

Idaho Gourd Society
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Alan Sweeney, who welcomed members and guests. He then read the IDGS Statement and Purpose which is “to unify and support gourd artists, crafters and growers and promote gourd appreciation.” The objectives of the IDGS are a) to provide the culture and crafting of gourds; b) to provide informational and educational services to its members and the community; and c) to provide an annual festival for the promotion of gourds and gourd crafting.”

Alan next introduced the current elected Board of Directors: Alan Sweeney, president; Dee Smart, vice president; Karen Hibdon, secretary; and directors Christy Pletcher and Ken Gordy. Also, appointed staff members to the board: Madlen Tarlton, membership secretary; and Chris Peters, webmaster & Facebook curator. Treasurer Corlis Kent and Director Steve Kiser were unable to attend.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous bi-annual general meeting from November 2022 were sent to all members prior to the meeting. Director Christy moved the minutes be approved as printed and Madlen seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Because Treasurer Corlis did not attend, Alan gave a brief report, noting IDGS, as of the April bank statement, has a balance of \$7,870.82. A committee is forming to develop a budget before the end of the year, however, the budget has been put on hold until after the upcoming festival. Alan said as far as he can tell, IDGS has never developed a yearly budget, so this will be a first.

Membership

Membership chair Madlen said there are currently 141 members in IDGS, including 35 family memberships.

Patch reports

Sunshine Patch – Liz Meyer will teach a May 17 class on insetting several gourd rings into the side of a larger gourd. The patch meets at her home 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at 72 N. Boundary in Nampa.

Kuna – Quincy and Veletta Murphey will lead a canteen gourd project on May 23. The Kuna patch meets at 11 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Boise Woodcraft – Christy said the May project will be a small gourd chicken. The patch meets from 6 to 8 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Woodcraft store in Boise.

Boise Dancing Dog – meetings have been changed to 11 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays, however, no report was given for the current month.

Idaho Artistry in Wood

Past president Ron Swank gave a report on the Idaho Artistry in Wood Show that took place in April at the JUMP Center in Boise. He met with other IAW representatives to recap the 2023 festival. He said this year's festival made the most money, although attendance at 987 was down. The highest attendance was 2018 when 1,710 guests attended. In 2018, there were 490 entries at the show; this year there were only 370, which may indicate the more entries the greater attendance. After all expenses were paid, the 2023 show raised \$6,104, with each of the IAW member clubs receiving a \$500 check. The IAW has more than \$8,000 in its account.

Ron stressed the importance of IDGS participating in the IAW event because of the exposure it gives the club. The 2024 event is set April 6-7. The possibility of a new site is being explored. IDGS is looking for someone to represent the club at the planning meetings for the 2024 IAW event. The group meets on Wednesdays, with the next official meeting set for September.

Participating in IAW is not going to make or break IDGS, but Ron said it is a good group and he believes it is worth IDGS being involved.

Anyone interested in being the IDGS representative to IAW should contact Alan or Ron.

June membership meeting

The June 10 meeting will combine the annual picnic and the IDGS 25th anniversary celebration. The event begins at 11 a.m., preceded at 10 a.m. by a swap meet and sale. Ron will be barbecuing a variety of meats and the club will provide paper goods and cutlery. Participants and their guests should bring a dish to share, beverages and chairs. A 25th anniversary cake will be provided and scrapbooks of IDGS activities will be available for viewing.

Bonnie Gibson classes

Liz gave an update on the classes offered by Arizona gourd artist Bonnie Gibson June 6, 7 and 8. Bonnie will be staying at Liz's home and the classes will take place in Liz' workshop. Because of that, there will be no Sunshine patch gathering on June 7.

Canyon County Fair

Alan put out the call for folks to enter gourds in the Canyon County Fair July 27-30. Gourd entries will be accepted from 3 to 7 pm. July 21. Also needed are demonstrators to show gourd techniques during the four days of the fair. Those doing demos will receive free admission to the fair. A sign-up sheet was available at the meeting but those interested can also contact Alan.

IDGS Festival

The IDGS Festival is slated Sept. 22-23 at Franz Witte, with setup of competition and judging on Sept. 21. A festival handbook has been updated and is available to everyone on the website. A prospectus for the competition, vendor applications and a floor plan of the festival are also posted.

Vendors (\$50 for a 10x10 booth) and the gourd store will this year be in a 50x100-foot tent. Classes and the silent auction will be in the show barn where vendors and classes were last year. Competition and

display gourds will be in the same location as the 2022 festival and demos and make-and-take will be on the east side of that building facing the show barn.

Janet Melligh is chairing the gourd store and looking for donations. Also, IDGS is again holding a Jack-o-lantern challenge. Entries should be taken to the Aug. 12 membership meeting and attendees will vote for their favorite. The winner will receive a free 2024 IDGS membership. The Jacks will be sold in the gourd store.

Beginning May 31 future board of directors' meetings will focus on the festival and all committee chairmen are encouraged to attend. Positions already filled include: Alan, overall chairman and coordinator of classes with Franz Witte; Liz, demos; Steve Kiser, judging and ribbons; Ken, new memberships; Pam Froom, silent auction; Chris Peters, prospectus; Janet, gourd store; Dee, display only gourds; Danny Mathis, security; Karen, publicity; and Carolyn Frasier and LaRae Palmanteer, Friday make-and-take and Christy, Saturday make-and-take.

While there is plenty to do to get ready for the 2023 festival, Alan said the 2024 event will include the annual American Gourd Society meeting so members also need to be thinking ahead. Outside teachers and a full slate of events will be included.

Show and tell and the awarding of gift cards from the Wheel of Goodies closed out the meeting which was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hibdon, secretary