



## President's Message

*Denise Bechtold*

Hello fellow gourders

It's that time of year to start working on entries for the State Fair and State Show.

We need volunteers for the State Fair. If you volunteer we give you a free ticket to get in. We're also looking for people interested in serving on the show committee. If we don't get enough volunteers we may not be able to put on a show.

For those of you who grow gourds it's time to decide what gourds to grow and purchase seeds if you did not save any from prior years.

Gardening groups are looking for people to do talks on growing. Contact your local garden clubs, master gardeners, to see if they are interested in a talk, if you are not comfortable getting in front of a group of people we have people who can do that.

My gourd patch, *Sugar Creek Gourd Patch*, is working on Valentine's projects and Spring projects. Also March and April we will be testing out the "Pebeo" product that was in the AGS Gourd Magazine Fall and Summer issues. Everyone is welcome to join in the testing of this product. We would love to see a big group of people participate.

We still have some gourds left from the donation of Ron and Loretta Pressel. Contact me if you are interested in them or seeing what we have.

Sugar Creek has a huge bag of paper napkins for decoupage projects for anyone who would like to use some.

**\*\* Keep Those Gourd Crafts Coming \*\***

## Linda's Patch on Hiatus

We have received word that Linda's Patch will not meet for a few months. The mother of the leaders has a terminal brain tumor.

## 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*

03-16-25: NO MEETING

04-20-25: NO MEETING

### Central Indiana Patch

*Meets second Wednesdays at Garfield*

*Park Arts Center in Indy, 1-4 p.m. ET*

03-12-25: Calligraphy on Gourds

04-09-25: TBA (Leader on vacation)

### Sugar Creek Gourd Patch

*Meets first and third Wednesdays at*

*Thorntown Public Library, 2-4 p.m. ET*

03-05-25: Pebeo painting

03-19-25: Pebeo painting

04-02-25: Stained glass on cannonball gourds

04-16-25: Stained glass on cannonball gourds

### Bloomington Gourd Patch

*Bloomington Fine Art Supply, 207 S. Rogers St.*

*Third Wednesday of each month, 1-3 p.m. ET*

03-19-25: NO MEETING

04-16-25: NO MEETING

**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 Sugar Creek Patch will be glad to have our snowbirds return for sessions. Until then, we'll carry on as an enthusiastic, albeit smaller, group. On February 5 and 19 a Valentine theme was the order of the day, with gourds and hearts available for crafting as well as a display of previous February examples. At the risk of triggering more snow, some may even work on finishing their "Let It Snow...Someplace Else" January gourds. On March 5 and 19 we shall experiment with Pebeo paints in preparation for making stained glass on cannonball gourds on April 2 and 16. This is based on an article in the fall, 2024, issue of the American Gourd Society's "The Gourd Magazine". We have Easter and spring ideas as well and always have supplies and gourds on hand in case we are fortunate to have some folks drop in. The Thorntown Library has a student volunteer who is being tasked with cleaning some spinner and other gourds. We have 60 autumn wings gourds that have been drying outside all winter and will be curious to see how easy -- or difficult -- they are to clean!

## Central Indiana Patch (Diane Werblo, contact)

Newly moved to Wednesdays, we hope our meetings at GPAC will continue to be successful. The snow in January cancelled our meeting. Due to our speaker's and our leader's non-Covid respiratory illness, the February meeting was also canceled. When we next meet, Mac McCrary will teach Basic Calligraphy strokes on paper as a precursor to doing calligraphy on pre-finished gourds. We will try again in March.



Ever wonder how many gourds a vine can produce? Carl Abner from Greenfield harvested all these gourds from one vine. If you have photos of your crop, send it to us and we'll publish for everyone to see.

### PATCH CONTACTS

Central Indiana	Indianapolis	Diane Werblo	317-783-1428
Gourd Crafters	Ridgeville	Needs a leader	
Lakeshore Gourders	Valparaiso	Inactive	
Linda's Patch	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

# GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Speaker Needed

We are in need of a speaker on gourds, both growing and artistic, for a 45-minute talk at the Zionsville Town Hall for the Village Garden Club on August 5 at 10 AM ET. If interested, please contact Phil at 765-674-8088. or Karen at 765-436-7348. Would you like to help the society grow by being a spokesperson? Let us know.

## AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY AWARDS

Did you know? Winners at the IGS State Gourd Show are eligible to enter the AGS national competitions. There are currently three competitions:

- Jim Story Single Manipulated Gourd
- Jim Story Multiple Intertwined Manipulated Gourds
- Artistry

If you are not a member of AGS you are missing a great deal of information!

## VOLUNTEER AT THE FAIR!

We are in need of volunteers to help at the state fair booth. Working a 4-hour shift gets you a free entry ticket, and the rest of the day you can roam and enjoy the fair. Contact Diane Werblo (info on last page) or call her at 317-783-1428 if interested.

## LIKE TO MEET OTHER GOURDERS?

Would you like to meet with other gourd people to talk about common topics, or learn new techniques? Don't know where to go? A patch meeting is a great place to meet like-minded people. No patch close to you? Start one! Contact Karen at 765-436-7348 to learn about patches in your area or to start one.

## MORE ARTICLES ON SEEDS AND PLANTING ON OUR WEBSITE

Small Area Gourdening (Ron Bair)  
Raised Beds, Fast, Easy Cleanup (Mary Gayle Van Ingen)  
Trellises, Cheap, Fast, Easy (Mary Gayle Van Ingen)  
Germinating Large or Hard Seeds (Jesse Glessner)  
Harshell Gourd Seed Germination (Lee & Helen Parker)  
Germination Hints (Ron Bair)  
One Way to Start Seeds (Acy Puckett)  
Young Gourd Sprouts (Ron Bair)

## Ways & Means

We have some end-of-stock Aurelia Conway books on gourds. We are selling them at a super discount price, all prices below include shipping/handling/postage.

### Jim Story material:

DVD: \$23.00  
Book, *Gourds: From Vine to Design*: \$15.00

### Aurelia Conway books:

*Gourd Purses, Decorative Painting #9728* \$13.50  
*How to Paint a Gourd #9606* \$13.50

Send check payable to IGS to  
Phil Moorhead  
PO Box 822  
Marion, IN 46952

*Please send e-mail or phone in case we need to contact you*

## Hardshell Gourd Seed Germination

*Lee and Helen Parker*

Date:Unknown

Lagenaria siceraria or hardshell gourds require a long growing season, 100 to 150 days. Their seeds are slow to germinate and in Indiana (zone 5) it is best to give them a head start.

These large, hard seeds may be scarified or scratched by rubbing the edges on a piece of medium grade sandpaper. This thins the covering. Or, they may be "notched" by taking a knife or nail clipper to one or both edges. This allows moisture to penetrate the seed more readily. Be very careful not to cut more than the hard covering or you will destroy the embryo inside the seed.

Always soak lagenaria seeds in water overnight (8 to 24 hours), even if you scarify or notch them. After soaking they can be placed in moist toweling or newspaper, wrapped in plastic to retain moisture, and placed in a warm environment (75 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit).

This place is as unique as people. The top of the water heater or refrigerator are simple favorites. some rig a box above a heating pad and some even invest in a professional propagation mat. An egg incubator works very well! The more even the temperature, the quicker the results but always check after 3 to 5 days. Seeds that have sprouted should be removed and the rest left in the incubator. Do check daily once sprouting begins.

Place the sprouted seed in potting soil (we use Metro Mix 250 from our local greenhouse) in the largest container you can maintain until time to plant in the garden. We use 24 oz. cottage cheese carts with a hole punched in the bottom for drainage. They are free and the shape allows easy removal for planting without disturbing the root wad. Eliminating transplant shock is vital with gourd plants.

These sprout pots must be kept in a warm, well lighted environment. We place ours under a growlight and cover the whole frame with clear plastic. A painter's thin plastic drop cloth is cheap and adequate. The fluorescent lights give ample heat and the plastic holds the humidity. When the plant emerges from the soil, the light keeps it from becoming spindly.

The sprout you planted was the root. It may take 24 hours or longer for the seedling leaves to appear. Occasionally, the hard covering will not pull off the seed leaves and the plant may not be able to develop. Sometimes we are able to remove the covering by gently squeezing it apart. Lee uses small pliers. Extreme caution is necessary in doing this as the stem will snap in two with very little pressure.

Once true leaves appear, we move the pots outside into a cold frame. They are able to adapt to outdoor conditions (natural light, wind, and rain) from the start and can easily be covered at night or if the weather turns blustery or cold.

Start this germinating process no more than four to six weeks before the last expected frost date for your area. The objective is strong, healthy plants to set into the garden with a head start on the growing season.

## ROAD TRIPS

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

- Apr 4-5: North Texas Gourd Festival, Lake Granbury Conf Center, Granbury, TX. [texasgourdsociety.org](http://texasgourdsociety.org)  
 Apr 25-26: South Carolina: Ghost Creek Gourd Fest, Laurens, SC.  
[Southcarolinagourd.wixsite.com/scgourdsociety](http://Southcarolinagourd.wixsite.com/scgourdsociety)  
 Jun 12-14: PA Gourd Art Show and Festival, Lebanon Valley Expo Center & Fairgrounds, Lebanon, PA.  
[Pagourdsociety.org](http://Pagourdsociety.org)  
 Jun 27-29: Missouri: Show Me gourd Society Art Festival, Cowan Civic Center, Lebanon, MO.  
[Showmegourdsociety.org](http://Showmegourdsociety.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)	president@
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Director 4: Rosemary Hill, Greenfield (2025-2026)	directorRH@
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**ON ALL EMAIL ADDRESSES ABOVE, PUT indianagourdsociety.org AFTER THE @ SYMBOL**