready for these events you will also be ready for next year's county fair open shows. Go, Gourdheads!!

Included with this column is a graphic from the Sugar Creek Gourd Patch, a gourd group that meets at the Thorn-



Sugar Creek
Gourd Patch

town Public Library on the first and third Thursday of each month from 6-8:00 p.m. or later. This summer new signboards are being added to the east edge of town. Thanks to Carolyn Rushton for the draft of a

logo; the town sign will boast the patch's gourd graphic.

Do you need a gourd group in your area? If you are interested in chatting with other gourd enthusiasts and artists, the IGS has made it easy to start a Gourd Patch based on interest

(Continued on page 11)

Sun, Arbor Shade, Jug



Watch Your Gourds Grow

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Errata in last issue of *The Tendril*:

The last issue shows a garden plot with the words "Grow Green" beneath it.

Throughout the last issue the date should read "June 2011" and the issue should read "VOLUME 18, #6.

On page #10 of the last issue the photo of Bill Frei-

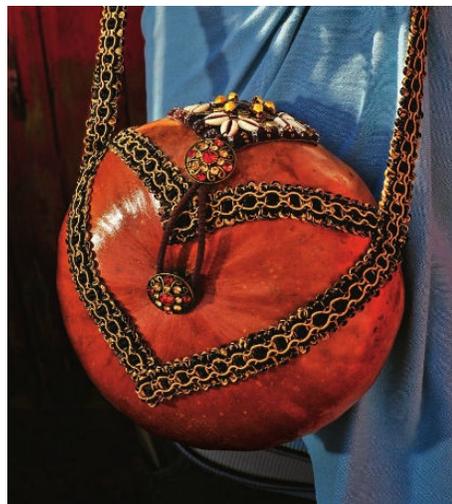
NEW GOURDER GROWING AMONG US!

A very few free packages of seed may change the world for the young man below who wrote a nice "Thank You" note to me. I replaced the gourd plants they had just purchased, planted, and found dead after a tornado at his home with packages of seed.

He and his brother are both fascinated with gourds. Maybe they can get some friends involved as well. And, young people are always new member prospects!

We wish you well in your growing and crafting, Robert!

Maybe you could send us some digital photos of how your gourds are growing? You might also use the photos on a project board to display at one of our shows, in your classroom, at the library, etc.



OUT OF THEIR GOURDS??

Check out the "John Deere's Homestead" Magazine, summer issue and Photo Gallery.

On the front cover is Pat Moore's gourd purse. Inside, on page 6, is the article "Out Of Their Gourds" with Sandlady, Pat Moore and Melody Martin.

See at: http://www.deere.com/en_US/CCE_promo/homestead/index.html

Dear, Jesse

June 6, 2011

Thank you so much for the gourd seeds. Thank you for caring and understanding about the tornado winds. I am very surprised that the Indiana Gourd Society cared enough to give us free seeds when it wasn't your fault that the gourds were killed, Thank you! I enjoy very much coming to your shows, and so does my little brother, Owen.

-Robert Williams-
age 11

IT'S HOT AND GETTING HOTTER! JIM STORY AWARD - COMPETITION HEATING UP!

Do you all know the current rules and regs on this competition? You have to mind your P's and Q's as well as your twists and turns and photos. See at AGS Web Site.

Gourd Harvest

By *Ron Bair*

Date: Unknown

As fall is rapidly approaching, so is gourd harvest time. Many of us have been anxiously waiting to pick our gourds. But wait! Don't pick them too early. This is a very common mistake. The gourds need to be fully mature. The vines should be turning brown and dying back, and the stems of the gourds should be turning brown also. The gourd itself should be very firm and hard to squeeze.

Most people in Indiana will wait till it frosts a couple times before harvesting. The light frosts won't generally harm the gourds if fully matured. If gourds are picked and harvested before they are fully mature they may spoil and rot. A lot of people have made this mistake of harvesting them too early and end up with big disappointments when they shrivel up and rot. An immature gourd will not maintain its shape. Generally, the most mature gourds will be nearest the base of the plant. Commonly, there will be immature gourds near the end of the vines. In essence, the first gourds on the plant will be the first to mature.

Upon harvesting your gourds, an anvil pruner works quite well to cut the stem from the vine. Try to leave at least a couple inches of stem with your gourds. Excess and unwanted stem can be cut again later.

All gourds will generally become moldy during the drying out process. The molding is natural; it is Mother Nature's way of the moisture escaping from within the gourd. When gourds are harvested they are about 95% or more water. They will lose all their moisture as they dry out. During the drying out process a person may want to periodically wipe the mold off, or they may choose to let it dry naturally with the molding effects embedded into the shell of the gourd. If you should choose to wipe the mold off, some people will mix 10 parts of room temperature water to 1 part of bleach and wipe this solution with a moistened cloth over the gourd. Rinse with clean water thoroughly and wipe dry.

Gourds may take two to six months, or longer, to become completely dried. Generally, the larger the gourd, usually takes a longer drying time. Gourds need plenty of air circulation during drying. Rotation is very important for a quicker drying time. Try to rotate from bottom to top at least once a month, or more often. If gourds are not rotated during drying process they may develop a ball of hard mass consisting of seeds and pith. When the gourd is shaken it sounds like a hard ball inside them upon drying. If rotated periodically, a person should be able to hear the seeds rattle when dried. Once the seeds begin to rattle they are dry enough to cut open and start crafting.

Gourds may be left outside over winter hanging on the vines or set aside somewhere else. They still need good air circulation around them. It is advised not to let them sit directly on the ground. By setting on the ground they can absorb more moisture and cause interference with the drying process, and may even cause them to rot where they set.

All gourds, both the ornamentals and the hardshells, have a thin layer of skin that needs to be removed before crafting begins. The skin can be removed when they are completely dried, or during the drying process. Sometimes, some of the skin will peel off when you wipe the mold off. Other times it may be very stubborn and may need to be scraped off with a knife or similar tool. Soaking the gourds in warm water will aid in skin removal. A copper scouring pad will help remove small particles.

**IGS SEED PRICES WILL BE INCREASING TO
\$3.00 PER PACKAGE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2012**

Due to higher prices of seed for our inventory stock prices will be increasing this coming year. This is an adjustment to cover costs of seed, labeling/packaging, and postage increases.

Order BEFORE 01 Jan 2012 or buy at our Fall Festival in Peru, IN to save some money!!

WOW! Where is the year going?

It seems like yesterday it was the first of the year. However, the 2011 State Show has come and gone. I have talked to many people that had a lot of positive things to say about the state show being in central Indiana for the first time ever.

So this year is now heading for a greater 2012 State Show, with more excitement and perhaps never before seen unusual gourds and related items.

*Joyce Dankowski
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lady_jd@att.net email*

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Spring Show 2011 - Martinsville



Laura Kearby (L) & Jane Black did the "Meet & Greet", punch, cake, raffle tickets, & door prizes at the festival.



There was time for chatting with friends and catching up on all the news.



There were also many displays to see and ask questions of the experts..



WOW! Lures, carrots, Santa, necklaces, baubles, and snowmen all on one board and it actually looks very



This story board was all about gourd seeds, gourd varieties, and growing.



And these are the long-handled gourds shaped and crafted into jewels of flower containers and decorative



Gourd related necklaces, decorative pieces, and gourd jewelry pieces. Some very imaginative crafting here!



A very nice show case of gourd jewelry pieces and necklaces attracted many festival attendees.



A very nice display of a variety of gourd seed necklaces. These have Jobs' Tears half way down for comfort.



Lot's of birdhouses around the show, but, YUM, look at those carrots! Now how did they grow like that?



The birds were sitting watching everyone go by. Hey, if you Tweet, have a Tweety Bird gourd nearby.



Of course you need to dress up all of those gourds you have with a bit of paint, gold leaf, feathers, or lace too.

Spring Show 2011 - Martinsville



Sue Westhuis demonstrates her gourd drums. The container drum is a rare and unique antique.



All boys like noise makers and the drums delighted "The Little Drummer Boy" & it looks like Mom enjoys it!



There's always a new twist on what you can do with gourds isn't there?



And what can we say about all of our industrious vendors. We have those core vendors who always show up for our festivals and meetings.

They work hard to set up eye-catching displays and always have new, interesting items for the crowds to see, handle, and talk about.



Besides our vendors we also have a core cadre of members who cart their own gourds to our shows to help explain to the public what they can also do with gourds. Birdhouses are always an easy project and lead into more interesting things like growing gourds in a mold or just growing those weird looking luffa gourds that turn into angels, hot pads, flowers, and the old time standby dish rags.



At the Spring Festival Helen Parker had an award-winning display of gourds in the dining area. All of the gourds had been green cleaned to show their natural golden orange colors. Each item was a different variety with a very nice, large text, name plate for easy identification.

Helen, even though this was non-competitive, this was truly a "Best Of Show" display!

The Tendril - Time Tracks

Phil Moorhead has started a project listing all of our Tendril articles and authors for the entire run of the publication. Below are examples of what he has currently in the project. This has not been loaded onto the IGS Web Site yet, however, that also is in the works. If you haven't accessed the Educational Articles you should take the time to do so. That area of the site has doubled in content. Enjoy!

REMEMBER: These are examples ONLY, NOT the full listings. Those will be available later.

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Check out some of the new articles posted on our IGS Web Site at <http://www.indianagourdsociety.org> under the Nav Bar titled Educational Articles. It may surprise you how this listing has grown recently. And, all documents now have a common header/footer with copy write notices embedded.

We have a committee checking out all of the articles

for grammar, current content, etc. Some outdated documents will be archived. Others will be re-written, hopefully by some of our members who have that knowledge.

Have the urge to write? Give us an article on something in your line of gourd knowledge & techniques. Please, on a single page if possible.

Cucurbit Insect Management

By *Unknown* Date: Unknown

Purdue Dept of Entomology Bulletin E-30, "Vegetable Insects" is a good source of information if you have insect problems in your gourds. Single copies can be obtained from your local extension office. The striped cucumber overwinters in Indiana and is the 1st concern, we generally face each spring with seedlings. The spotted beetle is the "Western Com rootworm" pest noted in June to August. Both of these beetles transmit "Bacterial Wilt". This is the case of the sudden, severe, and permanent wilt of a single plant runner or the entire plant. Squash bugs are brownish-black, about 5/8ths of an inch long. We see them largely on the gourd fruit later in the season in large numbers.

These bugs love butternut squash and will move from squash to gourds easily. Sevin is recommended for Beetle control. "Ambush/Pounce" or Asana is suggested for squash bug control. There is no cure known for "Bacterial Wilt". Control of the insects is needed to control the wilt. "Pounce 3.2 or Ambush 2E" are recommended by our Kentucky friends in "The Gourd Vine" [spring issue] for insect control.

You might also try this simple non-chemical way of control of some of the gourd pests.

Wrap a 3" high tinfoil piece around the stem and about 1/4" into the soil covering just the base of the stem. This will deter many "bugs" from doing harm to your plants.

THE WIDE WORLD OF GOURDS!!

I was just going thru some pictures I took in NZ. These gourds belonged to a woman we visited. They are from Yugoslavia where I think she was raised, are fastened together by a string, and were hooked around under the arms and used as little "life jackets" to keep children afloat in the water.

The show (2011 State Show was wonderful - as always.

Mary Gayle Van Ingen - Oregon



Your Friendly Ways & Means Store

We have a nice selection of knit shirts, T-shirts, and cotton shirts, aprons, shopping bags, hats, pins, books for children, and various miscellaneous items and

Jim Story Tapes© or DVDs© - \$20.00 each

See the Ways & Means section on our Web Site

State Show Meeting—Awards & Recognitions

Roll Of Honor

Right, Bill Freihofer

AGS Annual

Jim Story Award

(Left, Pat Moore - See prior issue)

Right, Bill Freihofer



BILL: We're terribly sorry that your photo disappeared from the pages of the last issue of *The Tendril*. You totally deserved this award

www.turtlefeathers.net

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President's Message, Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

and/or locale. See the IGS web site www.indianagourdsociety.org for application form and guidelines.

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed, so if anyone would like to help at any event, please let one of our present leaders know. Contact information is on the web site, or you may mail your gourd volunteer interest to me at 1217 Wesley Court, Thorntown, IN 46071-8955.

Does this continue to be a challenging gourd growing year, a cold wet spring and a hot, dry summer? I am finding many, many blooms now but fewer than usual gourds. I know board member Bill Freihofer in early July reported success in knotting his first dipper gourd, and others have been continuing the Jim Story tradition of manipulation of gourds. My own manipulation has been limited to gourds that get stuck in the fence and have resulting interesting shapes. I still have one from last year that is hanging around and waiting for me to decide whether or not I'll cut the wire used as my gourd arbor or just crunch the gourd to remove it. As an alternative, I could paint it in situ and enjoy it as a yard ornament.

My first and only experiment in hand pollination ended quickly about twelve years ago, so I have GREAT respect for those of you who hand pollinate faithfully and successfully. My husband and I went out at midnight and found only female blossoms. We went out the second night and again found only female blossoms. We decided the bugs and bees could do the work and we returned to sleeping all night. We also decided the boys were slower than the girls!

Happy gourding! See you at the fair!



Gourd Happenings In Our Gourdeous World

Aug 05—21, 2011 **The Indiana State Fair—2011** - Keep checking the site at http://www.in.gov/statefair/fair/exhibits/ghort_building.html for entry and competition information. Volunteer for a Demonstration of your expertise working with gourds and receive a free pass for the day.

Aug 26—28, 2011 **The 2nd Annual Michigan Festival of Gourds** - held at the Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds in Imlay City - The Festival of Gourds is a three-day event, bringing together the gourd community to share their knowledge, passion and creative use of the gourd. The Festival will increase awareness of and raise funds for treatment at the Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis Center at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Sept 10-11, 2011 - **North Carolina Gourd Festival** - Raleigh, NC www.ncgourdsociety.org . Gourd Festival hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Click [here](#) to view a map of the fairground buildings and gates with the surrounding roads . There are more than 70 competition categories, including ones for any age or skill level

Sept 24-26, 2011 - **Ohio Gourd Show** - Greenville, OH, Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, Ohio - Saturday Sept 24th 9-5 and Sunday Sept 25th 9-4—workshops: Friday, Saturday and Sunday www.OhioGourdSociety.com.

Oct 14-16, 2011 - **Lone Star Gourd Festival** - Fredericksburg TX., Gillespie County Fairgrounds - www.texasgourdsociety.org - Classes, gourd art competition, vendors

Oct. 15 – 16, 2011 - **13th Annual Alabama Gourd Society Show** - The location is the Cullman Civic Center in Cullman, AL. Follow updates at www.alabamagourdsociety.org .

Nov. 05, 2011 - **IGS Fall Membership Meeting & Festival** - 9am—3pm—Miami County Fairgrounds, Peru, IN. Free admission, open to the public. Vendors, IGS Gourd Store, Gourd Seeds, Demonstrations, mini-craft and dried gourd competition, music, kids booth. Auction. Midmorning snacks and lunch available

Membership meeting at 3pm
[An IGS Sponsored Event]

Nov 5-6, 2011 - **Virginia Gourd Festival** - Richards Fruit Market, Middletown VA. See - www.VirginiaLoversGourdSociety.org Nothing can top a relaxing trip to the Shenandoah Valley for the Virginia Gourd Festival where agriculture meets art, friends meet each other, and laughter meets education.

Nov 18-20, 2011 - **Georgia Gourd Show** - Perry GA, Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter. See: www.georgiagourdsociety.com Journey to the Gourd Pagoda, 2011. We have fun teaching all who are interested in the culture, use, history, and craftsmanship of gourds at our local patches, events, and annual Gourd Show.

Apr 13, 14, 15, 2011 - **Indiana Gourd Society—State Show** - Greenfield, Indiana. Keep posted for further information.

[An IGS Sponsored Event]

THE TENDRIL

P.O. BOX 822

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.

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The Tendril, published 6 times per year
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NEW submissions due Sept. 15, 2011 for the next Tendril Issue!

ADS ARE TO BE PREPAID. AD 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 suggestions for improving or inclusion in The Tendril.

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

IGS Advertising Rates

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

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