

State Fair Wrap-Up

Thanks to all who helped make the state fair a success! Don't forget to mark your calendars for next year's fair. We need more entries. There were over 170 preregistered, and only about 80 showed up for display. Steve Stairs won the grand champion ribbon for his gourd pictured elsewhere.

We met many people who are interested in gourds, they just need to be around gourd members more to get that thrill that we all got when we were just starting. Please consider volunteering next year. You get to meet a lot of nice people. AND, you get a free pass to the fair for the days you work! Most people work in 4-hour blocks and spend the rest of the day roaming the fair.

Your volunteer work can be a demonstration of your gourd art and techniques. These demos always attract people into the exhibits and we're lucky to always have a few people willing to do this.

We would like to specifically like to thank the following people who volunteered to be with us many, many hours during the days of the State Fair. In order by days as the first appeared: Helen Thomas (woodburning, chip carving), Joe Lee (wood burning), Bob Dillard, Bill Byrd, Linda Ryan, Bill Taylor, Diane Wardlow, Mac McCreery (Weaving on gourd), Lois Shutt, Guy Shutt (cleaning out a gourd, wood burning, carving) Renee Meyers, Debbie Nixon, Sid Meyers (cutting techniques), Ray Nixon (pine needle weaving), Bill Frie-hoff, John Walmsley, Pat Buedel (color pencils on gourd), Rita Sparks, Ida Kennedy, Emily Wallace & friend Darla, Ron & Loretta Pressel.

Many of the volunteer made multiple commitments, both in number of times volunteering and those doing demonstrations and assisting others, to make this show a success. Again, a very big thank you to all.

Phil Moorhead - State Fair co-chair

Jesse Glessner - State Fair co-chair

Quick Tips

Do your gourd pictures always come out with flash "hot-spots", shadows, or poor alignment that ruin an otherwise perfect picture? We won't guarantee this solution will work for everything you want to photograph, however, it could be adapted to perform much the same for small to large objects. Obtain a large cardboard box approximately 2.5 ft X 2.5 ft X 3.0 ft tall. You will also need an 18" wide roll of heavy duty aluminum foil, double backed tape, plumbers putty or clay, and two small "directed light", preferably on adjustable height stands.

Cut the full front side of the box out and save the side. Crinkle a strip of aluminum foil that will fit one side of the box. This should not be a tightly wadded piece of foil, but you do want numerous creases in the foil. Now pull the foil back into a sheet without pressing out the crinkles. Check fit the aluminum foil to one side of the box. Place double backed tape to outline the approximate area of the foil and then run an "X" from corner to corner. Remove the protective coating of the tape and place your crinkled foil, bright side out, on the wall of the box. Repeat this process for all sides, including the "front" piece. Use a large plain piece of contrasting colored artists card stock as a backing or under the object and shoot either directly into the box from the front, or shoot directly down on the item. Use modeling clay or plumbers putty to help hold the object.

Place your lights to point at the sides of the box. Take your photograph by centering the item in the viewer. If all of the item isn't there pull back and view again, you can always crop the image later. Upload to your computer. View the photograph for "hot spots", shadows, and proper alignment. If any errors, move the lights or the camera and try again. This should leave you with a fairly reflection free and shadow free photograph. If using a standard film camera, scan your photos with resolution set at least to 600 dpi and save as "your_photo_original" and keep as an original. Work only on a copy of a photo for cropping etc.. If you don't have a good application to do so, download the "free" GIMP (Graphic Image Manipulation Program) application from the Internet (www.gimp.org—read the download and installation instructions—multiple modules required). This package has about 80-85 % of what PhotoShop™ has for cropping, editing, sizing, etc. for photographs.

FOURTH Notice: Tendril Moving to Electronic Delivery—Get your info in if you want paper copies mailed!

As you may have read in the last issue of the Tendril, the cost of printing and postage have forced us to go to electronic delivery. This has several advantages: you'll get the issue about 2-3 weeks sooner, and it will be IN COLOR.

There is a new area on the website at www.indianagourdsociety.org called **MemberLogin**. When you click here, you'll see a page with a login and password. **Your login is the ID number on the top**

line of your Tendril label. Your password is your zip code (5 digits only). You'll be able to see back issues of the Tendril, and other information for members only. Be sure to contact **Dallas Lunsford, 317 Maple Court, Kokomo, Indiana, 46902, or call 765-453-0247, or eMail him at igsmembership@insightbb.com** if you do **NOT** want electronic delivery.

We'll still print a copy and mail it to you - but it will be black and white. **This change will take effect with the first issue in 2008**, as we get the bugs worked out of the system.

Phil Moorhead