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# Presidents Message

Gourd season is upon us. By now many of you are experiencing different levels of success growing your favorite crop, the gourd. This has been a difficult year for some. In the north, we are extremely dry and battling bugs. I have not had personal contact with anyone but it sounds like members in the central part of the state maybe getting a little more rain than they need. If this whole gourd thing was not so challenging, it would not be so enjoyable.

The next event for our membership to look forward to will be our Fall meeting/festival in Lafayette. Lafayette has been very good to us in the past, and I anticipate another successful event with good attendance. Guy Shutt is chairing the event, and already has begun making plans. Any one wishing information of any type can contact Guy at [glshutt@ffni.com](mailto:glshutt@ffni.com) or call at 219-474-5091.

Plans for our state show 2008 in South Bend, are continuing to progress. The contract has been signed, discussions have been held concerning staging and workshops will have been selected by the time this is published. The move north has facilitated different people taking on different responsibilities. With these changes, we can anticipate a slighting new twist to our state show. Some contact has been maintained with the facilities management and they remain excited about the IGS brining our state show to their fairgrounds. Look for additional information concerning our state show elsewhere in this issue. And remember to mark the weekend of April 4, 5, and 6 on your calendars. South Bend has much to offer besides our excellent state show.

Until next time, happy gourdng,  
Sid Meyers

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## Patch 1 Report

Patch 1 held its "2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World of Gourds" festival, June 2, at the Webster Center in Plymouth. Along with 9 vendors, and demonstrations, once again a gourd "spin off" was held, using spinner gourds to test those who competed. Mary Cuff was in charge of this event, and there was a winner in both the adult, and child competition. As a group, we feel that this event was another success, and another opportunity to get the "gourd" word out.

Another opportunity that we are going to take advantage of is entering gourds into competition on the county fair level. We are asking our La Porte County members to enter gourds into open class. We estimate over 20 pieces that will vie for first place in several of the "non" gourd classes. We have used our imaginations, and feel we will open some eyes to the gourd.

We are also looking forward to August, as we are planning a progressive patch meeting. We will start at one of our member's gourd patch, and progress onto other member's patches, seeing how others are doing, growing, and experimenting with their gourd gardens. We are excited to see how the others do their thing.

As always, any and all who wish to come to one of our patch meetings are welcome. Just give us a call or drop us an email, and we will let you know when and where the next meeting is.

Sid & Renee Meyers

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