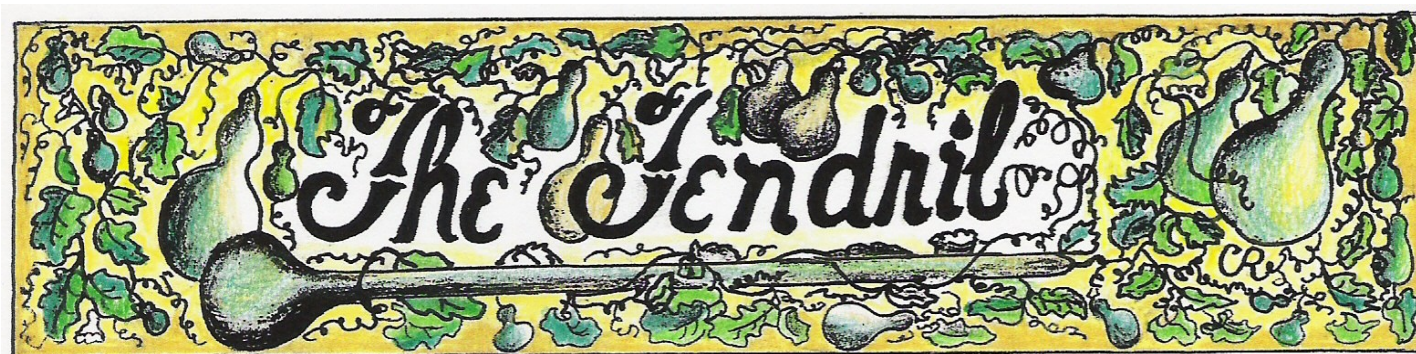




President's Message

Denise Bechtold

Hello Fellow Gourders,

Hope everyone is doing well. I want to remind everyone that Sugar Creek Patch has changed its meeting day to the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 2-4pm ET.

Fall is upon us, just a reminder don't pick those gourds until the plant is dead (after two hard frosts) so they will dry right.

I had my two shows in Portland IN and the Thorntown festival. My Gourd creations sold very well.

We still have Gourd patches that need leaders if anyone is interested in helping fellow Gourders. Contact Karen or Phil or me.

The year is almost over. I can't wait to see what everyone creates this winter for our shows. I have a few ideas already, and will be working on them over the winter.

****KEEP THOSE GOURD CRAFTS COMING****

Patch Schedules

West Central Indiana Gourd Patch

*Meets third Thursdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. ET
Hendricks Co fairgrounds in Danville*

Looking for a new patch leader.

Linda's Gourd Patch

*Meets third Sundays at 2-4 p.m. ET
at home of Peggy Robertson,
1224 W 600 N, Greenfield*

For more info,

contact Peggy Robertson 317-440-8174

11-16-25: NO MEETING

12-21-25: NO MEETING

Central Indiana Patch

*Meets second Wednesdays at Garfield
Park Arts Center in Indy, 1-3 p.m. ET*

11-12-25: Flow painting with Ann Stankiewicz

12-10-25: Oil pastel Crayons with Michelle Fife

Sugar Creek Gourd Patch

*Meets first and third Tuesdays at
Thorntown Public Library, 2-4 p.m. ET*

11-4-25: Wreaths

11-18-25: Wreaths

12-2-25: Snowman ornaments / gourd seed turkey spinners

12-16-25: Snowman ornaments / gourd seed turkey spinners

Bloomington Gourd Patch

*Bloomington Fine Art Supply, 207 S. Rogers St.
Third Tuesdays of each month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. ET*

11-20-25: Birdhouses

12-25-25: NO MEETING

There will be a new mailing address for membership renewals starting in January. It will be

715 E. 48th St, Marion, IN 46953

Passing of Emily Dillard

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Emily Dillard of Indianapolis on February 1, 2025. She was very active in IGS.

Please contact patch leaders to verify dates/times.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

From the Tendril staff and IGS board of directors and officers

PATCH NEWS

Sugar Creek Gourd Patch (Karen Niemeyer, contact)

Autumn is a time to admire colorful leaves, but it is also a great time to see the versatility of gourds. New participants are welcome to the Sugar Creek Gourd Patch that will meet upstairs in the library on Tuesdays, November 4 and 18 and December 2 and 16 from 2-4 pm ET. Wreaths for various seasons will be the November project and 12-inch wire forms will be on hand. We are also preparing small gourds to be holiday snowmen and planning name tags. Spinner gourd turkeys will be crafted as well. Participants will receive their Indiana State Fair prize money and review the October state show. Plans for future months will be developed. Colored pencils and markers will be on hand or participants may work on individual projects. Questions may be directed to Karen Niemeyer at 765-436-7348

Linda's Gourd Patch (Peggy Robertson, contact)

Linda's Patch met in September and worked on a variety of projects. Rosemary Hill finished her witch. Desiree Finke worked on her Christmas ornaments, and Gretchen Sitton started her birdhouse from an apple gourd. Our patch members also had lots of fun at the Indiana Gourd Show in Thorntown serving food and refreshments in October. We do not meet in November and December as we have other commitments, one of which includes a Gourd Presentation in December for a local senior living facility here in Greenfield. We will, however, start again in January at our regular time which is the 3rd Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm ET. All are welcome. Just give me a call at: 317-440-8174 to verify that we haven't changed the date or time for some reason.

Central Indiana Patch (Diane Werblo, contact)

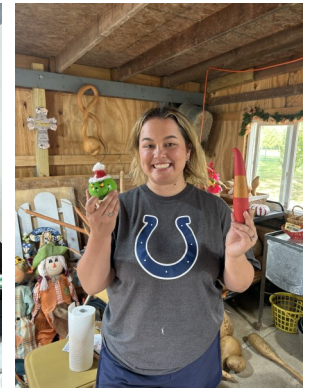
In September Michelle Fife led us through making beautiful gourd shard name tags. In October we discussed plans for the next several months. Our patch had some success at the State Show, Michelle Fife won several certificates. Mac McCrary and Diane Werblow entered items, Jean Long came along to help. In November Ann Stankiewicz will teach us flow painting. In December Michelle will help us design with oil pastel crayons.



Rosemary Hill
with her witch gourd



Gretchen Sitton
with her apple gourd



Desiree Finke
with her Christmas
ornaments

Show Wrap-up Meeting

November 15, 2025 (Saturday) at Thorntown Library in Thorntown, IN at 11 a.m. ET to 3:30 p.m. ET. All are welcome. We will also begin plans for the 2026 show.

PATCH CONTACTS

Central Indiana	Indianapolis	Diane Werblo	317-783-1428
Gourd Crafters	Ridgeville	Needs a leader	
Lakeshore Gourders	Valparaiso	Inactive	
Linda's Patch	Greenfield	Peggy Robertson	317-440-8174
		Rosemary Hill	317-793-0447
Patch 4	West Lafayette	Inactive	
Story Gourd Patch	Pendleton	Inactive	
Sugar Creek	Thorntown	Karen Niemeyer	765-436-7518
West Central Indiana	Avon	Needs a leader	
Bloomington Gourd Patch	Bloomington	Greg Olson	970-628-6864

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW PATCH FORMING (Mississinewa Valley Patch)

Because of some scheduling conflicts, the organizational meeting on Nov 8, 2025 has been postponed. The new date will be announced in the Tendril when it is finalized. If you have questions call Ron Bair at 765-667-2646 or e-mail Phil Moorhead at moorheap@yahoo.com.

At the State Fair artist Donna Harcourt told Diane Werblo about burying moldy gourds in pots of slightly damp dirt to let the microbes and sow bugs clean them. Diane tried it on a few gourds and it seems to be working.

Have you checked out Indiana Gourd Society on Facebook? The name changed from Indiana Gourd Patch. It's only gourds, art techniques, and "save the pollinators" info. Visit anytime.



**Indiana Gourd Society
Bloomington Patch**

Learn how to cultivate and transform gourds into works of art! We will be learning artistic techniques as well as how to grow and care for gourds. Join a fun and friendly group. No experience required!

2025 Calender

- April 17th- Acrylic Painting, Stencils, Decopage
- May 15th- Woodburning
- June 19th- Dremel Techniques
- July 17th - Alcohol Inks
- September 18th - Weaving
- November 18th - Birdhouses, seeds, shells, and applications

Meetings held at
Bloomington Fine Art Supply
207 S. Rogers St., Bloomington
5:30-7:30 p.m. ET

Contact
Greg Olson with any questions
igs.rgolson@aol.com
970-628-6864

Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61568193715191>

Ways & Means

We have 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.

Jim Story material:

DVD:	\$23.00
Book, <i>Gourds: From Vine to Design</i> :	\$15.00

Aurelia Conway books:

<i>Gourd Purses, Decorative Painting #9728</i>	\$13.50
<i>How to Paint a Gourd #9606</i>	\$13.50

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

Please send e-mail or phone in case we need to contact you

2025 IGS State Show - Thorntown, IN - RESULTS

Theme: A Gourd-geous Autumn

Competition Results

Award	Winner
Chairperson's Award	(tie) Jim Bennett, Connie Wegeng
Honey Bear and Mary Miller Award (most preregistered entries):	Michelle Fife
Div 2 Dried Gourds:.....	Rosemary Phillips
Div 4 Floral:	Michelle Fife
Div 5A A&C Basic:	(tie) Jack Burger, Michelle Fife
Div 5B A&C Functional:	Connie Wegeng
Div 5C A&C Advanced:	Michelle Fife
Div 6 Gallery:.....	Penny Boyce
Div 7 Children:.....	Isobel Hall

Category Entries

Description	Count	
Division 1: Jim Story		
1: Single Green-cleaned Gourd	0	
2: Inseparable Intertwined Gourds.....	0	
3: Green Cleaned Gourd.....	0	
Division 2: Dried Gourds		
4: Three gourds of different varieties.....	1	
5: Smallest hardshell gourd	0	
6: Largest hardshell gourd	0	
7: Longest hardshell gourd.....	0	
8: Five gourds of different or same varieties	2	
9: Smallest ornamental gourd.....	2	
10: Longest cylinder Luffa gourd	0	
11: One natural freak	1	
Division 3: Botanicals		
12: Tabletop or Hanging Wreath.....	0	
Division 4: Floral Design		
13: "My Way" - Floral.....	1	
Division 5A: Arts & Crafts, basic		
14: Woodburning.....	5	
15: Carving, gouging, filigree, creative cutting	5	
16: Painted, dyed, stained	9	
17: Pencil, colored pencil, doodling, pen & ink.....	5	
18: Weaving, coiling, Tenerife weaving, string art, knotting, netting, fiber or wire art.....	6	
19: Beading, inlay/mosaic, clay.....	1	
20: Decoupage.....	3	
Division 5B: Arts & Crafts, functional		
21: Functional bird feeder/waterer/bird house.....	5	
22: Jewelry.....	6	
23: Gourd mask, hat, purse.....	1	
24: Gourd musical instrument, rain stick	2	
25: Gourd lamp, shade, base, pull, luminary, oil lamp.	3	
26: Undecorated/decorated dipper, gourd bowl/container, gourd basket with handle, gourd vase.....	6	
Division 5C: Arts & Crafts, advanced		
27: Gourd seed art.....	1	
28: Toy, doll, human figure, creature, animal.....	5	
29: Any holiday item	11	
30: Miscellaneous gourd use: A miniature gourd item.	2	
31: Gourds in other media	2	
32: Western, Southwestern, Native American, other Ethnic theme	1	
33 "My Way"—crafts	2	
Division 6: Gallery		
34: Gourd Gallery	2	
Division 7: Children (individual)		
35: Anything goes	2	
Division 8: School, youth group		
36: Anything goes	0	

Explanation of Judging Change

We had several AGS certified judges lined up to judge the show. All but one backed out before the show. The show committee decided it was not fair to the competitors to have only one judge for the category competitions. Therefore, category judging did not take place. The other awards were given out. Because of this problem, any exhibitor who had a piece in this year's competition may enter that same piece in a future IGS competition, even though the show books say no repeat entries. We do not feel this show was a true judging of your artistic talent.

The IGS Show Committee

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - October 18, 2025

Draft Minutes

President Denise Bechtold called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with 21 present.

Secretary Karen Niemeyer presented the minutes of the October 19, 2024, meeting. Phil Moorhead moved they be approved as submitted; Greg Olson seconded; motion carried.

Phil presented the treasurer's report. The bank balance as of the close of business 9-30-25 shows \$6865.87 in the savings (money market) account and \$10,228.81 in the checking account. This is a total of \$17,094.68. With the \$2500 for Story Awards and \$5000 from Bill Freihofer in escrow, IGS has \$9594.68 in spendable funds. The books balance with the bank statements, and all state and federal tax filings are current. Karen moved and Michelle Fife seconded that the report be filed for audit; motion carried. It was noted that if IGS dissolves, all money in the treasury goes to the American Gourd Society. The AGS is in the process of reorganizing into a parent-child relationship. AGS will become an LLC and Indiana can then incorporate as a member of AGS.

Pat Moore provided the membership report through October 16, 2025, showing 26 members have renewed. There is one new member. She mailed 32 oops cards to 2024 members and has only received 3 back. It was suggested that IGS should go to 4-H, Scouts, and organizations of youth, as well as Master Gardeners. Phil reminded us that last year we agreed by consensus to not partner with the American Heritage Girls Partnership because doing so would cause IGS to lose its non-profit status and our organizational status since that is a religious organization. This is true for any other group with religious affiliation as well.

Discussion followed with a recommendation that we share with people 30 to 50 years old and solicit participation and membership. A chart showed that 90% of people join and drop out after one year. We need to work on retaining these one-year people by making contact with them to be sure they got what they wanted from membership: magazine, patch, programs. We could consider offering classes, even apart from the state show. The board will appoint a committee to recommend changes and bring to the board for review and implementation. Vendors don't want to come to a one-day show.

Ron Bair moved and Greg Olson seconded that any patch which has been inactive for more than a year as of January 1, 2026, be removed from the patch list. Discussion followed. Michelle Fife called the question and the motion passed unanimously.

There was a 15-minute break at 3:15 to clear away the outside gourds since rain was threatening.

There are at present four site options for the 2026 state show. This will be discussed by a committee at a later date.

Phil reported that there was no judging of today's entries because only one of six judges who agreed to come actually showed up. Since volunteers from those present agreed to review the entries, all were judged at the division level rather than at the category level. This means that all exhibits may be re-entered in the same category next year. Award certificates were then given out:

Chairperson's Award - a tie between Jim Bennett and Connie Wegeng

Honey Bear and Mary Miller Award - Michelle Fife

Dried Gourds - Rosemary Phillips

Floral Design - Michelle Fife

Arts & Crafts Basic - a tie between Jack Burger and Michelle Fife

Arts & Crafts Functional - Connie Wegeng

Arts & Crafts Advanced - Michelle Fife

Gallery - Penny Boyce

Children - Isobel Hall

Phil moved and Penny Boyce seconded that Greg Olson be elected to fill the 1st Vice-president's position that Helen Thomas is resigning. The term runs through 2026. Motion carried.

Phil moved and Greg seconded that Ron Bair be elected as Director 1 since Pat Moore has resigned; motion carried. This will be a two-year term.

Phil moved and Karen seconded that Jack Burger be elected as Director 3 when Mac McCrary's term ends in 2025; motion carried. This will be a two-year term.

Pat today resigned as membership chair, effective January 1, 2026. It was agreed that Phil may assume membership responsibilities as well as being treasurer. This will be a one-year term to finish Pat's term.

(continued on p. 6)

(Membership Meeting, continued from p. 5)

Michelle moved that Denise, Karen, and Diane Werblo be re-elected by acclamation to their positions as president, secretary, and director 5; Phil seconded; motion carried. These will be two-year terms.

Denise recommends continuing the state show with no admission fee, but charging for classes and vendors. Furthermore, a 2-day show is needed at least or even a set up on Friday for a Saturday-Sunday show. There was discussion whether to continue in October or to move to April or May and include plant and seed sales. Phil moved that a committee be chaired by Greg and include four people to report to the board at its November 15 meeting (11-3:30, Thorntown Public Library); Karen seconded; motion carried. It was agreed that Penny Boyce would co-chair the committee and other members will be Ron Bair, Phil Moorhead, and Pat Moore.

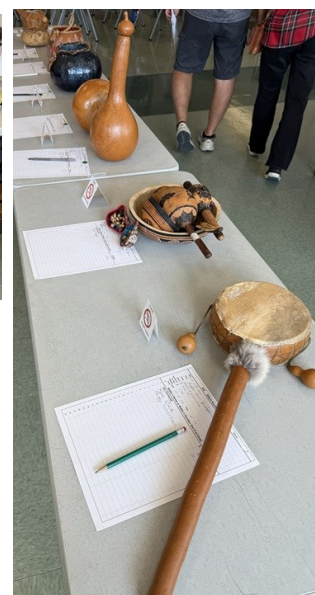
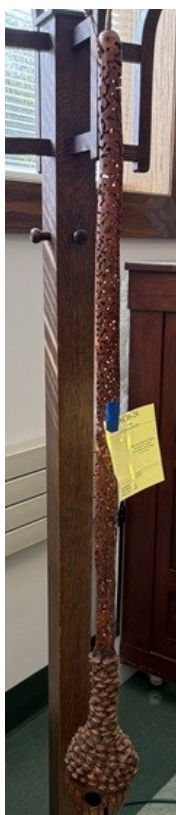
A board meeting and show wrap-up meeting will be held at the Thorntown library on Saturday, November 15, 11-3:30.

There being no further business, Michelle moved and Penny seconded that the meeting adjourn; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen K. Niemeyer, Secretary

Photos from the 2025 IGS State Gourd Show



Show Trivia

2025

Competition pre-registered entries:
Competition pre-registered artists:
Competition walk-in entries:
Competition walk-in artists:

57
9
35
10

ROAD TRIPS

2025—courtesy of AGS (www.americangourdsociety.org)

Nov 8-9: Virginia Gourd Show, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, VA (This is also the AGS Annual membership meeting.

2026

Feb 20-22: Florida Gourd Art Festival, Azan, Melbourne, FL
flgourdsoc.org

Apr 17-19: North Texas Gourd Festival, Lake Granbury Conference Center, Granbury, TX
www.texasgourdsociety.org

Apr 24-25: South Carolina Gourd Festival, Ghost Creek, Laurens, SC
southcarolinagourd.wixsite.com/scgourdsociety

Jun 11-13: Pennsylvania Gourd Art Show and Festival, Lebanon Valley Expo Center and Fairgrounds, Lebanon, PA www.pagourdsociety.org

If you plan to go to any of these events, please check the AGS website at www.americangourdsociety.org or that state website to determine if the event is still taking place.

* * IGS Events * *

Indiana State Fair

Aug 7, 2026 to Aug 23, 2026

(Closed Mondays?)

State Fairgrounds

1202 E 38th St

Indianapolis, IN 46205

[Note: The fair charges an entry fee]

IGS State Gourd Show

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

IGS Membership Meeting

October 17, 2026, 2 pm ET

Thorntown Public Library

124 N Market St, Thorntown, IN 46071

[This is an IGS Sponsored Event]

HOLD THESE DATES!

	State Show (Thorntown)	Membership Meeting (Thorntown)
2026	TBD	Oct. 17, 2026
2027	TBD	Oct. 16, 2027

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 filed for Sect. 501 (c) (3) status of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, gifts to IGS are not deductible for income tax purposes.

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.

Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____ (Free gift with New or 3yr Membership)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ COUNTY _____

EMAIL _____

I will allow IGS to share my information (name/address/e-mail) with the American Gourd Society (AGS). Yes or No

You will receive an ELECTRONIC TENDRIL. (Paper copy by separate written request only.)

Make your CHECK payable to the **INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.**

MAIL TO: **INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.**, 691 W Veach Rd, Bloomington, IN 47832

☐ NEW ☐ RENEW

☐ 1 year @ \$15.00

☐ 3 year @ \$40.00

ID#

Patch

Cash

CK #

Date

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

INDIANA GOURD SOCIETY, INC.

The editors reserve the right to edit any submissions for content and consistency. All contents copyrighted, see below. For permission to reprint excerpts, please contact Phil Moorhead (see below for contact info).

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**YOU WILL RECEIVE A POSTCARD FROM IGS IN
THE MONTH THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP
EXPIRES**

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>

All submissions welcome!

**ARTICLES MUST BE IN MS WORD OR RTF
FORMAT.**

Send as an attachment to your email or mail your submissions to the editor (address in left box). 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

President: Denise Bechtold, Thorntown (2024-2025)	president@
1 st Vice-president: Helen Thomas, Tangier (2025-2026)	1stvp@
2 nd Vice-president: RoJene Gillentine, Indianapolis (2025-2026)	2ndvp@
Treasurer: Philip Moorhead, Marion (2025-2026)	treasurer@
Secretary: Karen Niemeyer, Thorntown (2024-2025)	secy@
Membership Secretary: Pat Moore, Bloomington (2025-2026)	membership@
Director 1: Pat Moore, Bloomington (2024-2025)	directorPM@
Director 2: Philip Moorhead, Marion (2025-2026)	treasurer@
Director 3: Mac McCrary Indianapolis (2024-2025)	directorMM@
Director 4: Rosemary Hill, Greenfield (2025-2026)	directorRH@
Director 5: Diane Werblo, Indianapolis (2024-2025)	directorDW@

**ON ALL EMAIL ADDRESSES ABOVE, PUT indianagourdsociety.org
AFTER THE @ SYMBOL**