

Great Day In Lafayette

Lafayette provided us with another great day for our Fall Membership Meeting and Festival.

What a GOURDious day with a sunny skies and warm temperatures.

The festival was very successful with all vendors having different degrees of success. The auction was very successful and many, many thanks to all the donators to the auction. The traffic was above average. We had great demonstrations all day with many questions being asked. The food was good and the friendship was GREAT.

I want to thank all those who took part in making this show successful. The vendors were super, the demonstrators were outstanding, the auction buyers were fantastic and Merle was wonderful on his musical instruments. Ways and Means had a great day and Seeds and Education were wonderful. The competition Group just did a great job. Membership brought in some new members and Renee got out lots of information on our SPRING Show. How could I not mention Bill as he greeted and visited with everybody who came in the door? The set up crew did an outstanding job and the clean up crew was even better.

I just want to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYBODY who had any part because I don't want to miss anybody as you were all wonderful.

I also want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and as the season goes on a Blessed and Joyous Holiday Season.

Guy Shutt

Fall show chair

Presidents Message

Greetings,

With the advent of an electronic newsletter, I have time to wish members a very Happy and Safe Holiday season. One that is, of course, full of gourds. With our Fall Meeting now behind us, we can turn almost full attention to our state show.

Once again, I will remind everyone that next years state show will take place at the St. Joseph County fairgrounds in South Bend, on April 4,5, and 6. This location is only 2 hours north of our previous location, and minutes south of many nice attractions. South Bend has much to offer to the weekend visitor. Plans are progressing nicely. If you have not received your show catalog, contact Renee Meyers at

srmeys@galaxyinternet.net, or at 574-229-0895.

I also want to mention our elections this coming May. Several offices will be on the ballot this year. They include President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and 2 Directors. If the current plans are carried out, there will be a significant change in the make up of the Executive Board after the elections. This society does belong to the membership.

Volunteer service of this nature not only gives you a voice in the running of your society, but it also can be very rewarding. Indiana has the largest membership in the country. There are many opportunities to volunteer and many hands makes the load much lighter. Current and past leaders have served well and with commitment. If you have ever thought that you wanted more from your society, maybe you should consider giving more to it. If you think you might like serving, please feel free to contact me.

Until next time, happy gourding,

Sid Meyers

2008 IGS Show—Vendors Notice

To our Venders, the Vendor packages are in the mail so you should get them soon. If you do not get your application please go to the IGS web page www.indianagourdsociety.org under 2008 State Show and download the application and mail it to. Vendor Chairman Ray Nixon, 5455 N Range Road, LaPorte, In. 46350 Phone 219-362-3500.

Pure Seed Project

This is a program of the Indiana Gourd Society for producing genetically pure high quality seed that will assure the purchaser of IGS seed the highest probability of growing adapted true to type gourd varieties.

Control of pollination by hand pollinating or growing in isolation thru multiple generations allows selection for improving trueness to type of varieties and seeds with

homo genius sets of genes.

To date the program which is a work in progress is involved with over 20 varieties—some in their 1st managed year and several thru the 4th generation.

Our aim and goal is to reach and continue beyond 7 generations to have 99 plus% genetically "pure seeds" produced and sold by IGS.

Steve Sullivan