



## President's Message

*Pat Moore*

Hello! It's been almost two years of surviving the Covid-19 Virus. I am looking forward to a healthier, virus free year in 2022. At least there are gourd events happening now. Check out the American Gourd Society's web page for show listing and more, or check on page five of this issue of the *Tendril*.

The IGS memberships meeting was on October 16, 2021 at the Thorntown Library. One of the topics discussed was the 2022 State Gourd Show, "Down on the Farm" on May 6-7, 2022. The 2022 State Show competition classes are about the same as posted for the canceled 2020 and 2021 shows. The Show Competition Book and other information will be on the IGS Website soon. The Workshop Flyer and class information will not be posted till mid-March 2022. Please keep checking the website for updates on future shows and events.

It's the beginning of the "gourd drying season" here in Indiana. We've had a killing frost in October and the vines are turning brown, the mature gourds are starting to dry and the others will soon start to rot. Do the quick "Gourd Maturity Test 101" on your gourds, know what gourds are mature and if they will likely dry or rot over the winter. This "test" was printed in *The Tendril* Sept-Oct 2021 issue and is on the IGS Website in the Education Articles. Gourd Luck with your harvest!

Happy Holidays, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and:  
**Have a GOURD Day!**

## Passing of Another Long-time IGS Friend: Phil Hart

We have received word that Phil passed on November 24, 2020. Many of us knew Phil as a teacher in the Monticello area before retiring and moving out of state. Even then, he stayed active in IGS. Phil and his wife Jayne were long-time vendors at our state shows.

## Patch Schedules Nov / Dec 2021

### West Central Indiana Gourd Patch

*Meets third Thursdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. ET at the Hendricks Co fairgrounds in Danville*  
Meetings on hold until pandemic is over.

### Linda's Gourd Patch

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

*For more info, contact Peggy Robertson 317-326-3854*  
Meetings currently on hold.

### Central Indiana Patch

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

### Sugar Creek Gourd Patch

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

11-3-21: Turkey Projects by Denise Bechtold  
12-1-21 (2-4pm): Snowmen/Snowwomen/Santas/elves, DYOT  
1-5-22 (2-4pm): Gourd Drums/Wind Chimes—Denise/Karen  
2-2-22 (2-4pm): Gourd Drums/Wind Chimes—Denise/Karen

### Thorn Tree Gourd Patch

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

11-17-21: Turkey Projects  
12-15-21: Snowmen/Snowwomen/Santas/elves, DYOT  
1-19-22: Gourd Drums—Denise/Karen  
2-16-22: Wind Chimes—Denise/Karen

### Gourd Crafters Patch

*Ridgeville Lion's Club building, 2-4 p.m. ET*  
Contact Lois Wright for details.

**Please contact patch leaders for dates/times as we slowly come back to a new normal.**

### Show Committee Meeting / Board Meeting

We will have a combined Board/Show Committee Meeting at Thorntown Library on Jan 22, 2022, 10a.m. ET (snow day Jan 29). Join us if you want to have an input to how the show functions.

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## PATCH NEWS

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

Both patches meet at the Thorntown Public Library, 124 N. Market St., Thorntown, and welcome new participants. Masks are recommended and social distancing is practiced. At all sessions participants are encouraged to BYOP: Bring Your Own Projects. On October 6 and October 20 the patches worked on finishing projects including decoupage bowls and "Down on the Farm" projects for the May state gourd show. Supplies are on hand for those who wish to START these projects or any other. Colored pencils and pens are available for fall leaf crafts; these may include adding details with melted crayons. There are still spinners to be cleaned. The groups are planning their November-February projects. Because of earlier darkness the Sugar Creek Gourd Patch will move its meeting time to 2-4 p.m. (ET) for December through February. Karen was surprised that the state fair check arrived on September 30 instead of the usual October, and she is distributing prize money to the six members who submitted 19 projects at the August state fair. Now is the time to "Fall Into Gourds!"

### **Linda's Gourd Patch (Peggy Robertson, contact)**

Linda's Patch members gathered in September at the home of Peggy Robertson where we painted gourds and made them into Christmas ornaments. We painted outdoors since it was a beautiful fall day, and we also had a couple new attendees at our meeting. The ornaments will be used to decorate a Christmas tree at a local Nursing Home in November.

In October we plan on continuing with the Christmas ornaments and will schedule future meetings. It feels really good to be meeting in person and catching up with each other.

Back in January, Pat Moore asked if anyone would be willing to do a gourd presentation for the Hamilton County Master Gardeners at their monthly meeting, to be held in September. Connie Dickinson, Rosemary Hill and myself (Peggy Robertson) jumped at the opportunity since we are all three advanced Master Gardeners in Hancock County (several other members of Linda's Patch are Master Gardeners as well). And yes, in case you didn't know, Connie, Rosemary and I are sisters. We have also shared our presentation with our Master Gardener group at the Purdue Hancock County Extension in the past, as well as the local Nursing Home where we help with presentations monthly on different subjects.

### **Central Indiana Patch (Diane Werblo, contact)**

Due to the generosity of Christine Sorrell, Phil Moorhead, former member Emily Wallace, and others, Mac McCrary and Diane Werblo were able to host The Great Gourd Giveaway I & II on the last two Sundays of September in their backyard. CIP members, new people who signed our "Tell Me More" sheet at the State Fair, and other interested parties had a lot of fun choosing from the stash built up in our garage. We expect great projects at the 2022 IGS State Show and the State Fair.

CIP met at the Garfield Park Arts Center on Thursday, Oct 14. Due to Covid, GPAC has stopped the sharing of all food and drink and they require masks. We discussed a change of day/time and distributed ISF money to the winners. Since the weather was bad, we couldn't do our planned project. Instead we discussed ways to solve gourd problems. Since GPAC is closed on our November meeting day, we *might* meet one of the first two Saturdays that month. Contact Diane Werblo for an update. We are making ornaments in December.

## Ways & Means

**NEW ITEMS:** We have just received some end-of-stock Aurelia Conway books on gourds. We are selling them at a super discount price, all prices below include shipping/handling/postage.

Caps and visors:	\$14	Send check payable to IGS to
Jim Story DVD:	\$23	Phil Moorhead
Jim Story <i>Gourds: From Vine to Design</i> book:	\$15	PO Box 822
Aurelia Conway books:		Marion, IN 46952
<i>Gourd Purses, Decorative Painting</i> #9728	\$13.50	
<i>How to Paint a Gourd</i> #9606	\$13.50	Please send e-mail or phone in case we need to contact you

### State Fair Thank You

Diane Werblo

As Gourd Coordinator for the ISF, I'd like to thank our judge, who shall remain anonymous. I appreciated the days of help that Mac McCrary, Pat Moore, and Penny Boyce gave. Despite COVID-19, we had several new and returning IGS volunteers who gave us hours or even many days of support: Becky and Allen Atz, Denise Bechtold, Connie Dickinson, Rosemary Hill, Shirley Gates, Margie Kempson, Philip Moorhead, Ann Stankiewicz, Sandra and Tim Townsend, and Dale Winger who found us an interested Master Gardener. Let me know if I missed someone or misspelled your name.

Over 40 people signed our "Tell Me More" sheet. There's interest in an inner city patch in Indianapolis. A guest from Tennessee and one from Oregon want info on gourds!

### Gourd Memories

Charlie Richardson, Indianapolis

My first memory of gourds goes back to the 1960s in Bedford, Indiana, where I grew up. My Grandmother Richardson loved gourds and displayed ornamentals every fall on the dining room table—and left them there until Christmas decorations went up. One year, she put the dry gourds into a sack and took them out back to the concrete incinerator where we burned trash. When the fire started, the gourds exploded and seeds went everywhere. The next spring, Grandma had gourds growing up the trunks of two pear trees in the back yard—my sister Jane and I can still remember the wonder of those gourds appearing everywhere! Not sure how the seeds took hold and lay dormant until the growing season—but conditions must somehow have been exactly right to make the glory crop a reality. I wish we had taken a picture of that scene 50+ years ago, but the mind picture is still sharp.

### Another State Fair Gourd Winner

We received word too late for the last Tendril that Margie Kempson's gourd entry in the Backyard Garden contest won a blue ribbon.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

We have received several boxes of two of Aurelia Conway's gourd books: *Gourd Purses, Decorative Painting* and *How to Paint a Gourd*. We are selling these in Ways & Means, see that section for details. While she wrote these several years ago the content is relevant and useful.



## In Memoriam

The IGS wishes to memorialize our members who have passed. We are starting a web page with deceased member's names, photos, and a little info about them if we have it. The web page should be active by the end of the year. Here are the members so far, as gleaned from the Tendril archives. The second column is the Tendril issue where their passing was announced. If you have additional information or photos or are aware of other gourd people who have passed, please contact the editor at [editor@indianagourdsociety.org](mailto:editor@indianagourdsociety.org)

Ballard, Jim	19Nov(5m)	b: Jan, 1948; d: Oct, 2019
Bentley, Joyce		b: Jan 3, 1934 Miamisburg, OH; d: Mar 3, 2014
Crowder, Owen	99Jul(3m)	d: May 25, 1999
Dabbs, Jim	08Aug(10m)	d: Jun 20, 2008
Dankowski, Joyce (IL)	12Jul(3m,9m)	d: Jul 16, 2012
Davis, Azzie	02Mar(12m)	
Dillard, Bob	17Mar(1m)	d: Feb, 2017
Grunden, Debby	17May(1m)	
Harlow, Linda	14Jul(1m)	
Hart, Phil	21Nov(1m)	d: Nov 24, 2020
Heiser, Charles Jr.	10Oct(11m)	d: Jun 11, 2010
Helton, David	03Mar(2m)	
Herring, Emma	04Mar(19m)	d: Mar 11, 2001
Hockstetler, Harold (Red)	19Mar(1m)	d: Jan 26, 2019
Irish, Ralph	15Jan(3m)	
Jacobs, Helen	02Oct(8m)	d: Jun, 2002
Koehler, Alice	02Jan(3m)	b: Apr 4, 1924, Marlton, NJ; d: Nov 11, 2001
Lee, Joe	11Apr(10m)	b: Pahoa, Hawaii
Martin, Susie	99Jan(6m)	
Miller, Honey Bear	11Feb(6m,8m)	b: Sep 7, 1925; d: Dec 16, 2010
Miller, Mary	10Feb(3m)	b: Apr, 1926; d: Jan, 2010
Niemeyer, Fred	13May(5m)	b: Aug 23, 1930; d: Nov 5, 2002
Parker, Lee	20Sep(1m)	
Pirtle-Armagost, Suzie	19Nov(2m)	d: Feb, 2015 Anderson
Puckett, Barbara	04Mar(6m)	b: 1947; d: Oct 13, 2003
Serban, Charlie	01Oct(3m)	d: Jul, 2001
Story, Jane		b: Oct, 1923; d: Aug, 2019
Story, Jim	17May(1m)	
Sturgeon, John		b: May, 1937; d: Dec, 2019
Sullivan, Steve		b: Jun, 1928; d: -Jun, 2017
Tabares, Agnes	10Dec(5m)	
Taylor, Kathryn	14Nov(5m)	d: Jun, 2014
Teel, Merle	14Nov(11m)	d: May 6, 2014
Thompson, Richard (Dick)	07Feb(3m)	d: Oct, 2006
Vogelhuber, Wilda	00Oct(4m)	b: Aug 29, 1917, Louisville, OH; d: Sep 3, 2000, N. Georgetown, OH
Zurcher, Kathy	03Jan(2m)	b: Jul 20, 1961; d: Dec 3, 2002

## ROAD TRIPS

**2021—courtesy of AGS**  
(www.americangourdsociety.org)

Nov 6-7: 79th North Carolina Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC,  
www.ncgourdsociety.org

Nov 13-14: Virginia Gourd Show, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, VA,  
www.vlgs.org

**If you plan to go to any of these events, please check the AGS website at [www.americangourdsociety.org](http://www.americangourdsociety.org) or that state website to determine if the event is still taking place.**

## HOLD THESE DATES!

	State Show	Membership Meeting (Thorntown)
2022:	May 6/7	October 15, 10 a.m. ET
2023	May 5/6	October 21, 10 a.m. ET

## \* \* IGS Events \* \*

### IGS State Gourd Show

May 6-7, 2022  
Fulton County Historical Society,  
Rochester, IN  
[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

### Indiana State Fair

July 29—August 21, 2022  
State Fairgrounds  
1202 E 38th St  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
[Note: The fair charges an entry fee]

### IGS Membership Meeting

October 15, 2022, 10 am ET  
Thorntown Public Library  
124 N Market St  
Thorntown, IN 46071  
[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

## Members of Linda's Gourd Patch Painting Gourds Outside



**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. ☐ NEW ☐ RENEW ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Application DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 1 year @ \$15.00 ☐ 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 TENDRIL? 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](http://www.indianagourdsociety.org)

## We're In Trouble!

*Phil Moorhead, treasurer*

I've been analyzing our expenses and income and find we have a serious money flow problem. We are depleting our money reserves by about \$2000 to \$3000 per year. At this rate, we will not be able to fund putting on our State Gourd Show in a few years. So what caused this and what can we do to fix it? All costs have risen in the last few years, we all know that. We've been continually losing membership. We have certain expenses that must be paid, like insurance (to be able to have a booth at the state fair), *Tendrill* printing/postage, storage facility (for our state show materials), and other ongoing expenses. Our dues were raised from \$10/member household per year to \$15 in July, 2006. That is a long time in today's world to stay at the same rate. I've been able to cut our insurance costs by going with a different agency. We are looking at ways to cut our storage expenses.

Here is a breakdown of some of the higher cost items:

Insurance: \$500/year or	\$3.47 per member household
Storage: \$1410/year or	\$9.79 per member household
Total <i>Tendrill</i> Cost: \$780/year or	\$5.42 per member household
( <i>Tendrill</i> Printing \$540/year, Postage \$240/year; Electronic: \$0/year)	
Total Show Book/Workshops Flier/Postage:	\$12.40 per member household
(Show Book Printing \$1000/year, Postage \$130; Flier \$550, Postage \$105/year)	
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$31.08 per member household</b>

We all know dues are \$15/member household per year (or \$40 for three years). So for every member household **we are losing over \$15 per year on just these items.**

How do we fix this so the society survives? Several ideas have been proposed. The board would like to get your opinion. You may like one or more of these, or do you have a better idea; let us know.

Option 1: Raise dues, perhaps to \$18 or \$20 per household per year (Three-year would go to \$50/year)

Option 2: Raise dues, perhaps to \$18 or \$20 per household per year, no three-year option

Option 3: Keep current dues structure and institute a surcharge of \$5 or \$10/year per household for printed delivery of the *Tendrill*. This may have to be adjusted as printing/postages costs go up.

Option 4: What is your solution?

Let us know. Send an e-mail to [treasurer@indianagourdsociety.org](mailto:treasurer@indianagourdsociety.org) or mail us at IGS, PO Box 822, Marion, IN 46952. We will be discussing this at a board meeting in January, 2022.

### PATCH CONTACTS

Central Indiana	Indianapolis	Diane Werblo	317-783-1428
Gourd Crafters	Ridgeville	Lois Wright	317-370-1418
Lakeshore Gourders	Valparaiso	Inactive	
Linda's Patch	Greenfield	Peggy Robertson	317-326-3854
		Rosemary Hill	317-753-9459
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

## **From the Archives: Drying and Harvesting Gourds**

*John Sturgeon*

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 begin 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.

## **From the Archives: So Your Gourds Rotted—Or Did They?**

*Author Unknown*

You may have thrown out gourds that seemed to be spoiled when they became covered with mold. Next time, wait ... mold is just a sign the gourds are drying out. They are just getting ready for future use.

Freshly harvested gourds are about 90% water. When they lose that water, they dry with a tough, durable shell. But in the process of drying, your gourds will probably get moldy, and be generally unfit for human company. But don't throw them away, just handle them gently and put them in a dry, out-of-the-way place but not in a basement, attached garage, or attic, due to mold spores getting into furnace ductwork and that's not healthy for any of us.

If you want, you can wipe off the excess mold now and then; if a gourd shrivels, then toss it out, since that one really has spoiled; but if only molded, just have patience. It can take months for a good sized gourd to dry out. When they are very light (the seeds may rattle), let them soak for a while in warm water, and you'll find that the outer skin and mold will come off fairly easily with an ordinary kitchen scrubbing pad. Beneath that moldy exterior, you'll find a beautiful gourd! After it's dry, it's ready for furniture polish or paint; it can be carved or wood burned; or anything you like. With just a little furniture polish, the gourd is an object of beauty.

If you grow your own, the easiest way to cure gourds is to just leave them outside on the trellis to freeze in cold areas of the country; or put them on a rack where they can freeze and have air circulate around them. When dry spring days come, most of the skin loosens and cleaning is easy. However, the designs created by the mold will be missing and the seeds will not germinate well.

## THE TENDRIL

P.O. BOX 822

MARION, IN 46952

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### INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.

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

All submissions welcome!

#### **Issue: Articles Due:**

***Jan/Feb Dec 1***

***Mar/Apr Feb 1***

***May/Jun Apr 1***

***Jul/Aug Jun 1***

***Sep/Oct Aug 1***

***Nov/Dec Oct 1***

#### **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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2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president: RoJene Gillentine, Indianapolis (2021-2022)

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