

President's Message

Pat Moore

It has been seven months of surviving the Covid-19 Coronavirus and all the social distancing, lockdowns and mask wearing that go with it. I hope you are doing well in these trying times.

The next gourd event is in October. We were hoping to be virus free by then, but it doesn't look good for that to happen. The IGS Membership Meeting is still on schedule for Saturday, October 17, at the Thorntown Library, Thorntown, Ind., starting at 10 a.m. ET. Social distancing and masks wearing may still be required by then. Please check the website, closer to meeting date, for updates about the meeting.

As you know the 2020 IGS State Gourd Show was cancelled — but not forgotten. All our show plans have been moved to the 2021 State Show. The 2021 Competition Show Book will be about the same as the 2020 book, with only a few minor changes. The corrected 2021 Show Book will be online before the end of 2020. So, you have plenty of time to work on your entries and get ready for "Down on the Farm" on May 7-8, 2021.

Let's hope we will be getting back to normal soon. Stay safe and healthy!

Have a GOURD Day

We have received word of the passing of Lee Parker. He was a founding member of IGS.

Patch Schedules Sep / Oct 2020

Lakeshore Gourders

Meets third Tuesdays, 10 a.m. CT at the 791 Dodge Trail (on Hwy 6), Westville unless noted

Not starting back up yet

West Central Indiana Gourd Patch

Meets third Thursdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. ET at the Hendricks Co fairgrounds in Danville

No meeting in Sept.

10-15-20: Unfinished pieces, plus Show-and-Tell

Linda's Gourd Patch

Meets third Saturdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 200 W McKenzie Rd, Greenfield at 2-4 p.m. ET

For more info, contact Peggy Robertson 317-326-3854

9-19-20:

10-17-20:

Central Indiana Patch

Meets second Thursdays at Garfield Park Arts Center in Indy, 6-8 p.m. ET

Regular meetings suspended. One outside "Show and Tell" meeting a weekend in September, day/time TBD, contact Diane

Sugar Creek Gourd Patch

Meets first Wednesdays at Thorntown Public Library, 6-8 p.m. ET

10-7-20: splatter painting techniques

11-4-20: coiling challenge

12-2-20: finish gourd Christmas presents

Thorn Tree Gourd Patch

Meets third Wednesdays at Thorntown Public Library, 2-4 p.m. ET

10-21-20: splatter painting techniques

11-18-20: coiling challenge

12-16-20: finish gourd Christmas presents

Gourd Crafters Patch

Not starting back up yet.

Please contact patch leaders for dates/times as we slowly come back to normal.

PATCH NEWS

Sugar Creek and Thorn Tree Gourd Patches (Karen Niemeyer, contact)

Both patches meet at the Thorntown Public Library, 124 N. Market St., in Thorntown, and both have resumed meetings and welcome visitors. Sessions are on Wednesdays, and it is helpful to let Karen know that you plan to attend; this will assure supplies are on hand. Phone 765-436-7518 or use e-mail to karenniemeyer44@gmail.com There is ample space for social distancing in the library's meeting rooms and masks are required.

In July the groups worked on unfinished projects and discussed plans for the remainder of the year. Karen actually started a new project she had planned for months: a crazy quilt-themed gourd. Sandra Townsend cleaned the 296 spinner gourds Karen had grown last year, so those and others are ready for future projects, for the future IGS state show, or other purposes. Can you believe it? Sandra loves to clean gourds. Thank you, Sandra!!

On August 5 from 6-8 p.m. ET and on August 19 from 2-4 p.m. ET both patches will make drum necklaces as taught by Denise Bechtold, who is once again rejoining the sessions after recovering from a couple of surgeries. She spent a weekend in July demonstrating and selling gourds at Dull's Christmas Tree Farm for their big festival at rural Thorntown. She did very well but wore herself out, so patch members are glad to welcome her back in August.

Sandra Townsend will teach flocking and pseudo-flocking on September 2 (6-8 p.m. ET) and Sept. 16 (2-4 p.m. ET).

Karen Niemeyer will encourage participants to work with splatter painting techniques at the October 7 (6-8 p.m. ET) and October 21 (2-4 p.m. ET) sessions. There will be a variety of gourd shapes from which to choose.

On November 4 (6-8 p.m. ET and 18 (2-4 p.m. ET) Karen will drag in a huge roll of chair seat coil that her dad used to repair woven chair seats. Everyone will be challenged to bring a bowl or other gourd and find a creative way to use this...wind chime hanging, jewelry trim, woven edges. Fiber rush is a tough-grade paper fiber that is twisted into a long strand and is easier to use than natural rush made from the leaves of cattails.

On December 2 (6-8 p.m. ET) and Dec. 16 (2-4 p.m. ET) participants will finish gourd Christmas presents, START Christmas gifts, or make spinner and egg gourds into ornaments. They will also discuss what they might do with apple gourds because Karen has unearthed about 35 and is holding them for covered bowls or other projects. At any meeting anyone may do his/her own thing instead of working on a group project, but a gourd time is had by all.

West Central Indiana Gourd Patch (Shirley Gates, contact)

West Central Gourd Patch will skip the September meeting and resume October 15, 2020, 1:30-4:30 p.m. ET at the Hendricks County fairgrounds. Please bring unfinished pieces to finish, along with Show-and-Tell pieces.

Central Indiana Patch (Diane Werblo, contact)

Instead of our regular meetings in Indy, the Central Indiana Patch members will try one outside "Show and Tell" meeting some weekend in September. Members will wear masks and bring their lunches and their gourds and/or pictures of their still-growing crop. Penny Boyce will provide us the space. We may also do a marbleizing session -- that requires a mask anyway! There will be some plain gourds from the stash spread out for members to use or take home. *You touch it, you take it!* We will get caught up while socially distancing and encouraging each other. Later in the fall we will decide about returning to the Garfield Park Arts Center.

GourdCrafters (Lois Wright, contact)

The Gourd Crafters have not started back up yet. Most of us are in our 60's or older and at greater risk so have not felt safe to start our meetings back up yet. It just depends on when this virus dies down and we feel safe to meet again.

Linda's Gourd Patch (Peggy Roberson, contact)

Linda's patch meets on the third Saturday of the month from 2-4 pm ET in Greenfield. July's meeting was held outside at Peggy Robertson's home where we cleaned gourds, caught up on some well needed gourd talk and enjoyed the 90 plus degree weather. Members brought projects they had been working on during their quarantine time at home. We also discussed up and coming projects including the "Down on the Farm" theme for 2021. We will continue to have meetings outside, weather permitting. Questions: contact Peggy Robertson at 317-326-3854

(continued on p. 4, Patch News)

DO NOT PLANT SEEDS FROM CHINA!

Karen Niemeyer

At least 300 people in Indiana have received unsolicited packages of seeds from China. In the August 1 “Indianapolis Star” newspaper is a lengthy article that concludes that recipients are advised not to plant them nor throw them out. Instead, contact the USDA or Indiana’s Department of Agriculture and mail the seeds to Nick Johnson, State Plant Health Director USDA APHIS-PPQ, 3059 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131. Place the seeds in a zip-top bag and mail in envelope or small box to Nick. If you are unable to mail the items, do not dispose of them. Keep the seeds, packaging and mailing label and contact the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology at 866-663-9684 or DEPP@dnr.IN.gov Anyone who has already planted seeds should not dispose of the plants or soil but contact the Indiana DNR Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology at the phone number and e-mail address above. The article concludes: “Never plant seeds of unknown origin.”

One of the concerns is that the packages may contain amaranth seeds, which is an invasive (as declared in Indiana) that affects the productivity of soybean fields.

Mouse Question

Karen Niemeyer

On July 12 I sorted hundreds of gourds that I had grown when I still had our 101-acre farm—between 1996 and 2002 could have been the growing years. My gourds were the first thing I boxed as we prepared to move in November, having put the farm on the market in September, 2002, and had the moving company put them in my storage shed in the back yard. At some point in the last 18 years, I hauled the boxes to the attic of the shed and forgot they were there. In cleaning the shed, I brought them down and only had to discard about 2-3 bushel of them due to mouse damage. Things I read say not to mess with mouse-damaged gourds due to possible risk of disease. Thus, I have hundreds of perfect gourds left to share with my patches.

However, I have one big question: Why was there not a single mouse hole in banana, apple, and cannonball gourds?

Do the seeds not taste as good? Do I have discriminating mice? Although they left two snake gourds intact, they damaged three. Some gourds were tiny, some large, some thick, some thin. Why did they ignore totally the three I mentioned? Has anyone else experience this? Send your comments to editor@indianagourdsociety.org and we’ll publish the answers.



Linda’s Gourd Patch members were so excited to be able to meet again! We were able to social distance outside; we also had masks available for anyone who wanted one.



PATCH CONTACTS

Central Indiana	Indianapolis	Diane Werblo	317-783-1428
Gourd Crafters	Ridgeville	Lois Wright	317-370-1418
Lakeshore Gourders	Plymouth	Ida Kennedy	ikennedy5@msn.com
		Peggy Miller	
Linda’s Patch	Greenfield	Lesalynn Briones	lesalynnbriones@gmail.com
		Peggy Robertson	317-326-3854
Patch 4	West Lafayette	Verona Clark	765-242-1967
Story Gourd Patch	Pendleton	Inactive	
Sugar Creek	Thorntown	Karen Niemeyer	765-436-7518
Thorn Tree	Thorntown	Karen Niemeyer	765-436-7518
West Central Indiana	Avon	Shirley Gates	317-306-6383

PANDEMIC STORIES

Karen Niemeyer

The director of the Thorntown Heritage Museum has asked that people write and submit for preservation in the museum collection a story/summary of how the COVID-19 virus and pandemic have affected them this summer. How did your behavior change? How did you shop? How did you entertain yourself and your family? Indiana gourders might want to write a similar summary to hand down to their family members and future researchers. For example, the Thorntown library was very busy offering curbside service, so not only were we accepting phone calls and e-mails, but we were pulling items (or topics) from shelves, bagging and taking to curbs. “You know what I like to read/watch. Will you get some things ready for me?” That’s always a little tricky, so I usually pull a couple of extra items just in case I missed the boat with some. As things were returned, we sanitized and quarantined, using an entire meeting room for that purpose since we were not admitting visitors. We are still sanitizing and quarantining.

For a few years the Thorntown Library has hosted game nights and maintained a collection of tabletop/board games that people may borrow for a week. Early this spring we withdrew all the games lest we have multi-piece puzzles that needed to be sanitized. On Monday, July 27, we finally returned the games to shelves making them available again. However, once used, each will first go to quarantine before being checked in. After a few days we shall weigh them/check the pieces/reshelve. Our director weighed each game and recorded it. She reported, “The weights recorded will include the contents of the box, including the little baggies that hold some of the pieces. The weight does NOT include the rubber band that we sometimes put around the outside of the box. Any exceptions will be noted.” A digital scale at the desk will facilitate this weighing process. We now know that our heaviest game is “Five Tribes” at 1656 g and our smallest game is “Left Center” at only 88 g. “Here’s some really useless information: the entire game collection weighs in at 19,117 grams, or just over 42 lbs. Thank you, Excel.” FYI, there are more than 30 games in our collection.

A customer said this week that they used the time to discuss when her husband might want to retire from being a truck driver. He finally decided to make no decision and let God tell him when it was time to retire. A few days ago, a neighbor called because she heard the tires explode on his truck that was sitting in the barn lot and suffered an electrical fire that left almost nothing—just a bit of the frame is still visible. No people nor buildings were hurt, but I believe he decided that was God’s message to him!

Some gourders actually cleaned up their crafting areas while in quarantine. What stories do IGS members have?

(Patch News, continued from p. 2)

Lakeshore Gourders (Ida Kennedy, contact)

Hello everyone. This year has really gone by fast. Our patch hasn’t met for months now and I am not sure when our next meeting will be.

This year I only grew six different types of gourds. So far, I am pretty happy with the way they are growing. How has everyone else’s gourds been doing? If you have any questions about growing gourds, please feel free to contact me (ikennedy5@msn.com).

Until things get back to normal, it might be nice if all the patches could come up with some ideas on mini crafts that we could share with each other. I will contact my patch members and see if we can come up with an idea for the next *Tendrils*. I think it would be helpful to start a question, answer, section, in our future *Tendrils*, where we could all share our opinion on how to do different things, from growing to crafting gourds. If a question was put in the *Tendrils*, anyone could contact the person personally, if it was OK with the person submitting the question, and, any answers could be put in the next *Tendrils* for everyone to read.

I’d like to see people put pictures of any crafts they may have been working on during this virus to keep from going crazy. Hang in there everyone. This too will end.

INDIANA STATE FAIR

We missed participating with you all in the Indiana State Fair. Any art you prepped for 2020 we will love to see in 2021; ISF is carrying over the theme. We really enjoy working with all of our great volunteers at the booth and hope to see you next year. We certainly will have a lot of news and views to catch up on!

Diane Werblo

Judge’s Course

The AGS judge’s class was postponed because of the COVID-19 virus. We will try to reschedule later in the winter. If you missed applying for the course and would like to join the next one, please contact Phil Moorhead (765-765-674-8088 or treasurer@indianagourdsociety.org).

ROAD TRIPS

2020—courtesy of AGS

(www.americangourdsociety.org)

Sep 4-6: California: Amador Gourd and Fine Arts Festival, Amador Flower Farm, Plymouth, CA
www.AmadorGourdArtists.com—

CANCELED

Sep 11-13: Nevada: Silver State Art Festival, Fuji Hall, Carson City, NV

www.nevadagourdsociety.org— **CANCELED**

Sep 25-27: Georgia: GGS GourdFest, Kiwanis Fairgrounds, Griffin, GA

www.georgiagourdsociety.com— **CANCELED**

Oct 2-4: Ohio Gourd Show, Delaware Co Fairgrounds, Delaware, OH—

ohiogourdsociety.com— **CANCELED**

Oct 2-4: Texas: Lone Star Gourd Festival, Gillespie County Fairgrounds, Fredericksburg, TX

www.texasgourdsociety.org— **CANCELED**

Oct 16-18: California: So California Gourd Art Show and Competition, Santa Ana, CA

www.californiagourdsociety.org

Oct 16-17: Alabama: Alabama Gourd Show, Sparkman Civic Center, Hartselle, AL

www.alabamagourdsociety.org

Oct 22-25: Idaho: (hosting AGS Annual Membership Meeting), Potomac Manor, Boise, ID

www.idahogourdsociety.org/2020-festival

If you plan to go to any of these events, please check the AGS website at www.americangourdsociety.org or the state website to determine if the event is still taking place.

* * IGS Events * *

Judge Class

March 21, 2020, 10 A.M. ET

POSTPONED

To mid-winter

IGS State Gourd Show

May 1-2, 2020

CANCELED

Indiana State Fair

August 7-23, 2020

State Fairgrounds

1202 E 38th St

Indianapolis, IN 46205

[Note: The fair charges an entry fee]

CANCELED

IGS Membership Meeting

October 17, 2020, 10 am ET

Thorntown Public Library

124 N Market St

Thorntown, IN 46071

[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

HOLD THESE DATES!

	State Show	Membership Meeting
2020:		October 17
2021:	May 7/8	October 16

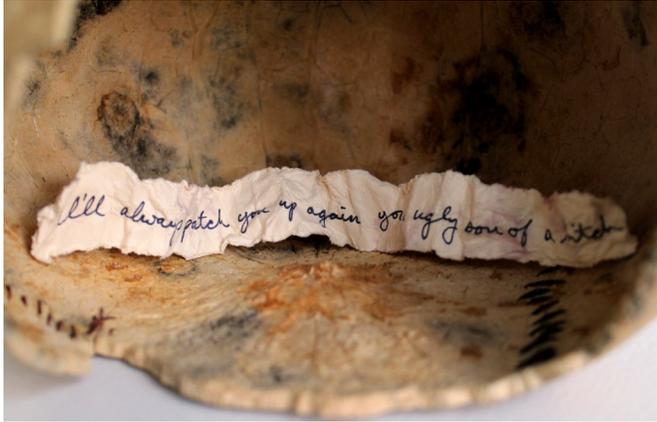
Remember to inform IGS if you have a postal address, e-mail or phone change. We would like to keep our records current!

The IGS was formed and exists pursuant to the Indiana Not-for-Profit corporation statute Sect. 501 (c) (5). The corporation has never attained Sect. 501 (c) (3) status of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, gifts to IGS are not deductible for income tax purposes.

Address Change: Fill out form and mail to indicated address below.

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC. NEW RENEW ID# _____
Membership Application DATE: _____
 1 year @ \$15.00 3 year @ \$40.00 Patch # _____
PLEASE PRINT (Free gift with New or 3yr Membership)
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
PHONE _____ COUNTY _____
EMAIL _____
DO YOU WANT ELECTRONIC *TENDRIL*? CIRCLE YES or NO
Make your CHECK payable to the INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.
MAIL TO: INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC., 691 W Veach Rd, Bloomington, IN 47832
Visit the IGS Web site at: www.indianagourdsociety.org

Meet Gourd Artist: Elizah Monai Griffith



I went to Plainfield schools from 1st grade through graduation in 2013. My worst grade in high school was an art class! However, I took as many as I could. Soon after graduating I began selling commissioned artworks of dogs and people. In 2015, I used my scholarship at IUPUI to study art education. I soon found that Herron professors understand that creativity can and should be taught. Within the first year, I knew I was an artist and belonged there. I chose a concentration in sculpture because while I excelled at painting and drawing, I felt there was so much more to learn in sculpture and I enjoyed working with my hands. It was through a sculpture project that I met Diane Werblo! I graduated in December of 2019 with a 4.0, a teaching license and a minor in Spanish. That led to a position last semester at Plainfield High School as an English Language Learner Instructional Assistant, which led to me teaching Spanish this year!! And that's where I am now! I hope to continue making art and incorporate art into my Spanish classroom where applicable.

Meet Gourd Artist: Kimberly Jackson

I'm from Indianapolis, IN, currently residing in Marion, IN and an empty nester. Through my local garden club, I have become an avid butterfly gardener and now a gourd enthusiast. Nature photography is one of my passions and excited to see a wren family living in their new gourd house. All the gourds shown here are decoupage.



Ways & Means

Caps and visors:

\$12 + \$2 S/H each

Jim Story DVD:

\$20 + \$3 S/H each

Gourds: *From Vine to Design* book:

\$10 + \$3 S/H each

Send check payable to IGS to

Phil Moorhead

PO Box 822

Marion, IN 46952

THE TENDRIL

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Search "Indiana Gourd Society"

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.

The editors reserve the right to edit any submissions for content and consistency. All contents copyrighted, see below. For permission to reprint excerpts, please contact Phil Moorhead (see below for contact info).

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

All submissions welcome!

Issue: Articles Due:

Jan/Feb Dec 1
Mar/Apr Feb 1
May/Jun Apr 1
Jul/Aug Jun 1
Sep/Oct Aug 1
Nov/Dec Oct 1

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*. We reserve the right to edit for content, style, or to fit printing requirements

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