

A Gourd Opportunity

Society members in Morgan and Tippecanoe Counties joined the Master Gardeners at their Spring Garden Festivals in May to give out information about gourds and the Society.

This was the fourth year Patch 4 participated under the leadership of Verona Clark. Members Merle and Liz Teel demonstrated the musical instruments that Merle has made from gourds. Wayne and Patty Blacker and daughters participated and Delaina DeHaven exhibited her gourd art and was pleased with sales.

In Morgan County Pat Bridwell sold her decorated gourds and gourd plants. Lee and Helen Parker had dried gourds and luffas available. Information both printed and verbal was given to many.

Seed Chairman Jesse Glessner has prepared a special “traveling” box of Society seeds to be available at any event where members participate and wish to help the Society. Sales from this box brought \$32 at one event and \$46 at the other all income going to the Society.

Most Indiana Counties have a master gardener program. Contact your county extension agent to learn about yours and plan to have a booth at their next event. Contact Jesse about selling seeds and Ray Nixon for educational literature. Any local festival would welcome participation by a representative of the Gourd Society. That is a good way to market your gourds or crafts and help IGS.

Helen Parker

CAUTION:

You might want to reconsider storing your gourds in your house. The gourds are covered with mold. A better place might be a shelf in your garage or even better in a shed. You should wear a mask any time you are cleaning dry gourds, drilling, or wood burning to protect yourself against the dust of mold or the gourd shell. DO NOT let small children operate tools unless very closely monitored—even teens should be monitored. Wear gloves when necessary to protect hands. Wear protective clothing while working outside. One hour of sun can cause very severe burns.

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