

## President's Message

*Denise Bechtold*

Hello Fellow Gourders

It's almost fall, The Indiana State Fair is over, I hope all of you were pleased with your entries. Congratulations to all who entered. Our next big show is the Annual Gourd Show Oct. 18, 2025 with a membership meeting at 2 pm ET.

We have a new patch forming in Mississinewa Valley, Marion Indiana, with leaders Ron Bair and Rosemary Dougherty. See page 3 for details. An organizational meeting is Nov. 8, 2025 at noon-4 pm ET.

I myself am headed to Portland Indiana August 18th to do a craft and hobby show at the Annual Antique Tractor and Engine Show. Then in September I'll be in Thorntown Indiana for the Turning of the leaves festival. I'll be selling Gourd Art, Photography and sea shell Art. Come out and see me.

Does anyone know what I can use to seal the inside of a Gourd for a water drum, also to make the gourds so you can drink out of them? I've heard Beeswax but I think it would melt with a hot beverage. Any ideas e-mail me at [kdb1126.db@gmail.com](mailto:kdb1126.db@gmail.com).

**State Fair results on page 4**

## Passing of Helen Parker

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Helen Parker of Greenwood on July 5, 2025. She was very active in IGS and held several elected positions.

## 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*

09-21-25: TBD

10-19-25: TBD

### Central Indiana Patch

*Meets second Wednesdays at Garfield  
Park Arts Center in Indy, 2-4 p.m. ET*

09-10-25: Gourd Shard Name Tags

10-8-25: Prep for IGS State Gourd Show

### Sugar Creek Gourd Patch

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

09-02-25: Marbelizing

09-16-25: Marbelizing

10-07-25: Turkeys on bales of straw

10-21-25: Turkeys on bales of straw

### Bloomington Gourd Patch

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

09-18-25: Weaving

10-16-25: NO MEETING

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

**IGS State Show 2025 Show Theme  
"A Gourd-geous Autumn"**

# PATCH NEWS

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

The Sugar Creek Gourd Patch will meet at the Thorntown Public Library from 2-4:00 pm ET on Tuesday, September 2 and 16 and October 7 and 21. We'll look forward to the return of our 19 Indiana State Fair entries. Although we don't enter for the prize money, it is a nice perk. Crayon melters will be available at the upcoming meetings and we'll revisit techniques that are far in our past. We shall also be making plans for future sessions. Pebeo paints will be on hand for anyone who wants to continue experimenting with them on cannonballs. Does any other patch want to experiment with this \$70 set of paints? Karen is willing to lend them because a tiny bit of paint goes a LONG way. 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.

## Linda's Gourd Patch (Peggy Robertson, contact)

Linda's Patch is back in the swing of things. We have met the last couple of months at our usual time. We have been pretty much working on projects of our own, not any one thing. A couple of the gals are making bird-feeders. Some are simply painting spinners. Whatever we do we have a lot of fun.

In June Connie, Rosemary and myself did a gourd presentation through the Hancock County Master Gardener Program at Woodland Terrace Senior Living in New Palestine, IN for their Garden Club. All the ladies loved the gourds we took along and wanted us to come back and speak more on growing the gourds in the fall. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time, third Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm ET. Give me a call to make sure nothing has changed. 317-440-8174

## Central Indiana Patch (Diane Werblo, contact)

In July Michelle Fife, Jean Long, Mac McCrary and Diane Werblo discussed and/or worked on items for State Fair, due to which we had no meeting in August.

Suggested by Michelle, we will do a name tag project in September, and we will plan our State Show items and volunteer schedule. Our focus in October will be finishing competition pieces for IGS-SS

## 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. **Competition pieces are accepted from 8 A.M. ET to 10 A.M. ET. Open to the public 10 A.M. ET to 4 P.M. ET.**

Photos of Connie, Rosemary, and Peggy  
at Woodland Terrace Senior Living



## 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

## NEW PATCH FORMING (Mississinewa Valley Patch)

A new patch is forming in Marion Indiana (about half-way between Fort Wayne and Indianapolis). An organizational meeting is scheduled for Nov 8, 2025 at noon—4pm ET at 595 N. Troy Ave, Marion, IN 46952. If you have questions call Ron Bair at 765-667-2646 or e-mail Phil Moorhead at [moorheap@yahoo.com](mailto:moorheap@yahoo.com).

**Interested in serving on the IGS Board of Directors? Contact Karen at 765-436-7518.**

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.



### 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](mailto:igs.rgolson@aol.com)  
970-628-6864

## Visit us on Facebook

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

## 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</i> #9728	\$13.50
<i>How to Paint a Gourd</i> #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*

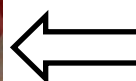
# 2025 Indiana State Fair



We would like to thank all of the volunteers and participants who make the gourd competition possible: Becky and Al Atz, Penny Boyce, Marion Ellis, Michelle Fife, Mary Johnson, Jean Long, and Mac McCrary.

*Greg Olson and Diane Werblo  
State Fair Co-Chairs*

**Best of Show**  
**Connie Wegeng**  
Thorntown  
Class 34—Animal



See page x for additional photos

## Crafted Gourd Ribbon Winners

CATEGORY	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
20: Undecorated Functional Wren House	M.V. Fife	Michele Fife	Ann Stankiewicz
21: Embellished with Macrame, Crocheting, or Weaving	Connie Wegeng	Mac McCrary	Michele Fife
22: Cutting, Carving, or Drilling	Jim Bennett	Michele Fife	
23: Wood Burning	Lisa Goldman	Greg Olson	
24: Jewelry	Annette Knox	Michelle Fife	Mac McCrary
25: Decoupage	Joyce Bennett		
26: Bead Work Embellishments	Joyce Bennett	Ann Stankiewicz	
27: Holiday Theme	Denise Bechtold	Greg Olson	Michele Fife
28: Decorated Birdhouse	Jim Bennett	Michele Fife	Diane Werblo
29: Painted	Greg Olson	Michele Fife	Diane Werblo
30: Colored Pencil or Ink Pen	Annette Knox	Michele Fife	Ann Stankiewicz
31: Multiple Techniques	Greg Olson	Michelle Fife	Joyce Bennett
32: Dyed or Stained	Connie Wegeng	Michelle Fife	Ann Stankiewicz
33: Basket with Handle or a Bowl, any technique	Connie Wegeng	Michelle Fife	
34: Animal or Creature, realistic or fantasy	Connie Wegeng	Greg Olson	Michelle Fife
35: Kids Competition, anything goes	Isobel Hall	Beatrice Hall	
36: My Way, any other gourd or technique Not listed above	Michelle Fife	Annette Knox	Greg Olson
37: Fair Theme:	Michelle Fife	Karen Niemeyer	



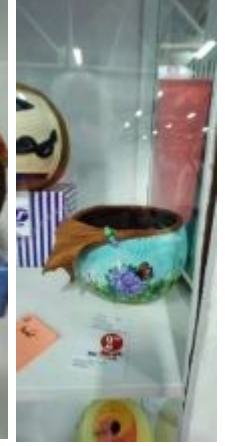
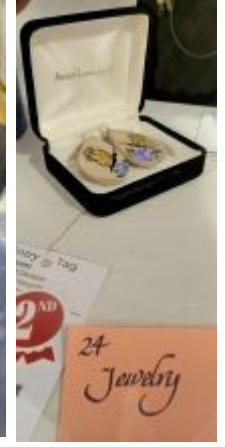
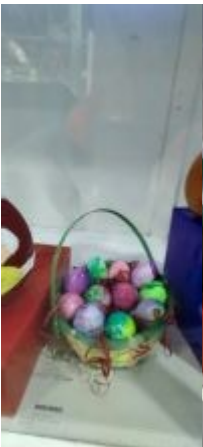
## More Fair Pictures

Go to the website ([www.indianagourdsociety.org](http://www.indianagourdsociety.org)) and click on “Click here for more photos of gourds at the fair” for more detail.





## More Fair Pictures



Did you miss seeing these gourds at the Indiana State Fair? Mark your calendars NOW for the 2026 Indiana State Fair running August 7—23, 2026. It may be closed on Mondays, they have not said yet.

Your next opportunity to see lots of gourds on display is October 18, 2025 at the Indiana Gourd Society State Show at the Thorntown Library in Thorntown, IN. The show is open to the public from 10 A.M. ET to 4 P.M. ET. Gourds are more impressive when seen in person instead of through photos!

## ROAD TRIPS

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

- Sep 6-7: North Carolina Gourd Arts & Crafts Festival,  
Holshouser Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh,  
NC. [Ncgourdsociety.org](http://Ncgourdsociety.org)
- Sep 6-8: Iowa Gourd Show, Clay County Fairgrounds,  
Spencer, IA [gwmml@lowatelcom.net](mailto:gwmml@lowatelcom.net)
- Sep 19-21: Idaho Gourd Festival, Franz Witte Garden  
Center, Nampa, ID [idahogourdsociety.org](http://idahogourdsociety.org)
- Oct 3-5: Ohio Gourd Show, Delaware Co Fairgrounds,  
Delaware, OH [ohiogourdsociety.com](http://ohiogourdsociety.com)
- Oct 3-5: Pennsylvania Fall Retreat, Cherry Ridge  
Campgrounds, Honesdale, PA. [Www.pagourdsociety.org](http://Www.pagourdsociety.org)
- Oct 17-18: Alabama Gourd Show, Sparkman Civic Center,  
Hartselle, AL. [Www.alabamagourdsociety.org](http://Www.alabamagourdsociety.org)
- Oct 17-18: Texas Lone Star Gourd Festival, Ranch Park  
Event Center, Dripping Springs, TX.  
[Www.texasgourdsociety.org](http://Www.texasgourdsociety.org)
- Oct 18: Indiana Gourd Society Show, Thorntown Library,  
Thorntown, IN [www.indianagourdsociety.org](http://www.indianagourdsociety.org)
- Oct 25-26: Georgia Gourd Society GourdFest, Kiwanis  
Fairgrounds, Griffin, GA [www.georgiagourdsociety.org](http://www.georgiagourdsociety.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.

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

### 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]

### Indiana State Fair

Aug 7, 2026 to Aug 23, 2026

(Closed Mondays?)

State Fairgrounds  
1202 E 38th St  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
[Note: The fair charges an entry fee]

## 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

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

☐ NEW ☐ RENEW

☐ 1 year @ \$15.00

☐ 3 year @ \$40.00

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

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:**

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

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 <sup>st</sup> Vice-president: Helen Thomas, Tangier (2025-2026)	1stvp@
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-president: RoJene Gillentine, Indianapolis (2025-2026)	2ndvp@
Treasurer: Philip Moorhead, Marion (2025-2026)	treasurer@
Secretary: Karen Niemeyer, Thorntown (2024-2025)	secy@
Membership Secretary: Pat Moore, Bloomington (2025-2026)	membership@
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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**