



President's Message

Gourd Rattle 2009

In the last issue of The Tendril we were researching some of the uses of the gourd in American history. An excellent explanation of the Gourd Dance and of the Gourd Dance Society of America's Plains Indians is found in vol. 5 of The Encyclopedia of North American Indians (1997). Although the gourd, or rattle, is used in the Native American Church services and "is to be held in the right hand, the peyote gourd will not be seen in the dance arena because it is not considered the appropriate place for it. However, aluminum shakers or rattles are used in the arena." (p. 603) An eloquent chapter "I Am Alive" in The World of the American Indian (1974) describes a 1920 meeting of the Taimpe, or Gourd Dance Society, as the Kiowa dance. Gourds are still made into rattles in 2009, used in Church services, but replaced by metal cans in an Oklahoma dance arena in July 2009.

Pictured below are details of a rattle made in 2009 by Native American singer Craig L. White of Thorntown, Indiana.



The gourd was one of many purchased from vendors at the Indiana Gourd Show. The dimensions were specific to Craig's purpose of creating a rattle to be used in Native American religious services.

The gourd has been wood burned and its neck scalloped. A teaspoon of buckshot creates the desired sound. Wood carver Craig White carved the handle that protrudes through the gourd, where it is affixed with beaded leather and

(Continued on page 4)

Trick Or Treat



We Want Spinners

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fall Festival & Green Tips	2
Did You Know?, Booths & Vendors, and Jim Story AGS Memorial Notes	3
2009 FYE Financials, Going Out Of Business, President's Message Cont.	4
Hand Pollinating Gourds	5
State Fair Wrap-Up, State Fair Blue Ribbon Winners	6
Gourds On The Go, Gourds In Bygone Days	7
Message from 2010 State Show Chair, Fall Reading List	8
The New "Story Patch"	9
Our 2009 State Fair Volunteers	10
Lone Star Gourd Festival	11
IGS State Fair Photos	12
IGS State Fair Photos	13
IGS State Fair Photos	14
Going Green Tips, Gourd Happenings	15
Contact Info, Ad Submissions/Pricing	16