



President's Column

A GOURD PATCH IS NOT ALWAYS A PIECE OF GROUND

In Indiana there are two kinds of gourd patches. A patch may be the spot of earth in which gourders place their seeds and from which they harvest nature's fascinating gourd children. A patch may also be a group of people who come together to learn about, grow and/or craft with gourds.

The Indiana Gourd Society has changed the requirements for patches so that there are no longer any geographic boundaries. Anyone may start a patch without concerns about boundary lines. Patches represent groups of people with like interests who want to get together to talk about gourd growing, crafting, or gourds in general.

The requirements are simple: assemble at least two people with an interest in gourds, print from the IGS website the "New Patch Request Form", complete it, and mail or fax it to Karen Niemeyer, President, Indiana Gourd Society, Inc., 1217 Wesley Court, Thorntown, IN 46071-8955. Fax 765 436 7011. The form asks who will act as Patch Leader, the number of persons interested, what the interest is (growing, crafting, other), and what support is needed from IGS as well as how the formation of the patch will attract new IGS members..

It is important that the group be willing to be registered (submit the form), and that members be willing to pay the \$15.00 annual dues to IGS, and to follow the IGS mission statement and guidelines. The mission statement is "*The Indiana Gourd Society, through individual and organizational activities, promotes educational efforts which advance an appreciation for the gourd's role and significance in past and present cultures and for gourd cultivation, crafting and artistry.*" The standing rules and guidelines are available on the IGS web site.

For the time being Patch 1 in northern Indiana is the biggest gourd in the patch world. Under the leadership of Sid Meyers, the patch mans a booth at the January garden show in Valparaiso, hosts a late summer tour of gourd growers in the area, and provides the gourd-power for the annual state show now held in South Bend. In addition to Patch 1, which has been established for several years, patches formed under the new system include one in Johnson County, in Del-

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Wintersowing



Spring Growing

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