

Karo's Gourd Shard's

July, 2023 News tidbits about the
Idaho Gourd Society



Hello Fellow Gourders!

The Idaho Gourd Society (IDGS) Is in action for an event filled summer. Take note of the dates of various activities and make sure you are an active club member!

FIRST THE FESTIVAL!

Are you working on your Festival competition gourds? If not, get out those gourds, paints, saws, carvers and go to work!

This is an organization that gets new members by seeing our members' gourd completion's. That is the [Main](#) reason for all this work and volunteering. Now I know my

limited artistic skills, so if I gather courage to submit an entry or two, I know you can too. The above jug, created by Bill Tarlton was displayed at our May IDGS meeting. Always keep note of the IDGS website



and our Facebook page for current activities. The information you need to enter a gourd is there! Chris Peters keeps info current on the site and it is easy to use.

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IDGS Retreat August 3-(PM)4-5 -6(AM)

Whether camping in cabins, various RVs or in your tents, there is about every type of facility available for you to enjoy in the outdoors at this retreat. Cost is \$180 per person for a three night stay, which includes your choice of sleeping arrangements and meals from Thursday night through Sunday morning brunch! To give you an idea of the retreat, please look on our Facebook IDGS page for pictures of last year's Retreat! The 2023 Retreat starts Thursday PM with dinner being served around 5:00 or 6:00 PM and continues through Sunday morning after brunch. Fishing member, for those who love to fish, Robbie Hathorn announced at the July IDGS meeting that the site had great fishing and Christy Pletcher, who organizes this retreat, informed us that the Bureau of Fish stocking people (????) are stocking trout in the river that runs through the Retreat area! This information is provided to tempt gourders' hubbies who don't like to gourd but LOVE to fish to tag along.

Christy said there are gourd activities all throughout the Retreat as well as evening campfires. Think S'mores! Check back on the IDGS website for all the info you need.

July's IDGS Meeting



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The Annual IDGS Picnic

Thanks to Bill Tarlton, you can read his article about the picnic and enjoy pics from both Bill and Chris Peters.

The 2023 Idaho Gourd Society Picnic

If you attended the IDGS summer picnic, or should I say buffet, on June 10th, you can attest to the fact that it was a very special event. I'll make an attempt to put the experience into words but I will tell you that, unless you write culinary articles for a living, there aren't enough superlatives to describe the delicious foods people brought. Just a couple of years ago, during COVID, it was unthinkable that you could or would ever eat anything that someone else made. What an unpleasant memory for anyone who loves to show off their favorite recipes or partake in taste testing the specialties of others. Being especially fond of pot luck events, I am thankful that we're back to the days of old. Watching Ron Swank work his magic at the grill was a wonderful experience. He took the ubiquitous chicken thigh to a "whole-other-level" by simply dressing it with Argentinian salt. The pork tenderloin, sausages and pork shoulder steak were restaurant quality best described as juicy and fork tender. You know it's righteous when you can cut it with a plastic fork and knife. Did I mention that the meats were provided courtesy of IDGS? So, the next time you wonder what the benefits of membership are – add the picnic to that list!!!

I'm happy to say there was a full house this year. We had 55 people in attendance which filled the pavilion outside our University of Idaho meeting place. Next year's goal should be to encourage members to come early just so they can get a coveted spot. It only took about thirty seconds (after Alan gave the "high sign" to start eating) for a major line to form at the food tables. Having experience with IDGS picnics, I strategically set my chairs close to Ron's BBQ area and started with the meat while the other members elbowed their way through the buffet offerings. If you've ever had the experience of competing for pot luck with the IDGS ladies you'll understand my thinking to start in a safe space (just kidding). We were also celebrating our **IDGS 25th Anniversary**. Chris Peter brought albums containing past IDGS memories and, in addition, someone made sure the attendees also had an anniversary cake. Thank you Chris!

The swap meet was set up in the front of the building so as people arrived, they were able to browse at the available items. This is one function that can stand to grow since there were only three people selling anything this year.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed that IDGS will opt to have a pot lock Christmas Party similar to the one last year. YUMMMM

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In This Case A Picture Is Worth 10,000 Words. Drool!



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IDGS Members make notes of the following,

We are happy to announce more classes are on the calendar from an outside area teacher. In September we have Claudia Herber coming from Oregon to teach two classes. Claudia is a popular teacher with years experience teaching gourd classes. You'll recall we took a survey of which classes you'd be interested in and the results are in; the Butterfly gourd and the Sculpted gourd. Thank you all for taking the survey.

An introduction: Claudia has been doing gourds since the early 2000's. She has studied art for years and gourds have become a constant source of inspiration. She lives in McMinnville, Oregon where she shows her art in two galleries. Claudia teaches in Oregon and soon in Idaho. She taught at the Wuertz Festival for the first time in 2023. She loves to teach!

The two classes will be Tuesday and Wednesday, September 19 and 20. That frees all of us to set up for the festival on Thursday. Each class is \$85 and is all day from 9 to 5 at Liz Meyer's studio.

Claudia Herber Classes
Nampa, Idaho



Butterfly Gourd

September 19, 2023
9 to 5

Butterfly gourd: a technique project incorporating a carved background to lovely painted butterflies. These butterflies will be centered in a framed field of stipple and random holes. The gourd is topped with a crown of different sized holes. Butterflies will be painted in shades of blue. Students bring: tall body gourd cut and cleaned, carver + burrs, mask, pencil, eraser, paint brushes, cat stylus, black acrylic pen and scissors. I supply: all paints and ink dyes, applicators, palettes, water containers, extra paint brushes, patterns.

September 20, 2023
9 to 5

Sculpted Gourd: Incorporating waves, stippling and holes along with a sculpted rise pattern looking very leather-like. Strong technique project. Will not finish in one day, but each element worked so that the gourd can be finished at home. Student brings: tall body gourd cut and cleaned, carver + burrs, mask, cat stylus, pencil, eraser. I supply: ink dyes, applicators, palettes, white acrylic.



Sculpted Gourd

Registration form:
https://www.idahagourdsociety.org/local_class_2.html

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After July IDGS Meeting

Dee Smart gave a Demo/technique for making the hats for these furry little gourd gnomes. Perfect Christmas gourd!



Please make note for Janet Melligh's Gourd Store - Donations Needed

As the Gourd Store is a major money maker for our Gourd Society, please donate a decorated gourd if you can. Call Janet at 071-285-1776 or email her at jm,melligh@comcast.net to make arrangements for a drop off location or pick up. Member art, used tools, used art books, gourd shards or gourds, weaving, ink and painting supplies, embellishments and storage containers are a just few items for you can donate. Contact Janet with other ideas. Jack-o' - Lantern Competition follows.

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2023 Gourd Jack-o'-Lantern Challenge

Your Idaho Gourd Society will be holding a Gourd Jack-o'-Lantern challenge which will benefit our upcoming IDGS Festival. Between now and August 12, 2023 EACH member is invited to create a gourd jack-o'-lantern. Your work can be any size, style, using any technique as long as it's made out of gourd (s). Each jack-o'-lantern will be brought to our August 12, 2023 monthly membership meeting and entered into the competition. Judging will be done by members attendance using an anonymous number ballot. **The winner of the challenge will receive a 2024 paid family membership.** Each entry in the competition will then be donated and given to our Gourd Store to be sold during the Festival. The jack-o'-lanterns will be sold for \$20.00 or less. Are you up for the challenge? Have some fun and as long as you are working on your competition gourds whip out a funny (or not) gourd.

Official rules-

1. You must be a member of the IDGS.
2. Entry must be the sole work of the entrant. For anyone with a disability, they may be assisted in their creation.
3. Only one entry per member can be entered.
4. Jack-o'-lantern must be made from gourds.
5. Jack-o-lantern must be donated to the IDGS Gourd Store and will be sold at a price determined by the Gourd Store.
6. You must bring your entry to the August Membership Meeting or have it delivered by August, 12, 2023 for judging.
7. Janet Melligh and /or the IDGS Board of Directors may add to or change these rules in the case

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I Mentioned We Had A Jam Packed Summer Of Gourding Opportunities

Along with the above activities I have to mention the Canyon County Fair -July27-20. Please

IDGS members are invited to demo at the Canyon County Fair July 27 to 30. Sign up with Alan Sweeney.

Also, don't miss out on the competition.

<https://www.canyoncountyfair.org/>

On a final note, I am asking to you to seriously consider volunteering at our Festival. There is always someone that can certainly use your help, whether it is setting up the Festival itself to volunteering at the Gourd Store. Most of the activities depend on volunteer help whether it be for a 2 hour session or another time.

Ken Gordy heads the membership committee and really needs someone to step up and assist. Volunteering as you can is truly fun as you get to enjoy the IDGS fellowship, working together to promote our organization. The Gourd Store, etc also needs help. Would you consider helping Barb Gamel at the competition set-up? Man, this set-up is one crazy time and feels so good when it is completed. You step back and look at all the wonderful entries placed in their category. Lookin' Good!

If you need more information please contact President Alan Sweeney at 208-860-9964.

In case you haven't seen it, here is the 2023 Festival poster. I downloaded it from the web site that is available for members to do likewise.



2023 GOURD FESTIVAL

Free Admission
Friday & Saturday - Sept 22 - 23
9am to 6pm

Gourd Art Competition, Classes, Make & Take, Vendors, Gifts,
Ready-to-Craft Gourds, Demonstrations, Exhibits and more!

Back again this year:

Jack o' Lanterns made out of gourds (of course) for sale.

Location: Franz Witte Garden Center



2005 11th Ave N, Nampa
(corner of Hwy 20/26 & 11th)



idahogourdsociety.org/festival.html



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Always, when typing this, I think of so many happenings and so thankful for each of you. Barb Gamel is home safely after a marathon drive to Nebraska in her motorhome, driving all the distance herself!

Thanks Bill Tarlton and Chris Peters for all their help with the Annual Picnic article (Bill) and Chris and Bill for their picnic pictures.

With my limited computer skills you can't guess how many hours it takes to put the "Shards" together. I am forever badgering folks like Madlen and Bill Tarlton, Chris Peters, Alan Sweeney, Christy Pletcher, LaRae Palmanteer, etc for information. I have finally learned to get the articles and pictures to more or less stay where I put them,. However, my "Shards" hours' pale in comparison to all the IDGS Board of Directors hours, who members have donated untold and unknown hours behind the scenes. The time and dedication to moving our IDGS forward is astounding. Pres. Sweeney and troop make the monthly IDGS meetings informational, filled with updates on the many activities. Between Alan, Ken Gordy and Ron Swank the laughs are plentiful with the meetings seeming to fly by. Just to plan the meeting, let alone present it takes Board members hours.

When we have a Festival Meeting, seeing the work in progress is staggering and the Festival is months away yet!

Lastly, in case you haven't heard, Bill Tarlton did not win again in the drawing at the completion of the July monthly meeting. It is worth coming each month for this one event. This July, Bill missed in the final drawing by ONE number to Ken Gordy! Way to go Ken. Bill said once he even exchanged his ticket with Corlis Kent, with which she then won!!, Now I'm not saying to come for the event of the drawing, although it is fun, rather come to watch Bill lose yet again.. Snicker...

Cheers to all,

Karo lemonsandsangria@gmail.com

Today 'Shards' is being compressed by a new computer program. Chris Peters has for years, compressed it for you to read it in a smaller format. So if the 'Shards' is a bit wonky - well we can't blame Chris!

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IDGS BOARD

effective January 1, 2023

Alan Sweeney, President 2023-2024 asweeney85@aol.com
208-860-9964

Dee Smart, Vice President 2023 d.art4lyf@gmail.com 208-936-2446

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Ken Gordy, Director (Director #3) 2022-2023 kgordy8@aol.com
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Madlen Tarlton, Membership Secretary tarltonb@centurylink.net
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Position Open, Newsletter Editor

Contact Alan Sweeney if interested in filling the position.

Chris Peters, Webmaster and Facebook Curator
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