

THE INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC. PRESENTS
32ND 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

Information Book

www.IndianaGourdSociety.org

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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. - 5:00 p.m.	Make-it, Take-it
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 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

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.

REGISTRATION FEE

Members / Non-Members

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

Required Use of 3x5 Cards

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

- Category 1 through 11: Identify gourd type
- Category 13 through 14: Identify gourd type
- Category 29: Detail contents of rain stick
- Category 42: Explain the technique(s) used
- 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.

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 or pseudo-fractal burning applied to them. These items will not be allowed.

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.

The following certificates will also be awarded:

IGS Jim Story Single Gourd Award: best green-cleaned manipulated gourd. This is also eligible for AGS competition at the exhibitor's responsibility.

IGS Jim Story Inseparable Manipulated Gourds: best green-cleaned inseparable manipulated gourds. This is also eligible for AGS competition at the exhibitor's responsibility.

IGS Jim Story Manipulated Green-Cleaned

Gourd(s) Cash Prize: All green-cleaned gourds in the Jim Story categories will then be combined and re-judged for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place to receive a cash award of \$25, \$15, and \$5, provided by the estate of Jane Story. *To receive this award, gourds must be green-cleaned, Current season gourds are not eligible for this award.*

Honey Bear and Mary Miller Memorial Award: the most pre-registered entries actually entered.

Most Blue Ribbons: highest blue-ribbon count.

Chairperson's Award: selected by the show chair(s) at the end of judging.

IGS Officers/Board of Directors

President	Denise Bechtold, Thorntown
1st Vice-president	Greg Olson, Bloomington
2nd Vice-president	RoJene Gillentine, Indy
Secretary	Karen Niemeyer, Thorntown
Treasurer	Phil Moorhead, Marion
Membership Sec'y	Phil Moorhead, Marion
Director-1	Ron Bair, Marion
Director-2	Phil Moorhead, Marion
Director-3	Jack Burger, Winamac
Director-4	Rosemary Hill, Greenfield
Director-5	Diane Werblo, Indy

Patch Leaders

Central Indiana	Diane Werblo
Linda's Patch	Peggy Robertson/Rosemary Phillips
Mississinewa Valley	Ron Bair
Sugar Creek	Karen Niemeyer
Bloomington	Greg Olson

Show Committees

Chair	Greg Olson
Co-Chair	Penny Boyce
Competition Staging	Ron Bair
Demo	Michele Fife
Facilities	Lynn Meier
Food	Peggy Robertson
Information	Phil Moorhead
Kids Patch	Denise Bechtold
Judges	Phil Moorhead
Make-It, Take-It	Denise Bechtold
Member Sales Booth	Penny Boyce
Membership	Phil Moorhead
Photographer	Phil Moorhead
Publicity/Advertising	Lynn Meier
Signs	Lynn Meier
Silent Auction	Karen Niemeyer
Show Competition/Info Books	Phil Moorhead
Vendors	Diane Werblo
Volunteers	Greg Olson
Ways & Means	Diane Werblo
Workshops	(open)

Refunds

**NO REFUNDS ISSUED ON
CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED
AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2026**

Show Wrap-up

A meeting is scheduled for November 2026 at Thorntown Library, Thorntown, IN to review the show and begin plans for the 2027 show. Exact date will be announced in *The Tendril*. If you would like to participate, please let us know you plan to attend.

Jim Story

Jim Story was a world-renowned gourd legend. He was an IGS charter member and founder, a gentlemanly gardener, an experimenter, a teacher, the first manipulator and molder of gourds and a floral gourd designer. In Jim's honor, IGS has created the "**IGS Jim Story Award Competition Division.**" Also, the AGS has implemented a Jim Story Award competition on a state and national level.



Glossary of Terms

(for Indiana State Gourd Show)

Dried Gourds

Assortment of Gourds: Gourds of various sizes, shapes and varieties, or, gourds of the same size, shape and variety

Clean Stem: Washed stem with skin and dirt removed from the crevices and end clipped neatly

Dried Gourd: Water has entirely evaporated leaving a lightweight shell

Freak Growth: Deformity of gourd that occurred **naturally in nature**, (no curly handle dippers)

Hand Trained: Manipulation of growth to achieve a specific shape

Identical Gourds: Same size, shape, color/hue and variety

Floral Design

Base: Platform or low stand that may/may not be permanently attached, no plastic

Handcrafted Flowers: Flowers constructed from gourds with or without other dried natural material

Crafting Techniques

Beading: Beads and beading techniques used in decorating, plastic, glass, or, natural beads ARE allowed

Burnt Gourd: Burned with flame—NOT FRACTAL BURNING

Carving/Gouging: Removing outer shell of gourd, not going completely through gourd

Coloring: Using any natural/manufactured agent changing the natural color

Coloring Agent: Substance used to change the natural color of the gourd

Cutting: Penetrates the entire wall of the gourd (as with a saw or other tool)

Decoupage: Material glued onto gourd and covered with a preservative

Embroidery Beading: Beading stitch work incorporating small holes drilled into gourd shell

Fiber Art: Any strands of fiber or wire elements to embellish a gourd as in lacing, weaving, coiling, netting, knotting, wrapping, stapling, plating, and others

Filigree: Delicate ornamental cut work

Huichol Beading: Beads embedded in wax

Inlay/Mosaic: The application of a secondary material into/on a section of a gourds surface

Pyrocutting: Cut going completely through gourd by burning

Pyrography: Burn on surface to form a design not going through gourd

Tenerife: Laces made in the Tenerife style consist of smaller thread medallions formed from a wheel or small round pillow. The medallion base is a wheel of small spokes.

Weaving: Interlacing various materials attached to the gourd.

Wax Art: Wax or crayon wax applied to a gourd as the embellishment.

Containers and Dippers

Basket: Container with a handle

Bowl: Lidded or uncovered container without a handle

Dipper/Ladle: handled serving piece with natural handle and ball end

Pitcher: Container with or without handle(s) and pouring spout

Planter: Container with or without a sealer applied to the inside

Other Terms

Abstract Sculpture: Piece with design elements of line, color and/or movement

Clear Finish: Transparent finish that does not change the natural color

Cucurbita (Ornamental): A genus of plant family *Cucurbitaceæ* having large-lobed leaves, day blooming yellow flowers and generally small colorful fruits

Cut Gourd: Cut penetrates the entire wall of the gourd (includes all holes in birdhouses)

Human Figure: In a human manner, must have a head, torso, two arms, and two legs

Langenaria (Hardshell): A genus of plant family *Cucurbitaceæ* having large-lobed leaves, night blooming white flowers, and fruit growing in many shapes and sizes from one inch to several feet tall and wide

Luminary: Light source must be inside gourd, electrical/battery/candle (no open flame)

Multiple: More than one crafting technique on a single gourd

Natural Finish: No finish applied

Nearly Whole Gourd: A part of the outer surface has been removed, but no holes through the gourd

Three Dimensional: Technique incorporating depth, height and width

Two Dimensional: Technique incorporating height and width

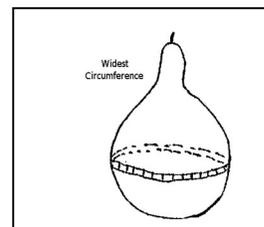
Whole Gourd: The shell must be intact and uncut, no penetration of the gourd

How to Measure Gourds

(for Indiana State Gourd Show)

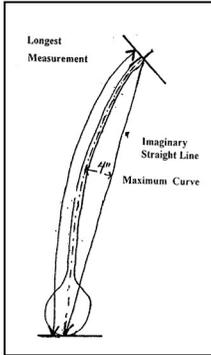
Circumference

Measured at the gourd's widest point, when standing in an upright position.



Longest (with less than 4" of curve)

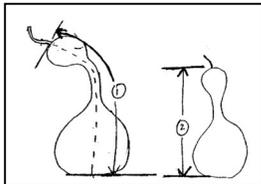
The imaginary straight line runs from the blossom end to the stem protrusion of the gourd, stem not included. The deepest point of the curve (when measured from gourd center to the imaginary straight line), may not exceed four (4) inches.



Height (measured two ways)

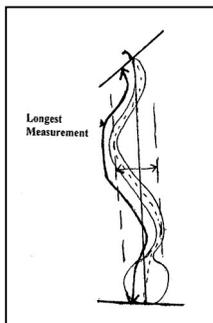
The longest measurement applies.

1. Measure from the blossom end to the stem protrusion **with** the gourd's curvature.
2. Measure at highest point when the gourd sits upright, stem not included.



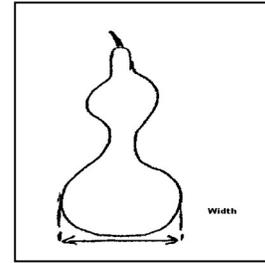
Longest Measurement

Must have no more than a four (4) inch total curvature. To test this, measure gourd's length from the stem center to the blossom center at the opposite end of the gourd.



Width

Measured at widest point when gourd sits upright.



("How to Measure" Information and drawings by Ron Bair, Indiana Gourd Society, Inc. Member)

Visit Your Friendly Ways & Means Store At the Show

We have Jim Story DVD and Books for sale
A Trash or Treasure Table
Jim Story DVDs© - \$10.00 each
The Companion Book "Gourds - From Vine to Design" -
\$10.00 each

Jim Story DVD's are copyrighted by the Indiana Gourd Society
and may NOT be duplicated in any manner. (All rights are
reserved.)

Contact Phil Moorhead about the DVDs and Books at:
treasurer@indianagourdsociety.org

Volunteer Registration Form

Your time and volunteer efforts contribute toward a successful Indiana Gourd Show.

Volunteer for a **total of 2 hours or more**, in the following areas: Setup, Greeters, Gourd Exhibit Area, AGS Judges/Clerks, Education, Ways & Means, Auctions, Membership, Tear-down, or anywhere IGS needs you.

Please list times and areas you would like to work in, if you have a preference.

Friday Setup, Oct 16: Time: _____ to _____ area: _____
Time: _____ to _____ area: _____
Time: _____ to _____ area: _____

Saturday, Oct 17: Time: _____ to _____ area: _____
Time: _____ to _____ area: _____
Time: _____ to _____ area: _____

Sunday, Oct 19: Time: _____ to _____ area: _____
Time: _____ to _____ area: _____
Time: _____ to _____ area: _____

Mail completed form to:

**IGS Registrations
P.O. Box 822
Marion, Indiana, 46952**

E-mail: volunteer@indianagourdsociety.org
Phone: Greg Olson at: (970-628-6864)-
Pre-register DEADLINE: RECEIVED- October 1.

Comments:

IGS Member Sales Booth Form

A Membership "Perk"

Pre-register DEADLINE: RECEIVED BY- October 1.

Do you have some gourd art you would like to SELL, but not enough to merit a full vendor booth space? Here's your chance to SELL your gourds. **Any active IGS member** may have up to 5 items in the IGS Member Sales Booth, as space allows. Your name and price must be attached to the gourd so guests know who made it and the sales price. *If you have more than five items, consider purchasing a vendor booth, it may be cheaper.* **You must pre-register to sell and volunteer to work 1 hour or more where IGS assigns you.**

Sellers: Each member is responsible for tagging their own gourds and getting them to and from the booth. In case not all five gourds can be displayed because of space limitations, a seller may leave a tote hidden in booth with extra gourds to replace gourds that sell. You may use your craft/gourd business card; this is recommended to give the buyer your name and contact info. Seller will have the say as to what items go on display first, if space is a problem or your sold gourds need replaced. IGS will make payment to sellers, by check, at the end of show or mailed after the show.

Booth Chair: Is responsible for setting up the booth. All gourd items will be placed randomly, but appealingly, in the booth space.

NOTE: IGS will earn a 20% commission from the sale. If you have more than five items, consider purchasing a vendor booth, it may be cheaper.

Mail completed form to:

**IGS Registration
P.O. Box 822
Marion, IN 46952**

E-mail: igssalesbooth@indianagourdsociety.org
Phone: Penny Boyce at: (419) 438-2595

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone/Cell Number: _____

NOTE: Be sure to fill out Volunteer Form as well as this one!

Expected number of gourds (Five max)?

How much table space do you think they will need?

Vendor Information

Setup: Friday, October 16, 2026

Show: Saturday, October 17, 2026, and Sunday October 18, 2026

Refunds: No refunds issued on cancellations received AFTER October 1, 2026 (FIRM).

Security: Reasonable security will be provided by the Indiana Gourd Society, Inc. and Hancock County Fairgrounds.

Vendor Locations: Inside spaces approximately 12' x 12', outside spaces approximately 16' x 24'. Dry Gourd vendors with CLEAN gourds will be allowed inside; because of possible early mold issues, GREEN GOURDS vendors must be outside. Locations are assigned by the committee; special requests will be considered but cannot be guaranteed.

In-booth Demos: These are limited to the confines of the booth. Demos must be completed during show hours, must not produce a "Make-it Take-it" product, or charge a fee. Preferential booth placement will be given to those who provide demos. Electricity charges will be waived if you need electricity for your demos. You may also demo in the IGS demo area for free. Please contact the demo coordinator to ensure there will be space/time for you.

Imported Gourds: All imported gourds must clearly be labeled "Imported from ____" [specify country].

Tax Forms: Vendors are responsible for Federal/Indiana taxes (forms available at Dept. of Revenue, Indianapolis, IN).

Sales start: Sales may begin when you have your booth set up and continue for the remainder of the open hours of the show. Merchandise sell-out does NOT constitute a reason to dismantle your booth and remove merchandise prior to the designated teardown time.

Prohibited items: Vendors shall not display/sell fractal burned gourds. At least 75% of the booth merchandise must be gourd related.

Booth Staffing: Each vendor is responsible to staff the booth continuously during show hours.

NOTE: Current season Ornamental gourds (Cucurbita) will be allowed to be sold in the building. Cucurbita do not develop mold as fast as other gourds (Lagenaria and Luffa).

NOTE: The Show Committee reserves the right to reject and/or restrict vendor sales due to space constraints, condition/quality of the sale merchandise, sale of inappropriate items for this show or sub-standard booth appearance.

Vendor Policy: The Indiana Gourd Society, Inc. will not create a policy that will eliminate any vendor from demoing or selling any Brand Name merchandise or determine any price structure for merchandise sold, thereby eliminating competition between vendors. This has been the position of the Indiana Gourd Society, Inc., in the past and shall continue to be so in the future. – IGS Board of Directors

Vendor Form

Please read the information on the Vendor Information page!

Non-Compliance: Failure to comply with regulations may prohibit any vendor from future participation in other Indiana Shows. Show committee decision is final.

Give a detailed description of what you are selling at the Indiana Gourd Show:

Your Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Best time to call: _____

IGS Member: Circle YES or NO

Describe any free demos you are willing to do. Specify – Demo area or your booth.

Vendors will receive two (2) name tags per booth space rented. Additional tags may be purchased for \$3.00 each – list names below. Tags serve as your SHOW PASS when worn. To be picked up on Saturday before 9 am or a door fee will be charged. Vendors are requested to donate two items to the silent auction. The vendor coordinator will assist you in this process.

Names: _____

#	Inside booth space (MOLD-FREE GOURDS) (12' X 12') @ \$35 each.	\$
#	Outside booth space (16' X 24') @ \$35 each.	\$
#	Tables (8' X 30") @ \$5 each (you may bring your own tables). We recommend you cover tabletops.	\$
#	(Inside booths) Chairs @ \$2 each (you may bring your own chairs).	\$
#	Electricity @ \$5.00/vendor. Vendors having demos will be given electrical preference. See vendor instructions for details.	\$
#	Additional name tags @ \$3.00 each (write names on separate sheet).	\$
TOTAL	Make check payable to: Indiana Gourd Society, Inc. (IGS) and mail with application.	\$

Mail completed form and check to:

IGS Vendor Registration
P.O. Box 822
Marion, IN 46952

E-mail: vendor@indianagourdsociety.org
 Phone: Diane Werblo at: (317) 783-1428

Membership Form

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ County: _____
e-mail: _____

Check one:

NEW

RENEW

Check one:

1-Yr at \$20.00

3-Yr at \$54.00

Check one: YES NO

I agree to allow IGS to share my name/address/e-mail with the American Gourd Society, Inc. (AGS)

You will receive an e-mail with a link to a **DIGITAL** version of **THE TENDRIL** (newsletter). If you would prefer a Black and White paper copy instead, please send a request for it to the address below.

Mail your check payable to the INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC. or IGS to:

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC., PO Box 822, Marion, IN 46952

*Note: This e-mail will come from **igs_web@yahoo.com**, be sure your e-mail service does not block it into SPAM*

NOTES

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

Maps

