

## President's Message

*Denise Bechtold*

Here we are a new year upon us.

I'm excited about it and I plan on spending the winter making lots of new gourd art for this year's festivals and bazaars. I really did well at the shows in 2024. I have lots of room for new items.

My patch worked on Pastel Ground in November. You can find it on Amazon and at crafts stores. We used colored pencils, it makes it easier for the pencil to go on the gourd. I personally would recommend this product for color pencil work, you can also use markers with it. I learned a new trick for sharpies. Use a product called Workable Fixative if using markers, it helps keep the marker from running when you seal your work.

I'm also looking forward to planning the Annual Gourd Show 2025, we had a great turnout for 2024. We also have the Indiana State Fair. I would like to see it increase by 50% participation at both. Put your thinking caps on, I can't wait to see what you all come up with for competition pieces.

I would love to hear what the other patches are working on as projects, please feel free to email me. You'll find my email address on the back of the Tendril. You can also send pictures of your projects.

**Hope you all had a wonderful Holiday**

**"Keep those Gourd Crafts coming"**

*This issue was a few days late, we waited on the results of the Jan 5, 2025 board meeting.*

## Patch Schedules

### West Central Indiana Gourd Patch

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

Looking for a new patch leader.

### Linda's Gourd Patch

*Meets third Sundays at 2-4 p.m. ET  
at home of Peggy Robertson,  
1224 W 600 N, Greenfield  
For more info,*

*contact Peggy Robertson 317-326-3854*

01-19-25: TBD

02-16-25: TBD

### Central Indiana Patch

*Meets second Wednesdays at Garfield  
Park Arts Center in Indy, 1-4 p.m. ET*

01-08-25: **CANCEL—Weather**

02-12-25: Beginning Calligraphy Practice

03-12-25: Calligraphy on Gourds

### Sugar Creek Gourd Patch

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

01-01-25: NO MEETING

01-15-25: Snowman gourd

02-05-25: Valentine-themed gourds

02-19-25: Valentine-themed gourds

### Bloomington Gourd Patch

*Bloomington Fine Art Supply, 207 S. Rogers St.  
Third Wednesday of each month, 1-3 p.m. ET*

01-15-25: Set monthly topics

02-19-25: NO MEETING

03-19-25: NO MEETING

**Note Bloomington and Central Indiana Patch meetings date change above**

**Please contact patch leaders to verify dates/times.**

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# PATCH NEWS

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## Sugar Creek Gourd Patches (Karen Niemeyer, contact)

The Patch meets at the Thorntown Public Library on the first and third Wednesdays from 2-4:00 p.m ET. There is generally no charge to participate but call Karen Niemeyer at 765-436-7348 to reserve a chair and supplies. On December 4 and 18 Denise Bechtold helped attendees make a gourd catcher toy using a dipper and egg gourd. There will not be a session on January 1, but on January 15 the group project will be a snowman gourd with the saying "Let it snow...someplace else." In February the projects will be Valentine-themed, with Easter the subject for March. In April the group will work with leaded stained glass patterns on cannonballs. Participants may work on their own projects instead of the group one. Questions should be directed to Karen at the library.

## Central Indiana Patch (Diane Werblo, contact)

On Nov. 12 Diane Werblo and Mac McCrary gave an overview of gourd growing and crafting to an appreciative audience of Putnam County Master Gardeners. They asked good questions afterwards, and many came for a close look at the examples. (We won't mention the detour around the town that made us an hour late! They really should have warned us; it's been that way for two years.) In December Michelle Fife, Mary Johnson, Jean Long, Mac McCrary, Laura Taube, Sandra and Tim Townsend, and Diane Werblo were there. We got the springs for the Thunder Drums. A new source for springs is Vincent Swank at [thundergourds.com/](http://thundergourds.com/). "Drummers" showed what they had accomplished and asked questions about finishing the project. Others shared holiday ornament tips. We decided to move to Wednesdays. (GPAC, closed Sundays and Mondays, is often late opening on Tuesdays.) Due to weather problems in January, Mac McCrary will be teaching Basic Calligraphy on paper in February. In March it will be writing on gourds.

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## INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - October 19, 2024

*[Report for approval at next meeting]*

President Denise Bechtold called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.. at the Thorntown Public Library. There were 24 present.

Denise presented the Special Award certificates for the day's mini state show:

- Carl Abner - Jim Story single manipulated gourd
- Carl Abner - green clean
- Michele Fife - Chair Persons' Choice
- Michele Fife - Honey Bear Miller most entries
- Michele Fife - Most blue ribbons

Membership chair Pat Moore presented the membership report. As of October 16 there are 142 total memberships; in 2023 there were 143. There are 98 total active household memberships plus 17 household memberships that have 2 or more members in the household, and 27 complimentary memberships. Of these, 119 receive the Tendril electronically and 23 receive paper copies. Pat asked that patch leaders send her and the IGS treasurer the name and address of those attending patch sessions. Karen Niemeyer read a letter from Loretta Pressel updating the group on Loretta's and Ron's circumstances; many of the gourds available for purchase were donated by them. Long-time member Helen Parker and family members dropped in to view the show and visit with gourders.

*[continued on page 4]*

### PATCH CONTACTS

Central Indiana Gourd Crafters	Indianapolis	Diane Werblo	317-783-1428
Lakeshore Gourders	Ridgeville	Needs a leader	
Linda's Patch	Valparaiso	Inactive	
	Greenfield	Peggy Robertson	317-440-8174
		Rosemary Hill	317-793-0447
Patch 4	West Lafayette	Inactive	
Story Gourd Patch	Pendleton	Inactive	
Sugar Creek	Thorntown	Karen Niemeyer	765-436-7518
West Central Indiana	Avon	Needs a leader	
Bloomington Gourd Patch	Bloomington	Greg Olson	970-628-6864



# Indiana Gourd Society

## Officers, Board of Directors, Patch Leaders

President  
Denise Bechtold  
Thorntown



First VP  
Helen Thomas  
Tangier



Second VP  
RoJene Gillentine  
Indianapolis



Secretary  
Karen Niemeyer  
Thorntown



Membership Sec'y  
Pat Moore  
Bloomington



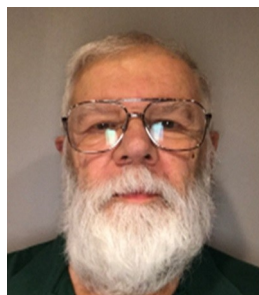
Treasurer  
Phil Moorhead  
Marion



Director-1  
Pat Moore  
Bloomington



Director-2  
Phil Moorhead  
Marion



Director-3  
Mac McCrary  
Indianapolis



Director-4  
Rosemary Hill  
Greenfield



Director-5  
Diane Werblo  
Indianapolis



Central Indiana Patch  
Diane Werblo  
Indianapolis



Linda's Patch  
Peggy Robertson  
Greenfield



Bloomington Patch  
Greg Olson  
Ellettsville



Thorntown Patch  
Karen Niemeyer  
Thorntown



*[Membership meeting, continued from page 2]*

The minutes of the October 21, 2023, membership meeting were approved, on a motion by Phil Moorhead and a second Diane Werblo.

Phil presented the treasurer's report; it will be filed for audit. There is a total of \$9556.22 in general spendable funds with all state and federal taxes and business forms filed. At the close of business for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, IGS had \$10,236.80 in the checking account and \$6,839.42 in the money market (savings) account. That totals \$17,056.22 compared to \$18,670.28 at the close of 2023. We have a \$5000 donation for education support and a \$2500 donation for Jim Story Award stipends, which results in the \$9556.22 in spendable funds. The Indiana State Fair still requires a two million dollar insurance policy in order for us to occupy a booth. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, IGS had income of \$650 with a loss of \$2409.44, resulting in a net loss of \$1759.44. IGS can survive with its existing funds since it is no longer paying \$1800 annually for storage shed rental. There was discussion on how to improve membership and suggestions included targeting our promotions to younger people and other geographical areas. It was noted that IGS should assign someone to focus on this. There was discussion on postage costs and reliability of mail delivery.

For Officers' Reports president Denise noted that she is learning what is required in her position and will appreciate suggestions. 1st Vice President Helen Thomas is ill and was unable to attend; she plans to start backing off from gourd farm work. There was no 2nd vice president's report, and Pat had earlier provided the membership report.

Under Patch Reports Karen noted that the Sugar Creek patch varies from 2 to 10 participants who meet from 2-4:00 on the first and third Wednesdays at the library and that members can work on a group or an individual project. Linda's Patch report by Peggy Robertson noted that they include multiple generations and girlfriends and in addition to working on projects have been giving many gourd presentations in the area. Diane Werblo reported that the Central Indiana patch has asked Mac McCrary to teach calligraphy on gourds, plans to make thunder drums, and wants to host a Great Gourd Giveaway in the spring, not just in autumn. Greg Olson reported that the Bloomington patch that was started in July has 4 to 9 participants and is enjoying a variety of projects.

Under Old Business Diane gave the Indiana State Fair report and encouraged members to enter the fair and save money by receiving free passes. The IGS booth is half the size but more volunteers would be appreciated. Both the AgHort building and Coliseum feature gourds.

While Phil is storing the climate-sensitive IGS items, other boxes that were formerly in a rented storage shed are now in Karen's garage. She recommended an inventory be completed so that locations can be clarified.

The American Heritage Girls Partnership that was brought up at the last meeting was reviewed. Phil had taken the proposal to the American Gourd Society and it was noted that the group is not really an alternative to Girl Scouts but is a religious organization. IGS could lose its non-profit status if it partnered with the group. By consensus IGS members agreed to not partner.

Under New Business today's State Show was reviewed. There were 91 preregistered exhibits by 13 people and 12 walk-ins and 5 new people today. The 100+ entries was similar in number to the Idaho show that Phil attended in September. It appears that today's funds are \$189.00 from Ways & Means, more than \$187.00 from the donation box by dried gourds, and \$106.50 from food. Linda's Patch was applauded for doing a fantastic job providing food and drinks for the day.

On a motion by Greg Olson and a second by Penny Boyce, board members were unanimously elected for 2-year terms: Phil as Director 2 and Rosemary Hill as Director 4.

The question arose "what do people get for IGS membership?" This will need to be addressed if we have to ask for an increase in dues. It was agreed that patches may encourage membership but that participants are not required to become members in order to enjoy a patch. Patches may request \$100 to recover expenses but must provide receipts to Phil.

Diane encouraged smush painting after Pat noted that a lady wanted to know how to dip/marbleize gourds with nail polish, not paint.

Tendril articles are due NOW.

Updating of the IGS social media presence was suggested, and Phil will welcome suggestions. It was noted that Diane's Facebook page is individual but needs to be organizational.

Greg will work on creating a virtual patch (Zoom) for people who are outside our physical patch areas.

There being no further business, Karen moved and Diane seconded adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen K. Niemeyer, secretary

## ROAD TRIPS

2025—courtesy of AGS ([www.americangourdsociety.org](http://www.americangourdsociety.org))

Jan 31-Feb 2: Arizona Gourd Festival at Wuertz Fams, Casa Grande, AZ. [arizonagourdsociety.org](http://arizonagourdsociety.org)

Feb 21-23: Florida Gourd Festival, Azan Shriners Center, Melbourne, FL. [flgourdsoc.org](http://flgourdsoc.org)

Apr 4-5: North Texas Gourd Festival, Lake Granbury Conf Center, Granbury, TX. [texasgourdsociety.org](http://texasgourdsociety.org)

**If you plan to go to any of these events, please check the AGS website at [www.americangourdsociety.org](http://www.americangourdsociety.org) or that state website to determine if the event is still taking place.**

**Have you checked out Indiana Gourd Society on Facebook? The name changed from Indiana Gourd Patch. It's only gourds, art techniques, and "save the pollinators" info. Visit anytime.**

## \* \* IGS Events \* \*

### Indiana State Fair

Aug 1, 2025 to Aug 17, 2025

(Closed Mondays)

State Fairgrounds

1202 E 38th St

Indianapolis, IN 46205

[Note: The fair charges an entry fee]

### IGS State Gourd Show

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

### IGS Membership Meeting

October 18, 2025, 2 pm ET

Thorntown Public Library

124 N Market St, Thorntown, IN 46071

[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

## HOLD THESE DATES!

	State Show	Membership Meeting (Thorntown)
2025:	TBD	Oct. 18, 2025
2026	TBD	Oct. 17, 2026
2027	TBD	Oct. 16, 2027

**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 filed for Sect. 501 (c) (3) status of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, gifts to IGS are not deductible for income tax purposes.**

### INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.

Membership Application

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW  RENEW

1 year @ \$15.00

3 year @ \$40.00

ID#
Patch

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (Free gift with New or 3yr Membership)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

Cash	
CK #	
Date	

#### EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I will allow IGS to share my information (name/address/e-mail) with the American Gourd Society (AGS). Yes or No

**You will receive an ELECTRONIC TENDRIL.** (Paper copy by separate written request only.)

Make your CHECK payable to the **INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.**

MAIL TO: **INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.**, 691 W Veach Rd, Bloomingdale, IN 47832

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

**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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**YOU WILL RECEIVE A POSTCARD FROM IGS IN THE MONTH THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES**

**Issue:Articles Due:**

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

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

**IGS Executive Board and Board of Directors**

President: Denise Bechtold, Thorntown (2024-2025)	<a href="mailto:president@indianagourdsociety.org">president@</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-president: Helen Thomas, Tangier (2025-2026)	<a href="mailto:1stvp@indianagourdsociety.org">1stvp@</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-president: RoJene Gillentine, Indianapolis (2025-2026)	<a href="mailto:2ndvp@indianagourdsociety.org">2ndvp@</a>
Treasurer: Philip Moorhead, Marion (2025-2026)	<a href="mailto:treasurer@indianagourdsociety.org">treasurer@</a>
Secretary: Karen Niemeyer, Thorntown (2024-2025)	<a href="mailto:secy@indianagourdsociety.org">secy@</a>
Membership Secretary: Pat Moore, Bloomington (2025-2026)	<a href="mailto:membership@indianagourdsociety.org">membership@</a>
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Director 2: Philip Moorhead, Marion (2025-2026)	<a href="mailto:treasurer@indianagourdsociety.org">treasurer@</a>
Director 3: Mac McCrary Indianapolis (2024-2025)	<a href="mailto:directorMM@indianagourdsociety.org">directorMM@</a>
Director 4: Rosemary Hill, Greenfield (2025-2026)	<a href="mailto:directorRH@indianagourdsociety.org">directorRH@</a>
Director 5: Diane Werblo, Indianapolis (2024-2025)	<a href="mailto:directorDW@indianagourdsociety.org">directorDW@</a>

**ON ALL EMAIL ADDRESSES ABOVE, PUT indianagourdsociety.org AFTER THE @ SYMBOL**