



President's Message

Loretta Pressel

They say that all good things must come to an end. Well, my time as President of the Indiana Gourd Society ends on December 31, 2019. I figure this is a good time to announce my retirement from holding any positions in the IGS. Come January 1, 2020 I will be 84 years old. My husband, Ron, age 85, and I have been very active since 1998. We have held numerous positions over the years, but I feel that my most rewarding one has been chairperson of Ways and Means. I have tried to fulfill Barbara Puckett's dream for Ways and Means to be a vital functional part of the Indiana Gourd Society.

Ron and I first became aware of the IGS when we attended the Indiana State Fair in 1997. In the Horticulture Building we found a booth about hard shell gourds. Wow! I had found a purpose for the gourds I had grown. I am a Master Gardener (as of this time, 21 years) and I was always trying out new seeds and plants. Lee and Helen Parker invited us to the Indiana State Gourd Show held at Indiana University. We went and there we met Honeybear and Ron Bair. Ron gave us information about a patch in Northwest Indiana. We jointed and ended up being the Patch Leaders as Mr. Jacob's wife had recently passed away and he wanted to move to Florida. The Patch, Lakeshore Gourders, is still very active under the leadership of Sherry Benedict. Ron and I volunteered for the first State Show held at the Johanning Civic Center in Kokomo in 1998. I was placed in the Ways and Means booth and Ron worked at the ticket table.

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Nov / Dec 2019 Patch Schedules

Lakeshore Gourders

Meets third Tuesdays, 10 a.m. CT at the 791 Dodge Trail (on Hwy 6), Westville unless noted

11-19-19: Christmas Party

Dec: No meeting

West Central Indiana Gourd Patch

Meets third Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. ET at the Hendricks Co fairgrounds in Danville

11-21-19: Flower Making from seeds and leftovers

12-19-19: Shakeries

Linda's Gourd Patch

Meets third Saturdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 200 W McKenzie Rd, Greenfield at 2-4 p.m. ET

11-15-19: Gourd Mask Completion/Intro for Musical Instruments

12-20-19: Musical Instrument: Thunder Drum

For more info contact Peggy Roberson 317-326-3854

Central Indiana Patch

Meets second Thursdays at Garfield Park Arts Center in Indy, 6-8 p.m. ET

11-14-19: "Modes of Transportation" or making ornaments

Dec: Probably skip this meeting

Sugar Creek Gourd Patch

Meets first Wednesdays at Thorntown Public Library, 6-8 p.m. ET

11-6-19: Gourd Luminary and individual projects

12-4-19: Holly and Snowmen

Thorn Tree Gourd Patch

Meets third Wednesdays at Thorntown Public Library, 2-4 p.m. ET

11-20-19: Gourd Luminary and individual projects

12-18-19: Holly, Snowmen, and finish Christmas gifts

See page 7 for dates in January and beyond

PATCH NEWS

Lakeshore Gourders (Sherry Benedict, contact)

The Lakeshore Gourder's October 15th meeting was at Blanche's Barn in Westville. Blanche Murrin led the meeting. Sherry (our leader) and Tom Benedict were vacationing in Alabama. Ida Kennedy led our project on how to make a gourd luminary. Our November 19th meeting is our Christmas party. It will be held at LaPorte Salem Chapel United Methodist Church. The 2020 January, February, March, and April meetings will be at the church. The time is 10 A.M. Central Time.

After many years as the Lakeshore Gourder's leader, Sherry is retiring on December 31, 2019. We are looking for a new leader. We thank Sherry for her long commitment to our group. She and Tom will remain as members. Submitted by Loretta Pressel

Sugar Creek and Thorn Tree Gourd Patches (Karen Niemeyer, contact)

Both patches meet at the Thorntown Public Library, 124 N. Market St, in Thorntown. Sugar Creek meets on the first Wednesday from 6-8:00 P.M.. ET, while the Thorn Tree Patch meets on the third Wednesday from 2-4:00 p.m. ET, thus allowing for daylight driving. September and October are good times to spread the gourd word, and patch members have led craft sessions for senior citizen groups, including a 3-hour demonstration on October 5th at an annual Senior Expo that features music, clowning, and approximately 60 vendor booths (health, real estate, senior care facilities) interested in marketing to and serving seniors. Several folks are thinking about crafting gourds, and one lady decided she would get down the bag of 30 that are stashed in her attic. We are hoping a few decide to visit the Thorntown patches for fellowship and inspiration. Throughout September Denise Bechtold and Ardie Bowles had their art featured at the Sugar Creek Art Center. In October Sandra Townsend led patch members in creating pumpkin people, based on Phil Hart's May gourd show silent auction contribution. Plans for November include finishing the gourd luminaries that everyone started when we invited Delaina DeHaven to visit and teach the project a few years—yes, years—ago. Members and visitors will work on individual projects as well. We shall cut more 4-inch quilt blocks as soon as we dig out enough gourds with flat areas. The December meetings will feature seasonal themes and a variety of snowmen. Karen is enjoying watching the vase gourd plant that she purchased from Dale Winger at the May show. There are a few gourds on the trellis where they belong, as well as five about 30-feet up in an evergreen tree and one hanging in the Linden tree. The vine reached across 3-feet of air to grab a linden twig and moved on. Patch members wish everyone gourd-geous holidays!

Central Indiana Patch (Diane Werblo, contact)

In September attendees who experienced the Jackson Pollock-style spatters and drips were Penny Boyce and her granddaughter Margie Kempson, RoJene Gillentine, Mary Johnson, Ann Stankiewicz, prospective member Ann Thomas, Tim and Sandra Townsend, and Diane Werblo. Most sat on a tarp on the floor and went at it; some opted just to watch. For several hours on September 28th Mac McCrary and Diane Werblo spun gourds, talked about IGS, and handed out info at Indy's Paramount School Festival. The few hundred who visited us LOVED it!

October 10th, CIP had an afternoon field trip to buy gourds at Seth Kent's farm near Brookston. We will NOT meet at GPAC as usual. On the 11th, member Jean Long joined Mac and Diane on the Back Roads of Brown County Open Studio Tour to see some of the gourd artists there (look it up, the tour lasts all month and there are a few gourdist). Some CIP members helped GPAC with Halloween parties on the 23rd and 24th.

November is yet to be decided: we'll either be working on our "modes of transportation" group project OR making ornaments.

CIP meets on the second Thursday each month from 6-8 P.M. ET at the Garfield Park Arts Center in Indy. A light dinner is provided. CIP meets November 14th; we will probably skip December.

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West Central Indiana Gourd Patch (Shirley Gates, contact)

The West Central Indiana Gourd Patch has resumed our meetings for the fall season. Attendance has been down due to many commitments. We applied alcohol ink to spinner key rings, coming up with some beautiful colors. We have completed our purposes schedule for 2019 and into 2020. Guests are always welcome. Maybe you can join us.

Linda's Patch (Lesa Briones, contact)

Linda's Gourd Patch met on September 21st at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Peggy Robertson, Greenfield, IN for our monthly meeting. There were 7 members present. The meeting was an introduction for the construction of gourd masks. There were a lot of gourd masks on display to look at for ideas. It was a beautiful sunny day to spend outside at the Robertson's home. We had a variety of snacks and enjoyed the day! Peggy and her husband Dan also grow gourds and we toured their gourd patch. Thank You Peggy and Dan for opening your home for all of us to enjoy. We will continue to work on our masks for the November meeting.

Our November meeting will consist of the introduction of musical instruments with our concentration on the construction of a Thunder Drum. We will also create a Christmas ornament. Our December meeting we continue the construction of the thunder drum.



Gourd enthusiast Suzie Pirtle-Armagost passed away from cancer in February 2015 in Anderson, Indiana. Several of her beautiful, large, clean gourds were donated to the IGS by her children Kathy Grimme and Kip Grimme as well as her sister Peggy Pirtle-Saum. IGS would like to thank Suzie's niece Kelli J. Jack-Kelly for bringing three large bags of gourds to the State Fair. It was an honor to receive this bounty. Her gourds will be available for purchase at the IGS State Show in Rochester in May.

Ways & Means

Caps and visors: \$12 +\$2 S/H each
Jim Story DVD: \$20 + \$3 S/H each
"Gourds: From Vine to Design" book \$20 + \$3 S/H each

Send check payable to IGS to
Phil Moorhead
PO Box 822
Marion, IN 46952

PATCH CONTACTS

Central Indiana	Indianapolis	Diane Werblo	317-783-1428
Gourd Crafters	Ridgeville	Lois Wright	317-370-1418
Lakeshore Gourders	Plymouth	Sherry Benedict	574-936-4805
Linda's Patch	Greenfield	Lesa Briones	lesalynnbriones@gmail.com
Patch 4	West Lafayette	Verona Clark	765-242-1967
Story Gourd Patch	Pendleton	Inactive	
Sugar Creek	Thorntown	Karen Niemeyer	765-436-7518
Thorn Tree	Thorntown	Karen Niemeyer	765-436-7518
West Central Indiana	Avon	Shirley Gates	317-306-6383

Drying And Harvesting Gourds

By John Sturgeon (Date: unknown)

Ornamental, soft-shelled gourds are ready to harvest when the tendril next to the gourd turns brown or the stems are dry and brown. Ornamentals are often picked prior to being fully mature and used for fall displays. If harvested early and not mature, these soft-shelled gourds may develop wrinkled skins and rot. When the gourds rattle [dry], you can paint or polish them with products used for finishing wood. Ornamental make excellent holiday ornaments or add interest to wreaths.

Hard-shell gourds require 110 to 150 days of warm weather to fully mature. They should be left on the vine as long as there is life in the vine. They must be cured. Since gourds are over 90% water, it may take several months for a large gourd to dehydrate. I wait till after hard frost in central Indiana to harvest my hard-shells.

Freezing temperatures do not hurt mature gourds. If the gourds wrinkle up, this indicates an immature gourd. One can leave gourds outside to dry or use an attic or garage. The outer skin will mold, rot, and began to peel as the gourd dries. **DO NOT THROW AWAY THE MOLDY GOURD.** After the fruit [gourd] has dried, scrape off the outer skin remaining to reveal the hard permanent shell below the grime. Soak dried gourds in water for a few minutes and wash/scrape. Use of a plastic scrubbing pad works for removing most of the mold. The mold patches may have discolored the shell but this can be painted over or use a clear finish to Enhance the appearance. Remember any wood finishing product can be used on a dried gourd.

Green Cleaning Gourds

By Carolyn Rushton and Jim Story (Date: Unknown)

THE PURPOSE OF GREEN CLEANING IS TO ATTAIN A FINISH OR SURFACE THAT IS MORE EVEN IN COLOR AND APPEARS CLEANER; USEFUL FOR MORE FINER CRAFTING DETAILS.

- (1) First of all, gourds must NOT BE HARVESTED until after a killing frost, when all the vines are brown and dead.
- (2) Clip stem at desired length and rinse gourds with hose to remove dust and bug spray.
- (3) Scrape or peel gourd with a whittling motion, completing entire gourd. This includes scraping the stem. A small wire brush is useful for finishing the base of the stem. The gourd skin is similar to cucumber peeling.
- (4) Scrub in light suds and warm water with steel scouring pad to remove minute particles. A small amount of bleach can be added to water, if desired, to help stop mildew.
- (5) Rinse and dry.
- (6) Place near low heat indoors, using plant flats or shallow cardboard boxes. These can be put above the duct work in the basement or along baseboard heaters. Gourds should be turned every day or two to insure uniform drying. Also, gourds can be hung up by the stem, using various methods. A fan will speed drying time, surrounding the gourd with constantly moving air.
- (7) Size of gourd determines drying time. In three weeks to two months, gourds will become very light in weight and seeds may or may not rattle.
- (8) Store in a dry place in open crates or hanging in potato bags.
- (9) Craft as you wish when thoroughly dried.

SOMETIMES, FAILURES DO OCCUR, OFTEN BECAUSE THE GOURD HADN'T MATURED AT THE TIME OF THE FROST. SOME MAY SHRIVEL DURING DRYING, AND THOUGH THIS MAY NOT BE THE DESIRED EFFECT, THEY STILL ARE IN DEMAND FOR FLOWER ARRANGING AND CREATIVE CRAFTING.

Judges' Class Forming

Are you interested in how judges judge? I am putting together an AGS judge's class to be held at the Thorntown Library March, 21 2020 at 10 a.m ET. Current judges should consider refreshing at this meeting. It is an 8-hour course. You must be an AGS member in good standing. The cost of the course is \$20 for the study material and name badge. Please contact me if you are interested, students must be pre-registered so we get the proper materials. Phil Moorhead, 765-674-8088

2020 State Show Update

Plan to participate in the 28th Annual Indiana Gourd Society State Show on Friday, May 1, from 10 am - 7:30 pm ET and Saturday, May 2, 10 am - 3pm ET at the Fulton County Historical Society, 37 E. S.R. 375 N., Rochester, IN 46975. Admission is adults 19-60: \$5, seniors 60+: \$3, and 18 and under: free. Bring the kids!

Everyone is welcome to enter gourds. Although the show book changes slightly from year to year, most of the nearly 100 classes will stay the same as the 2019 show. You and your kids can use it to plan your entries until the new book is online. The theme, "**Down on the Farm**," only applies to the THEME CLASSES, so not everything needs a rural vibe. Our popular "Make It Take It" area is back. There will be workshops, demos, gourd gurus, vendors (gourd art, supplies, seeds, plants), and more. The food is real "down on the farm" fare. If you've been to the show, you know it's fun! If you haven't, now's the time to plan.

As we were going to press, we received word of the passing of long-time IGS and AGS member Jim Ballard.

ROAD TRIPS

2019—courtesy of AGS

(www.americangourdsociety.org)

Nov 9-10: North Carolina Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival, Raleigh, NC—

www.ncgourdsociety.org

Nov 16-17: Virginia Gourd Show, Winchester, VA

2020

Feb 7-8: Arizona Wuertz Farm Festival, Pinal Co Fairgrounds, Casa Grande, AZ—

www.arizonagourdsociety.org

Feb 21-23: Florida Gourd Festival, Azan Shrine Center, Melbourne, FL—www.flgourdsoc.org

Mar 21: Indiana Gourd Society AGS Judges' Training, Thorntown—

www.indianagourdsociety.org

Mar 27-28: Alabama Gourd Madness, Clayton, AL—www.alabamagourdsociety.org

Apr 4-5: Missouri Gourd Society Fine Art Festival, Springfield, Mo—

www.showmegourdsociety.com

Apr 11: Midwest Gourd Fest, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison WI—

www.wisconsinagourdsociety.com

May 1-2: Indiana Gourd Society State Show, Rochester, IN—www.indianagourdsociety.org

May 27-31: Cherokee Gourd Gathering, Cherokee, NC—www.gourdgathering.org

* * IGS Events 2020 * *

Judge Class

March 21, 2020, 10 A.M. CT

Thorntown Public Library

124 N Market St

Thorntown, IN 46071

[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

IGS State Gourd Show

May 1/2, 2020

Fulton County Historical Society

37 E. 375 N

Rochester, IN 46975

[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

Indiana State Fair

August 7-23, 2020

State Fairgrounds

1202 E 38th St

Indianapolis, IN 46205

[Note: The fair charges an entry fee]

IGS Membership Meeting

October 17, 2020, 10 am ET

Thorntown Public Library

124 N Market St

Thorntown, IN 46071

[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

HOLD THESE DATES!

	State Show	Membership Meeting
2020:	May 1-2 October 17	
2021:	May 7/8 October 16	

Remember to inform IGS if you have a postal address, e-mail or phone change. We would like to keep our records current!

The IGS was formed and exists pursuant to the Indiana Not-for-Profit corporation statute Sect. 501 (c) (5). The corporation has never attained Sect. 501 (c) (3) status of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, gifts to IGS are not deductible for income tax purposes.

Address Change: Fill out form and mail to indicated address below.

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.		<input type="checkbox"/> NEW	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEW	ID# _____
Membership Application		DATE: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year @ \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 year @ \$40.00	Patch # _____		
PLEASE PRINT (Free gift with New or 3yr Membership)				
NAME: _____				
ADDRESS: _____				
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____				
PHONE _____ COUNTY _____				
EMAIL _____				
DO YOU WANT ELECTRONIC <u>TENDRIL</u> ? CIRCLE YES or NO				
Make your CHECK payable to the INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.				
MAIL TO: INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC., 691 W Veach Rd, Bloomington, IN 47832				
Visit the IGS Web site at: www.indianagourdsociety.org				

(President's Message, continued from p.1)

The following year, Barb Puckett passed away and they needed someone to replace her as Chairperson of Ways and Means. I volunteered. I did that a lot. What a great adventure I have had. For those of you who had never been to the Kokomo show you really have missed out. Ways and Means was thriving. We also were doing the State Fair, Spring Meeting/Festival, Fall Membership/Festival, and Patch Events. We traveled extensively. After working at the State Fair, for a few years, I became the State Fair Chairperson for two years. That is where we met a lively couple, Diane Werblo and Mac McCrary. We took our camper and stayed for the duration. But when the State Fair went to three weekends, we said that was too much (age-related) and resigned.

After the IGS left Kokomo, things were never the same. The Society could not seem to find a venue that could draw large crowds. The membership declined, people died, other State Shows were formed that lowered our attendance and recruited our teachers. Time does not stand still.

I urge anyone who is interested in growing, crafting, or doing art work on gourds to reach out to the IGS and offer your time, talent, and resources. Being a "gourdhead" is a fun thing to do.

Ron and I will always fondly remember our first "gourdhead" contacts; those who had the initiative to create the Indiana Gourd Society. Rosemary Dougherty, Nancy Reed, Ron Bair, Dallas Lunsford, Jane Snider, Valene Alexander, Barb Puckett, Dick Harshman, and Lee and Helen Parker. There were others, but these were the ones we personally knew. Joe Lee, Guy Schutt, Helen Thomas, and Emily Dillard were great mentors to us newbies' in the "gourd world." A big thank you to Marion Ellis, my sidekick and ever faithful helper. We will always remember Sherry and Tom Benedict approaching us at the State Show, in Elkhart, asking "What can we do to help?" Thanks guys. Thanks to everyone for the memories.



2020 Patch Schedules

January and beyond

Central Indiana Patch

Meets second Thursdays at Garfield Park Arts Center in Indy, 6-8 p.m. ET

1-16-20: To be announced

2-20-20: To be announced

Lakeshore Gourders

Meets third Tuesdays, 10 a.m. CT at the 791 Dodge Trail (on Hwy 6), Westville unless noted

1-21-20: To be announced

2-18-20: To be announced

Linda's Gourd Patch

Meets third Saturdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 200 W McKenzie Rd, Greenfield at 2-4 p.m. ET

1-18-20: To be announced

2-15-20: To be announced

Sugar Creek Gourd Patch

Meets first Wednesdays at Thorntown Public Library, 6-8 p.m. ET

Jan: No meeting

2-5-20: To be announced

Thorn Tree Gourd Patch

Meets third Wednesdays at Thorntown Public Library, 2-4 p.m. ET

1-15-20: Snowflakes in multiple mediums

2-19-20: To be announced

West Central Indiana Gourd Patch

Meets third Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. ET at the Hendricks Co fairgrounds in Danville

1-23-20: Finish Shakeries

2-20-20: To be announced

The IGS Is No Longer Selling Seeds

Want to make a difference in the Indiana Gourd Society?

VOLUNTEER!

THE TENDRIL
P.O. BOX 822
MARION, IN 46952

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CHECK EXPIRATION DATE ABOVE YOUR ADDRESS! **THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE**

All submissions welcome!

Issue: Articles Due:

<i>Jan/Feb</i>	<i>Dec 1</i>
<i>Mar/Apr</i>	<i>Feb 1</i>
<i>May/Jun</i>	<i>Apr 1</i>
<i>Jul/Aug</i>	<i>Jun 1</i>
<i>Sep/Oct</i>	<i>Aug 1</i>
<i>Nov/Dec</i>	<i>Oct 1</i>

ARTICLES MUST BE IN MS WORD OR RTF FORMAT.

Send as an attachment to your email or mail your submissions to the above address. Please send us your pictures, stories, tutorials, and anything else gourd-related plus your suggestions for improving or inclusion in *The Tendril*. We reserve the right to edit for content, style, or to fit printing requirements

IGS Executive Board and Board of Directors

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