

THE INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC. PRESENTS  
32<sup>ND</sup> STATE GOURD SHOW – 2026  
A FREE TWO-DAY GOURD SHOW AND COMPETITION

2026 Theme

# **THE GOURD LIFE**

**Hancock County Fairgrounds**

**Sarah Burke Building**

**620 N Apple St.**

**Greenfield, IN 46140**

Public Hours:

**Oct 17, 2026: 10a.m.-5p.m. ET**

**Oct 18, 2026: 8a.m.-3p.m. ET**

# **Competition Book**

**[www.IndianaGourdSociety.org](http://www.IndianaGourdSociety.org)**

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## See the IGS Show Information Booklet for the following items:

- 1) IGS Board/Officers list
- 2) IGS Show Committees/chairs list
- 3) Wrap-up meeting dates/time
- 4) How to measure gourds
- 5) Glossary of terms
- 6) Member sales booth information and form
- 7) Vendor information and form
- 8) Volunteer form
- 9) Map

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### Show Security / Disclaimer

- The Indiana Gourd Society, Inc. and the Greenfield/Hancock County Fairgrounds will provide reasonable security for all participants during the show.
- The Indiana Gourd Society, Inc. and the Greenfield/Hancock County Fairgrounds will NOT assume responsibility for damage, theft, or injury during the Show.

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### REGISTRATION FEE

Members / Non-Members

**Any exhibit not preregistered will be assessed a \$2.00 processing/entry fee per entry.**

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### Required Use of 3x5 Cards

The following categories require 3x5 cards to be shown with details of the category:

- Category 1 through 12: Identify gourd type
- Category 14: Identify gourd type
- Category 29: Detail contents of rain stick
- Category 42: Explain the technique(s) used
- Category 43: Identify gourd types
- Category 44 and 45: Explain what the creation is
- Category 46: Identify artist and year made, if known

**Optional 3x5 cards can be placed on any exhibit to explain techniques if you desire. After judging, if you want to sell that piece, you may place a card stating such.**

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## AWARDS

The top five (5) entries in each category will receive a ribbon, if they merit such. All blue ribbons will be placed on the entry. Other ribbons can be picked up at the show's competition table.

See "Awards" in the IGS Show Information Booklet for additional information on awards.

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## FRACTAL CAUTION

*(High Voltage Arc Burn)*

IGS has conveyed our stance to AGS prohibiting fractal burning, as of October 21, 2017.

"The Indiana Gourd Society states that the Society does not condone, endorse, nor encourage fractal burning. The IGS supports the stand taken by the American Association of Woodturners and the American Gourd Society. Furthermore, the IGS will not accept the **selling of** or **display of** gourds, at show, exhibitions, or competitions, that demonstrate the application of fractal burning."

Board of Directors, Indiana Gourd Society

### What does this mean to you?

**DO NOT** bring to sell or enter into competition any gourds or other items that have had fractal burning applied to them. These items will not be allowed.

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## Timeline

(all times Eastern Time)

### October 16, 2026

8:00 a.m. until done	Room Setup
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Entry Placement
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Vendor Setup
5:00 p.m.	Building Closes

### October 17, 2026

8:00 a.m.	Building Opens for Entries
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Entry Placement
9:30 a.m.	Competition Entry Closes
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Judges Meeting
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Placements Verified
10:00 a.m.	Competition Judging Begins
10:00 a.m.	Building Opens for Public
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Make-it, Take-it
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Demos

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Silent Auctions  
5:00 p.m. Building Closes for the Day

### October 18, 2026

8:00 a.m.	Building Opens for Public
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Make-it, Take-it
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Demos
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Silent Auctions
3:00 p.m.	Vendor/Exhibit Teardown
5:00 p.m.	Show and Building Closes

## COMPETITION RULES

### Entry Level Definitions

**Novice:** Any entrant who has not won a blue ribbon or higher award at any state gourd show in that category.

**Experienced:** Any entrant who has won a blue ribbon or higher award at any state gourd show.

**Children:** All children 17 and under compete at the same level. They may also enter a different gourd as an adult, in any category.

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### General Exhibitor Entry Guidelines

1. See specific rules for each division.
2. Any individual may exhibit at the Indiana Gourd Show.
3. Exhibitors may enter two (2) entries per person per category (except where noted).
4. Your entry card must have your name folded back to be invisible to judges during the judging.
5. You may display pictures showing construction of your entry to verify gourd use.
6. **DO NOT MAIL EXHIBIT(S) TO IGS. IGS WILL NOT MAIL BACK EXHIBIT(S) LEFT AT THE SHOW.**
7. Entries exhibited in previous Indiana Gourd Society, Inc. State Shows will not be allowed in the same category a second time but may be entered in a different category (exhibits in the IGS 2025 show will be accepted because 2025 was not judged).
8. Pumpkins, squash, etc. will not be acceptable entries in any show competition.
9. Exhibit form for any category assigned a measured space **MUST BE PREREGISTERED** and in our hands by the required date (see form for date).
10. Walk-in entries are accepted on Friday after building setup is complete until 5 PM ET, and

Saturday from 8 to 9:30 AM ET, provided staging space is available. NO WALKINS AFTER 9:30 AM ET. Placing walk-in entries may be delayed; tags and summary cards must be prepared and may cause you to miss the entry placement deadline of Saturday, 9:30 AM ET.

11. Some exhibit categories are pre-registered ONLY and closed to walk-ins.
12. Exhibit Summary Card must be shown to pick up exhibits.
13. Exhibitor Packet Pick-up and Exhibit Placement hours are Friday after setup is complete until 5 PM ET, and Saturday 8 to 9:30 AM ET.
14. If entries are preregistered, entry tags are provided in exhibitor's packet. Tags must be ATTACHED to each entry. **Non-pre-registered entries will be assessed a \$2.00 per entry fee.**
15. Judging begins promptly at 10 AM ET and ends when completed.
16. Signed gourds may be displayed, but names must be discreetly covered (we suggest painter's tape). (Artist's name may influence judging). Please remove all other tags, including price tags.
17. Some categories require 3x5 cards explaining some aspects of the exhibit. If required, and you don't have one, the judges will deduct points.
18. The Show Committee reserves the right to subdivide and/or combine categories.
19. The Show Committee reserves the right to relocate exhibits before judging begins.
20. The Show Committee members will assist placing entries requiring "special staging." (See entry form).
21. Be sure your artistic work fits the category you have entered. Even if you preregistered and are unsure, please ask one of the Show Committee Members before placing your entry.

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## Judging

1. Judging will be to AGS rules for ALL categories. See the AGS Website for an explanation of the rules or contact Phil Moorhead for more information or clarification.
2. Judges will look at several factors to determine award placements. These factors are overall appearance, craftsmanship, difficulty/level of effort, and use of featured technique or theme. The final placement is awarded by consensus.
3. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 5th place. A single entry in a category does NOT guarantee a 1st place ribbon.

4. Judging Teams will place the blue ribbons on the 1st place exhibits in all categories.
5. Judging Teams will indicate the award position on the exhibit card for award given.
6. Judging Teams will place ribbons on all Children's exhibits.
7. Exhibitors wishing a ribbon may take the card to the awards table and pick up the ribbons awarded.
8. All judges' decisions are final.
9. Terminology, as defined in "Glossary of Terms" (see Information book) form the basis for judging.

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## Post-Judging

1. The portion of the exhibit tag showing exhibitor's name will be turned up for viewing. Exhibitors may place small business cards neatly beside entries. Cards may not be placed until after judging.
2. Exhibits, ribbons and tags must remain in place until Saturday at 3 p.m. ET.
3. Exhibitors removing exhibits early may not be allowed to exhibit in future IGS shows.
4. All unclaimed exhibits become the property of the IGS at Show's close.

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## How Do I Decide What Category to Use

1. The same gourd may not be shown in competition in any following show without modifying it.
2. If a gourd has multiple techniques applied to it, look for the predominate technique. A good way to do this is to stand with your back to the gourd, turn around to look at it, what is the FIRST thing you see? That is the predominate technique and the way judges will decide if the gourd is in the correct category.
3. Placement may be critical; a gourd may fit in different categories if you position the back or side of the gourd to face forward. Be sure place the gourd on the competition table the way you want it seen.

# COMPETITION

## Division 1A

### IGS Jim Story Award

1 entry / person / category

**NOTE: Must be green-cleaned and with stem (cleaned) for Jim Story Award cash award**

Category	Description
1	Single Manipulated Gourd with Stem, must be grown by exhibitor between 2009 to current year, must be fully dry. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.
2	Inseparable Intertwined Gourds with Stem, must be grown by exhibitor between 2009 and current year, must be fully dry. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.
3	Gourd Grown in a Mold. It must be fully dry. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.
4	<b>[NEW]</b> Single Manipulated Gourd, less than 8-inches in all directions, stem optional but not included in measurement, must be grown by exhibitor between 2009 to current year, must be fully dry. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.

## Division 1B

### Current Season Green Cleaned Gourd

2 entries / person / category

Category	Description
5	Single Gourd with Stem, must be grown by exhibitor in current year, may be manipulated if desired. Will be displayed and judged outside the building. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.

## Division 2

### Dried Gourd

2 entries / person / category

#### *Hardshell (Lagenaria)*

Category	Description
6	Three (3) gourds of different varieties or same variety, demonstrating different shapes and sizes or sameness of shape and size. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.
7	Smallest hardshell gourd, measured in height, width, and circumference combined. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.
8	Largest hardshell gourd, measured in height, width, and circumference. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.
9	Longest hardshell gourd, with less than four (4) inches of curve in the gourd. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.
10	Hardshell gourd grown in a mold, any other manipulation. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type. NOTE: check category 3, your gourd may better fit there

#### *Ornamental (Cucurbita)*

Category	Description
11	Five (5) gourds of different varieties or same variety, to demonstrate different shapes and sizes or sameness of shape and size. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.
12	Smallest ornamental gourd, measured in height, width, and circumference combined (including ball Luffa). REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type.
13	One (1) longest cylinder Luffa gourd. Card not required.
14	Ornamental gourd grown in a mold, any other manipulation. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying gourd type. NOTE: check category 3, your gourd may better fit there

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### Division 3

#### Botanicals

##### (PRE-REGISTERED ONLY)

2 entries / person / category

Category	Description
15	Tabletop or Hanging Wreath/Swag/Garland/Gourd Planter, containing plants of your choice, natural, fresh, or dried. Any technique or combination may be applied for both flowers and planter. <b>Must be pre-registered.</b>

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### Division 4

#### Floral Design

##### (PRE-REGISTERED ONLY)

2 entries / person / category

Category	Description
16	My Way. Any floral design: natural materials or silk flowers, in a finished gourd container. May be a gourd floral container only, any technique, with or without waterproofing, with or without fresh or live or dried or treated or painted plant material inside. <b>Must be pre-registered.</b>

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### Division 5A

#### Arts & Crafts - Basic

2 entries / person / category

Category	Description
17	Woodburning, Pyrography, with or without color
18	Carving, Gouging, Filigree, Creative Cutting
19	Painted
20	Dyed, Stained
21	Pencil, Colored Pencil, Doodling, Pen & Ink
22	Weaving, Coiling, Tenerife Weaving
23	String Art, Knotting, Netting, all other Fiber or Wire Art
24	Beading, Inlay/Mosaic, Clay
25	Decoupage

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### Division 5B

#### Arts & Crafts - Functional

2 entries / person / category

Category	Description
26	Functional Bird Feeder / Waterer / Bird House, decorated or undecorated, may be sealed. Must have bird entrance hole, air vent holes, and drainage holes.
27	Jewelry: Whole / nearly whole / cut gourd or set of items. Any technique(s) or embellishments may be used. Piercing for hanging allowed.
28	Gourd Mask, Hat, Purse, must be decorative and wearable.
29	Gourd Musical Instrument, Rain Stick. Must be functional. Rain Sticks must have 3x5 card explaining what is inside to make noise.
30	Gourd Lamp, Gourd Shade, Base, Pull cord grip, Luminary
31	Undecorated or decorated Dipper
32	Gourd Bowl, Container
33	Gourd Basket with Handle, Gourd Vase.
34	<b>[NEW]</b> Mother Earth Container, a gourd with no interior finish, cut open to be used as a serving bowl

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### Division 5C

#### Arts & Crafts - Advanced

2 entries / person / category

Category	Description
35	Gourd Seed Art, anything goes, 50% of visible entry must utilize gourd seeds
36	Toy, Doll, Human Figure, Creature, Animal, constructed of single or multiple gourds
37	Easter, Thanksgiving, or Christmas Theme
38	Any other holiday Theme, other than in category 37
39	Miscellaneous Gourd Use: A Miniature Gourd Item. Gourd and embellishments must be two (2) inches or less in any direction, replicating a larger item. Jewelry and holiday items not allowed. Stem, if present, and

- stands will NOT be included in two (2) inch measurement
- 40 “Gourds in Other Media” Item. An art or craft item not made of gourd, but has a gourd subject or theme – such as painting, sketch, photograph, writing, beadwork, lathed gourd shapes, quilt, embroidery, stained glass, leather tooling, pottery, etc.
- 41 Western, Southwestern, Native American, or another Ethnic Theme
- 42 “My Way” – Crafts. Any technique not identified in the above categories. REQUIRES 3x5 card explaining your technique.

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## Division 6

### Gallery

2 entries / person / category

Category	Description
43	Gourd Gallery. A gallery of three or more gourds of any size, displaying your gourd art. Gourds may have been previously exhibited, but not in this Gallery. REQUIRES 3x5 card identifying the gourd types.

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## Division 7

### Children (1-18 years old)

2 entries / person / category

Category	Description
44	Anything goes, individual child. REQUIRES 3x5 card explaining the exhibit.

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## Division 8

### School, Youth Org., Group Gallery

2 entries / group / category

Category	Description
45	Anything goes, group REQUIRES 3x5 card explaining the exhibit.

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## Division 9

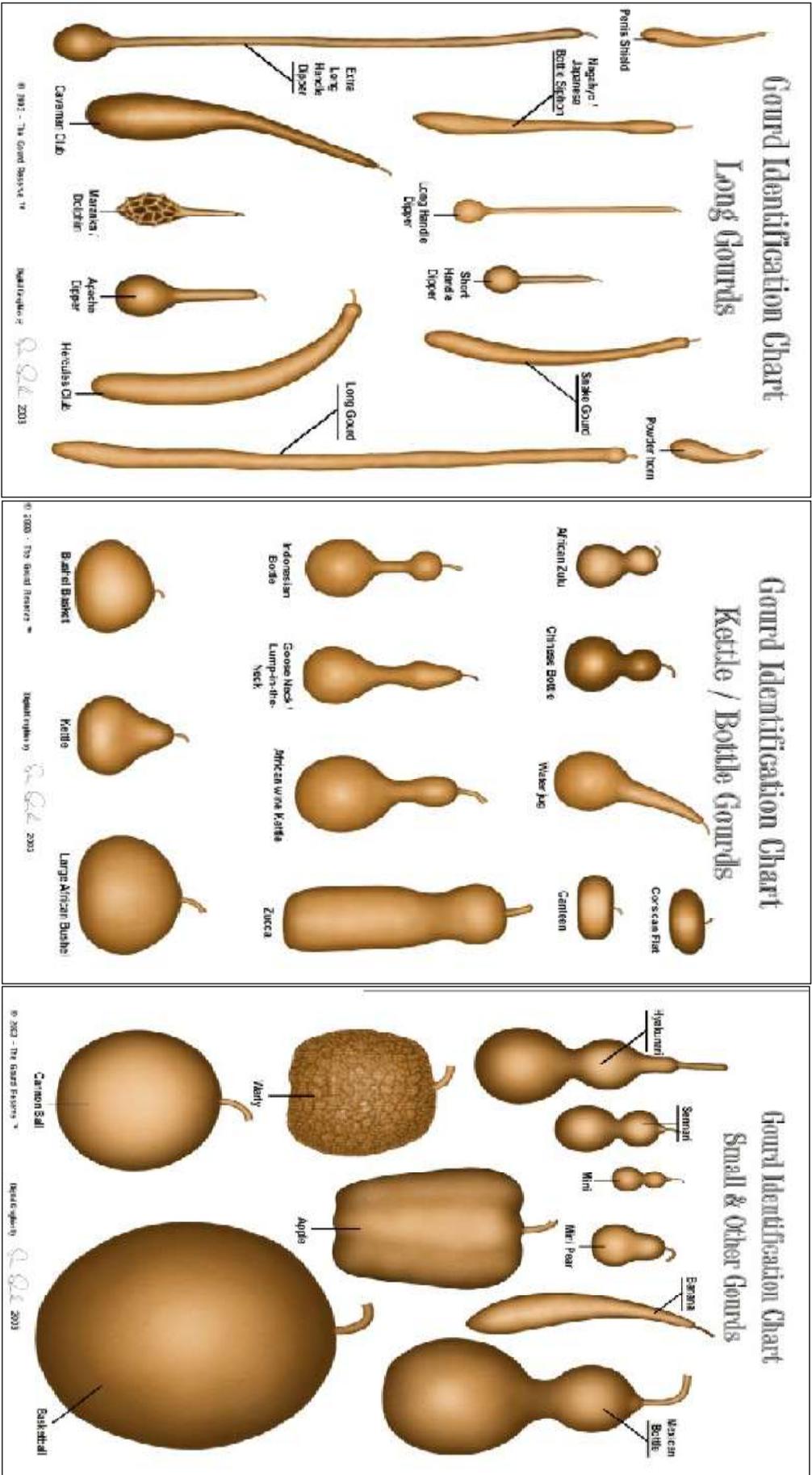
### NON-JUDGED DISPLAY (PRE-REGISTERED ONLY)

Up to 5 entries / person

Category	Description
46	Any gourd in your collection, to highlight other artists. We especially want examples of work by deceased IGS members. REQUIRES 3x5 card with the artist's name and year produced, if known. <b>Must be pre-registered.</b>

This chart is available for free to local and national societies for the purpose of educating people in this fine hobby, and to help to establish a standardized naming system. Many of the gourds shown on this ID chart have several names, we selected the most universally known name for each of the gourds. Gourd shapes and size are not to scale on this chart. See the Full Show Book, online for a truer chart.

Dan Dunkin      The Gourd Reserve Gourd ID Chart



# EXHIBIT ENTRY REGISTRATION FORM

Indiana Gourd Society, Inc., 2026 Show

This form is available at [www.indianagourdsociety.org](http://www.indianagourdsociety.org)

E-mail: [treasurer@indianagourdsociety.org](mailto:treasurer@indianagourdsociety.org)

Phone: Phil at 765-603-8947

**IF YOU ARE PREREGISTERING, THE DEADLINE FOR FORM TO BE IN OUR HANDS: October 1, 2026**

Make a copy of this form for your records. One (1) Entry Form per person, please. Make copies for additional sheets as needed. Remember: successful exhibit entry depends upon the legibility and accuracy of the information you provide.

**ENTRIES NOT PRE-REGISTERED WILL BE ASSESSED A \$2.00 FEE PER ENTRY.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like your pre-registered tags to be mailed, the Entry Tag Mailing Fee is: 1-25 tags = \$4.00 26-50 tags = \$7.00 50 or more tags = \$11.00		
# of tags:	Mailing Fee - \$	Check # :

In the grid below:

Enter your level      then the category      then a dash and the number of entries in that category

J = Jim Story	1-4	-1 only
D = Dried	5-13	-1 or -2
N = Novice	14-40	-1 or -2
E = Experienced	14-40	-1 or -2
G = Gallery	41	-1 or -2
C = Children	42	-1 or -2
S = School Group	43	-1 or -2

**NOTE:** It is not necessary to ask for tags to be mailed to you, but not doing so may delay your entry being placed in the competition. Exhibitor is responsible for attaching tags.

Example N27-2


Mail your completed form, with check if you are requesting tags mailed to you, to:

**IGS Exhibition Registration**  
**PO Box 822**  
**Marion, IN 46952**

**Indiana Gourd Society, Inc.**  
**PO Box 822**  
**Marion, IN 46952**