



President's Message

Denise Bechtold

Hello Fellow Gourders:

I hope all your gourd seeds are growing well. We expect some awesome competition crafts this year at the Indiana State Fair in August and at our Annual Gourd Show in October.

We still have new patches that need a leader if anyone is interested in helping fellow gourders.

Here's an idea for anyone. Reach out to local gardening groups to give talks about planting seeds and gourd. We might be able to get some younger members that way, to keep our patches going.

As for myself, I'm getting ready for my gourd shows this year. I have 5 that I do:

> July:

-Dulls Tree farm near Mechanicsburg

> August:

- Portland tractor engine show

> September:

- Lebanon Civil War reenactment

- Thorntown Turning of the Leaves festival

> November:

- Lebanon Homemakers Holiday Bazaar

I would love to meet you if you go to any of these.

****KEEP THOSE GOURD ****

**** CRAFTS COMING ****

Patch Schedules

West Central Indiana Gourd Patch

Meets third Thursdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. ET

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

07-20-25: NO MEETING

08-17-25: NO MEETING

Central Indiana Patch

Meets second Wednesdays at Garfield

Park Arts Center in Indy, 2-4 p.m. ET

07-9-25: Collect entries for State Fair

08-11-25: NO MEETING—STATE FAIR

Sugar Creek Gourd Patch

Meets first and third Wednesdays at

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

Changing to first and third Tuesdays on July 15

07-02-25: Red, white, and blue theme

07-15-25: Red, white, and blue theme

08-05-25: Crayon melters

08-19-25: Crayon melters

Bloomington Gourd Patch

Bloomington Fine Art Supply, 207 S. Rogers St.

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

07-17-25: Alcohol Inks

08-21-25: NO MEETING—STATE FAIR

IGS State Show 2025 Show Theme

“A Gourd-geous Autumn”

Please contact patch leaders to verify dates/times.

PATCH NEWS

Sugar Creek Gourd Patch (Karen Niemeyer, contact)

The Sugar Creek Gourd Patch will meet at the Thorntown Public Library from 2-4 pm ET on Wednesday, July 2, but will begin meeting on Tuesdays starting July 15. A red white and blue theme will conclude in July, and participants will finish various projects, partly in preparation for entering the Boone County Open Show July 22-25 and for the Indiana State Fair. Crayon melters will be available for July 15, August 5 and 19. Pebeo paints will be on hand for anyone who wants to continue experimenting with them on cannonballs. If anyone wants autumn wings, speak now because otherwise Karen will give them to the library's children's department in the fall to paint as monsters. As always, participants may work on their own projects at any session. There is no charge to participate in the Patch and questions may be directed to Karen at the library: 765-436-7348.

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY BOARD MEETING – June 7, 2025 (DRAFT)

(continued from page 4)

Sandra would like to be relieved of the make-it-take-it responsibility. Karen offered to take the kits that are for sale and to find a Sugar Creek Patch member to assume the position.

Consideration for a dues increase was postponed.

A show wrap-up meeting and planning for 2026 will be held in the Thorntown Public Library meeting rooms on November 15 from 11:00-3:30.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen K. Niemeyer, Secretary

IGS State Show coming October 18, 2025 Thorntown Library

New this year, we are having a green cleaned gourd competition. Judging will be based on how well the entrant green-cleaned the gourd. Because of health considerations, the display will be outside the building. All other categories will be the same.

State Fair is coming August 1-17!

We hope that all of you enter multiple projects and that many of you can volunteer at the gourd booth.

NOTE: The entry fee for entering multiple displays in competition has gone from \$40 to \$45, plus \$1 per entry.

GREEN CLEANING HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

I've been asked several times about the health issues surrounding green cleaning of gourds. The reason we green clean is to remove the green rind (the part that molds). While this should be done before molding starts, I've found the gourd can begin molding before you can see evidence of it. For that reason you should wear a dust mask (think COVID N95 masks) while working with the gourd, then wash hands and clothes. Once the gourd is cleaned, it could still mold, green cleaning does not always remove all the skin as evidenced by some green cleaned gourds slightly molding anyway. Until the gourd is fully dry it is important that you assume mold is present, especially if you have allergies to mold. We are erring on the side of caution and holding that category display outside the building at the show.

Phil Moorhead, AGS Master Judge Instructor

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

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.

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.

Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61568193715191>



Indiana Gourd Society Bloomington Patch

Learn how to cultivate and transform gourds into works of art! We will be learning artistic techniques as well as how to grow and care for gourds. Join a fun and friendly group. No experience required!

2025 Calender

April 17th- Acrylic Painting, Stencils, Decopage
May 15th- Woodburning
June 19th- Dremel Techniques
July 17th - Alcohol Inks
September 18th - Weaving
November 20th- Birdhouses, seeds, shells, and applications

Meetings held at
Bloomington Fine Art Supply
207 S. Rogers St., Bloomington
1-3pm

Contact
Greg Olson with any questions
igs.rgolson@aol.com
970-628-6864

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, <i>Gourds: From Vine to Design:</i>	\$15.00

Aurelia Conway books:

<i>Gourd Purses, Decorative Painting #9728</i>	\$13.50
<i>How to Paint a Gourd #9606</i>	\$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

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY BOARD MEETING – June 7, 2025 (DRAFT)

President Denise Bechtold called the board meeting to order in the Thorntown Public Library at 11:15 a.m., June 7, 2025, with eleven present: Denise, Sandra and Tim Townsend, Karen Niemeyer, Penny Boyce, Michelle Fife, Peggy Robertson, Connie Dickinson, Pat Moore, Greg Olson, and Phil Moorhead. The presence of a quorum was verified.

Karen reviewed the minutes of the October 19, 2024, meeting and they were approved on a motion by Phil and a second by Michelle.

Phil presented the treasurer's report as of April 30, 2025, showing \$6858.68 in savings, \$10,446.35 in checking for a total of \$17,305.03. Of this \$9805.03 is available in spendable funds with \$2500 reserved for Story Awards and \$5000 from Bill Freihofer in escrow. Karen moved and Michelle seconded that the report be filed for audit; motion carried.

Phil noted that without raising additional funds IGS has 3-4 years left at our present rate. We used to make \$8000 per year on the state show but in 2024 we made about \$300. Ways and Means and seed sales used to generate income; we now have to buy seed to package and sell. The possibility of having members raise seed to sell was discussed. The chapter could give seed to a person and explain how to grow, harvest, bag, etc. The grower would then give seed back—after growing for 3 years it can be sold as pure seed. AGS will begin doing this on a volunteer basis and is considering paying the grower a small stipend.

Michelle reported that on June 21 the Irvington Library (Indianapolis) from 10-noon will feature an Ohio couple showing gourds as dolls.

Phil has signed the contract for a booth at the Indiana State Fair. Phil will provide judges, who must be AGS members. The co-chairs will get volunteers to work the booth during the 18 days of the fair 9 a.m.-9 p.m., schedule the volunteers, move gourds from the judging area to the display area in the AgHort building. Phil moved that Denise contact Diane Werblo to learn her planned involvement with the ISF and based on her response ask Greg to co-chair. The show would then be theirs to run. Michelle seconded and the motion passed unanimously. It was noted that as long as we do not sell, we can staff from 11-7:00, which is good for promotion of IGS and its activities. Volunteers will be sought from each Gourd Patch. Phil will write up the duties of patch leaders. It was noted that the ISF entry fee is now \$45 instead of \$40 and that in addition there will be a \$1.00 fee assessed for each item entered.

Phil displayed graphs from 1998 forward. These showed that Indiana has had 60 people join AGS but dropped after one year. There will be graphs at the ISF booth showing number of members in each area of the state. We need to increase human interaction at the ISF.

The 2025 IGS State Show will be held at the Thorntown Public Library on October 18. The rooms are reserved from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Setup will take place from 7-8:00 and possible changes were discussed. Entries will be received and judged and the show will open from 10-4:00. A membership meeting will be held at 2:00. Penny and Greg will serve as co-chairs with Sandra Townsend and Diana Werblo serving as advisors.

Peggy and Connie will chair food preparation. Karen will be in charge of facilities and silent auction. Mac McCrary will serve as greeter and have a table in the entry hall that will also include Ways and Means. Karen will provide any Pressel gourds and decorated gourds that are stored in her garage; she will one day complete ad inventory. Pat will handle membership. Phil will obtain judges and handle photography. Jack Burger has agreed to handle public relations. Ruth Moorhead will be the vendor chair. It was suggested that we hold a green cleaning demonstration outside near the entrance. Phil will list committees and responsibilities.

Karen moved and Greg seconded that 20% of member sales be donated to IGS; motion carried. There will be no fee charged if items don't sell.

All parking lots and grassy areas in front of and around library will be available for displays, vendors, and activities. In 2024 there were 30 exhibitors and more than 100 entries. Although the library is available for 2025, plans need to be considered for 2026. Denise will investigate the use of Ironwood Farms between Thorntown and Lebanon as a possible site for a larger show. Other considerations are Greenfield and Hancock Co. Fairgrounds. We need to decide what we want the show to be/look like in 5 years. Who will be exhibiting? The board will need to decide if we want to have fall shows. Phil moved and Denise seconded that the show for 2025 be a one-day show on October 18 in Thorntown and be similar to last year with no gate fee; motion carried. Phil will promote the show through AGS and in literature/fliers. Peggy and Connie displayed a flier about the Ohio show; they picked it up at the Kentucky show. It could be a model for IGS. They reported that Kentucky offered a class for \$15.00 and 14 people participated. Karen noted that the library's children's room could support a class on October 18. It was agreed that we need to coordinate our show with those of other states so vendors can plan their route. We need to plan 1 ½-2 years ahead.

Pat reported that she will resign as membership chair effective January 1, 2026. Phil, as treasurer, will assume those duties and make changes to various brochures. This was approved on a motion by Greg and a second by Karen.

(continued on page 2)

ROAD TRIPS

2025—courtesy of AGS (www.americangourdsociety.org)

Jul 16-18: Washington State Gourd Retreat. Mineral Lake Lodge and Conference Center, Mineral WA.
Wagourdsociety.org

Sep 6-7: North Carolina Gourd Arts & Crafts Festival, Holshouser Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. Ncagourdsociety.org

Sep 6-8: Iowa Gourd Show, Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IA gwmmm@lowatelcom.net

Sep 19-21: Idaho Gourd Festival, Franz Witte Garden Center, Nampa, ID idahogourdsociety.org

Oct 3-5: Ohio Gourd Show, Delaware Co Fairgrounds, Delaware, OH ohioagourdsociety.com

If you plan to go to any of these events, please check the AGS website at 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

Oct 18, 2025

10 am—4 pm ET

Thorntown Public Library

124 N Market St, Thorntown, IN 46071

[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 (Thorntown)	Membership Meeting (Thorntown)
2025:	Oct. 18, 2025	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

PLEASE PRINT

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

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ COUNTY _____

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, Bloomington, IN 47832

☐ NEW ☐ RENEW

☐ 1 year @ \$15.00

☐ 3 year @ \$40.00

ID#

Patch

Cash

CK #

Date

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:

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

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 editor (address in left box). 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@
1 st Vice-president: Helen Thomas, Tangier (2025-2026)	1stvp@
2 nd Vice-president: RoJene Gillentine, Indianapolis (2025-2026)	2ndvp@
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Director 2: Philip Moorhead, Marion (2025-2026)	treasurer@
Director 3: Mac McCrary Indianapolis (2024-2025)	directorMM@
Director 4: Rosemary Hill, Greenfield (2025-2026)	directorRH@
Director 5: Diane Werblo, Indianapolis (2024-2025)	directorDW@

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