



Idaho Gourd Society



Five of our new members who attended the Special Project Wednesday at the Sunshine Patch location. Check the Website for location and time.

Front Row seated from left to right are: Robin George and Karen Lowe

Back Row: Brenda Sukut, Irena Lane, Radenne English (maybe a new member soon) and Christy Pletcher

From Our President

Hello fellow gourders!

It has been a busy past few months. When I feel like I'm finally going to catch a break, more projects come up! This year was my 9th year attending the Wuertz "Running of the Gourds" Gourd Festival in Arizona and it is hard to believe it's been that many already. I taught 3 classes at the Gourd Festival, and between prepping for them classes and building up my inventory for my booth, I had to work around the clock, not to mention working at the school as well. Despite the long hours and all the work that goes into getting ready for a show like that, I always look forward to going down there and taking a break from the cold, This year it was a bit chilly the first couple of nights at the fairgrounds. It is fun to see fellow Idahoans every year down there and fellow gourders from all over the country! If you haven't gone to Wuertz yet, make sure you put it on your list!!!!

Continued on page 15

Your IGS Officers

President - Ron Swank

Vice President - Bill Tarlton

Treasurer - Patricia McRae

Membership Secretary- Linda Lee Huntley

Secretary - Sue Kostka

Directors - Steve Kiser, Corlis Kent, Amy Halladay

Facebook Curator - Chris Peters

Website Manager -Chris Peters

Newsletter Editor - Carolyn Frazier

PATCHES LEADERS & LIAISONS

Kuna Veletta Murphey & Liaison-Bill Tarlton

Sunshine Liz Meyer

Dancing Dog Gourdin' Lorrie Ferris

American Gourd Society Magazine

Chapter News Bill Tarlton

AGS Treasurer Chris Peters

IDGS Festival and IAW Show Reviews

Carolyn Frazier

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Sue Kostka's Slit Weaving Class





In the November IDGS Newsletter there were pictures of the Gourd Judge Training Class taught by Terry Noxel. Several of these trainees went on to judge at the 2019 IDGS Festival to become Certified AGS Judges. At the January Woodcraft meeting President Ron Swank presented these judges with their certified badges. From left to right they are: Vicky McIntyre, LaRae Palmanteer, Lorrie Ferris, Steve Kiser, Lisa Mathis and Sharon Willis.

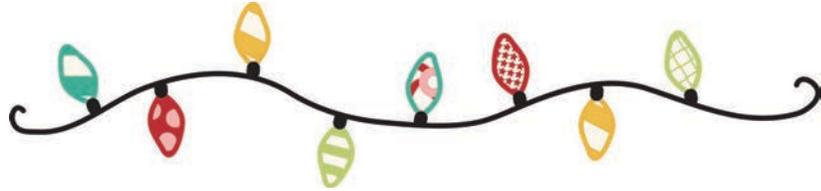
You KNOW...

It wasn't really
that long
ago!!!!

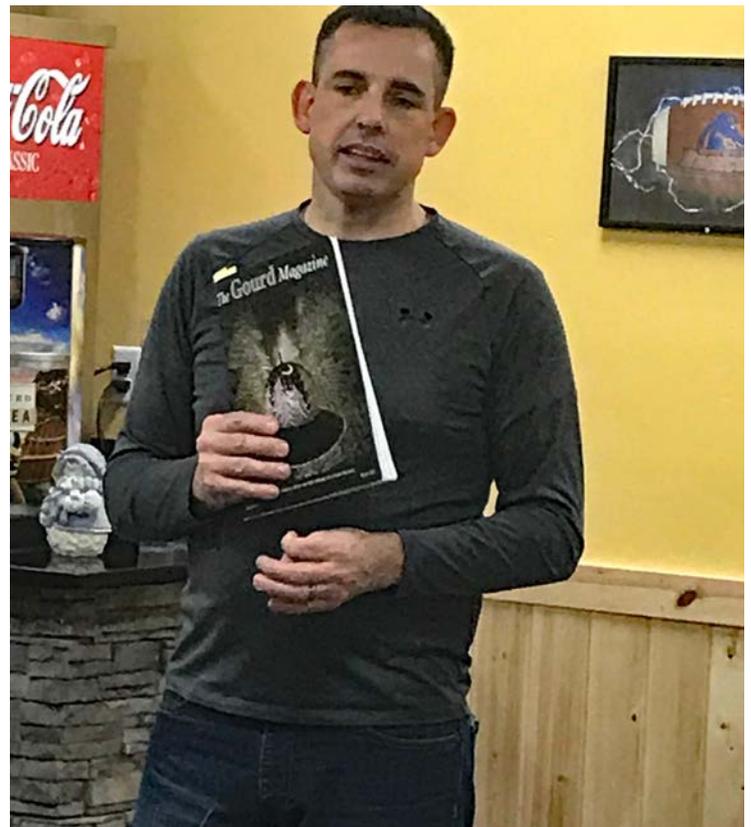




2019 IDGS Christmas Party



Pres Ron was there to start the festivities as was Mrs. Claus. The good meal was followed by some wild auction shenanigans with awesome gifts being shanghaied right and left. Look at those innocent faces. Behind them lies the GRINCH!



Steve, Under things I have learned..that glorious honey you were OOOOOooing over was quickly whisked away by another Grinch, Oooooing over that carved bowl. You shouldda immediately opened that honey and stuck your finger in in licking it a time or three!



See that huge smile...that's a Chris Peters' gourd I held onto quite fiercely for about two whole minutes!!!



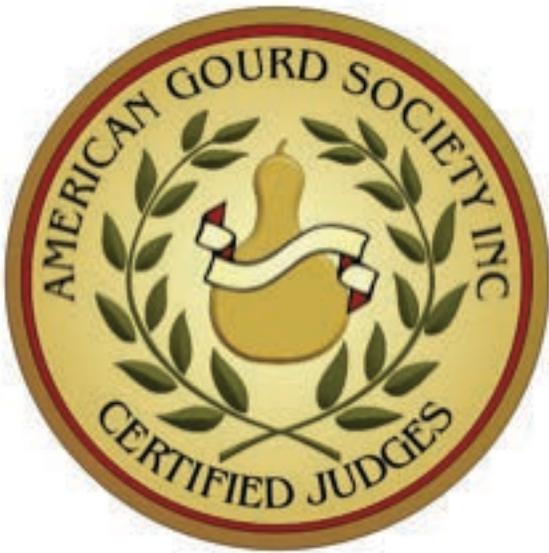


Corlis and Carolyn are enjoying all the mayhem as are those at the table below. Ken and Alan, as well as, Amy and Larry are definitely up to NO GOOD! Look at Mr Alan!

In addition to the Annual IDGS Picnic in June, this annual IDGS Christmas Party is the best way to get to meet and greet all your fellow gourders and wish everyone a Happy New Year - or in the case of Carol, Bill and LaRae...a Happy Knee Year!



Why Do We Take Classes? *Contributed by Terry Noxel*



For me, I take classes for a couple of different reasons. It could be that the class teaches a technique that I want to try and see if it is something I'd be good at or not. I've taken various pyrography classes for example so that I can improve my shading. Another reason would be to make a particular item, such as the tambourine. Regardless of why we take a class there is one assumption the majority of teachers make: the patterns, projects and materials they provide are based on their original design.

- What that means to students is that while they apply their skill in completing the class the end result does not include the student's original design.
- Class gourds should not be entered into Competitions unless it is being entered in a specific category or class for "Class Gourds."

If you think this has been discussed before or everybody knows this, then you might be surprised that it has happened again. A teacher was surprised to see a gourd made in the class she taught last year as an entry in a 2014 show. There was no doubt about it. A student was so proud of her gourd that he/she entered it in the general Competition, even though this particular show does have a category for Class Gourds.

- What it means to Competition Chairpersons is the entry forms need a clearly worded statement that disallows gourds made during classes, from tutorials, patterns or photos that match the originators work.
- Entrants should sign a statement that attests to the originality of their submission.

Sure, some entries will slip through even with guidelines and signature statements. That should not be a reason to do nothing about it; just the opposite. We should make it known far and wide that copying another's design is copying. Teacher's and artists deserve to be emulated but not to be outright copied, especially in a competition setting. We can all do something to help:

- Teachers - remind students that their design is for teaching purposes only and perhaps discuss how to take what they are learning in class and do it different and make it their own.
- Teachers and students – if you recognize a class gourd that has been entered in a competition, I would encourage you to notify the competition staff so that they can manage the problem.
- AGS Judges – you could disqualify an entry that is not original to the entrant but most shows discourage disqualifying entries. What you can do is give zero (0) points for originality and write a comment that explains while their execution may have been very well done, the lack of an original design is what "cost" them a higher score.

Bottom line: Take classes, purchase tutorials and pattern. Practice, practice, practice...then make your own original design and enter that piece.

Proud Sponsor of the Idaho Gourd Society Festival!



Get Fast Shipping and A One-Stop Shop for Thick-Shelled Gourds, Tools and Supplies!

www.WelburnGourdFarm.com

Welburn Gourd Farm is your source for quality organic gourds, plus tools, supplies, colors and finishes, FREE online video tutorials and so much more! Growing over 300,000 gourd per year!"

Take a Look at These Customer Favorites Below!



Get High Quality Organic Gourds!



"Greetings! I have to say that of all the gourds I've EVER purchased, Welburn Farm gourds are THE nicest, thickest, smoothest, most symmetrical... and did I mention THICKEST? Super gourds!" -Cynthia, Picture Rocks Art

Pictured left: Co-Founder Doug Welburn, inspecting gourds for shipment in 1996.

Known for their **thick shells** and beautiful, natural markings, the Welburn Gourd is the gourd of choice for artists, crafters, and musicians who want quality above all else. See the **entire selection** of Welburn Gourds on the website below!



Pictured right: Box of 10 Small Pre-Boxed Clean Round Body Gourds



Easily Clean the Insides of Gourds in Minutes with the GourdMaster Easy Cleaner Ball!

"I LOVE THE GOURDMASTER EASY CLEANER BALL - yes I'm yelling, must let the world know. What an incredible time saver and great finish. I have tried so many tools, and none compare." -Mari E.

The GourdMaster™ Easy Cleaner Ball has a durable, gravel-like surface that removes even the most stubborn dried gourd pulp in **seconds flat!** You'll LOVE how much time and energy you'll save when using the GourdMaster™ Easy Cleaner Ball to clean the inside of your gourds!



With 10 different sizes to choose from, you're able to clean the inside of most **any size gourd!**

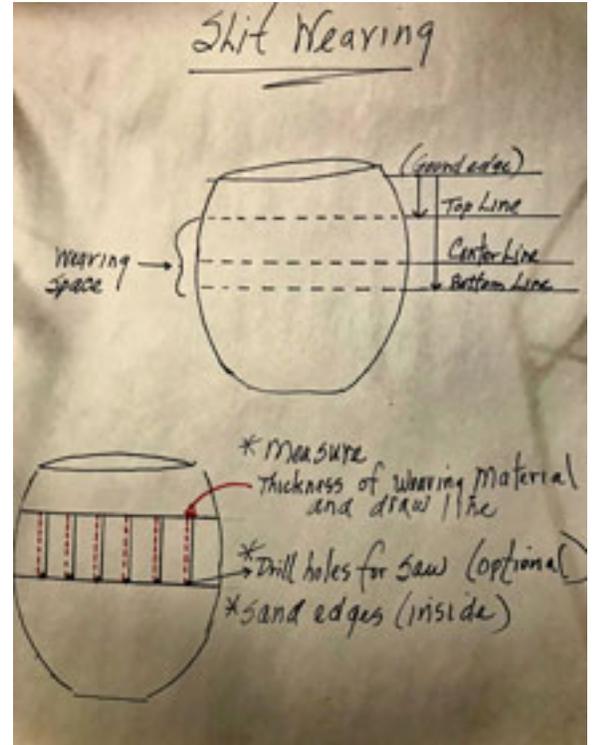
40635 De Luz Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Tues-Sat, 10am-4pm PST
Call 760-728-4271 or visit www.WelburnGourdFarm.com

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Sue Kostka's Slit Weaving on Gourd Class- December 2019

Using graphics, Sue demonstrated the planning phases of slit weaving from measuring and marking the lines to precision cutting to the actual weaving itself. The gourd on page 2 demonstrates that this planning stage is most critical.





Bill Tarlton cutting perfect lines!



Hello IDGS Member,
Bonnie Gibson will be teaching three classes in 2020. Her classes are always popular and often fill up fast. Complete details and registration form are on the IDGS website here:

<https://www.idahogourdsociety.org/bonnie-gibson-2020>

1. Registration alone does not secure your seat in the class—payment received will.
2. No refunds after July 11 unless you can find a replacement for your seat.
3. IDGS members current on their dues have priority class placement.
4. Class 1-July 24: Basic Power Carving
5. Class 2-July 25: Leaves and Swirls
6. Class 3-July 26: Carving with Cutouts- Hummingbird
7. The cost per class is \$75.
8. These are all day classes starting at 9:00am and ending about 5:00pm.
9. Classes are held indoors at Liz Meyer's shop in Nampa.

Here is a recent email for all IDGS members I wanted to include in this newsletter. Please be sure and note the dates and class schedule for the Bonnie Gibson Classes. CF



Liz Meyer's little supervisor always watching!



Corlis Kent trying out a great new gizmo!

Don't Catch the Gourd Flu by Judi Fleming

If you have been gourding for any length of time, you may have heard people reminding others to wear their masks when sanding, cutting and carving. Some of you may do this faithfully, while others have never worn a mask. What is all the fuss about?

Hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP) is also known as extrinsic allergic alveolitis (EAA) and is an inflammation of the alveoli within the lung caused by hypersensitivity to inhaled organic dusts. Sufferers are commonly exposed to the dust by their occupation or hobbies. In the gourd world, we call it the "gourd flu." Joy Jackson and Jerry Lewis wrote about it in a 2003 article for the Gourd Reserve which can still be found at http://www.thegourdreserve.com/gourd_safety.html.

Over a decade ago, people in the gourd world recognized that all was not well in the fabulous and fun world of gourds. For people with allergies and asthma, HP can be a real danger leading to prolonged sickness and even up to hospitalization. It's time to take a closer and more serious look at gourd flu to both protect yourself and others who may be in or near classes that kick up the gourd dust. If you haven't yet experienced HP or gourd flu, you'll want to protect yourself so that you don't damage your lungs.

More than 300 varieties of hypersensitivity pneumonitis are listed through medical research papers, but the two most closely related to gourd flu are farmer's lung and woodworker's lung with exposure to molds and fine wood particles or organic particulate matter. For more details, check out the official American Lung Association's information page at <http://www.lung.org/lung-disease/hypersensitivity-pneumonitis/> as well as the Wikipedia link http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypersensitivity_pneumonitis for a listing of the various HP varieties.

Flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, malaise (feeling “blah” and out-of-sorts), cough, chest tightness, dyspnea (difficulty breathing), and headache are typically associated with HP. These symptoms may not start the day you worked with gourds, but they can last anywhere from 2-3 days to weeks with a severe reaction. Many gourders report they start out feeling as if they have a mild cold with sneezing, watery eyes and coughing. Then they get the full flu-like effect of symptoms. Many have reported that they have had to seek medical attention due to a severe reaction.

While symptoms vary from mild to severe, none of them are something to sneeze at (pun intended). Acute symptoms may last up to three weeks, and symptoms often include shortness of breath, cough, burning sensation in the chest, malaise, chills and fever. The symptoms may persist for as little as 12 hours or as long as 10 days. Between attacks, the person may experience no symptoms. Yet our love of gourds drives us on after we've recovered from a bout of gourd flu. Most will be more conscientious about wearing a mask or carving outside, or using a fan to blow the dust away. Then comes the day when you touch up just a little bit without a mask and catch HP/the gourd flu again.

Chronic HP can last longer than three weeks. After repeated exposure to an allergen, a chronic cough may develop with excessive sputum (mucus that is coughed-up), which often contains pus. The gourder may also develop a shortness of breath, decreased appetite and weight loss. Clubbing (enlarged fingers and toes) is seen in about 50% of patients with chronic HP. Tachypnea (rapid breathing), respiratory distress and rales (that crackling sound heard in the chest, as a result from fluid in the alveoli) may occur.

Chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis may lead to pulmonary fibrosis (scarring of the lung tissue), which is usually irreversible. In other words, this is a very serious illness. Should you get gourd flu, your doctor can do a physical exam with chest x-rays, blood tests, an Allergen Challenge test, CT-scan, or even a lung biopsy to ensure that no other underlying disease are the cause of your symptoms.

When you work with gourds, you are releasing millions of mold spores along with those fine particles of gourd dust into the air around you. When inhaled, these stick in your lungs; it also sticks to your clothes and your hair which means you can breathe in more particles as you move around and helps explain why your body may react to these microscopic particles even after you've finished carving and such with your mask on.

At the very least, you should (1) wear a face mask, (2) do the cutting, sanding, carving out of doors with a fan blowing the dust away from you, and even (3) covering your clothing (and hair). But now that you know the particles are everywhere you should consider (4) vacuum the crafting area daily, (5) thoroughly showering after exposure to the dust, and (6) changing your clothes before going about your regular life and putting the gourd clothes in the wash. Combined these will help reduce the amount of irritants you are exposed to and reduce your risk of HP/gourd flu.

As a health care provider I strongly believe you should always wear a good two-stage respirator to help prevent spores and gourd dust from entering your respiratory system. If you don't, you are increasing your chances of getting gourd flu. The little white dust masks with elastic cord are not especially effective to those who are sensitive to the gourd dust and mold.

If you are a seriously addicted gourder and you are also sensitive to HP, then you have yet another option: dust collection systems. These vacuums are typically wall or ceiling mounted large near where a woodworker or gourd artist does the majority of their sanding and carving. These can cost a pretty penny and are certainly noisy, but when you think of the value of your lungs and being able to breathe, they are certainly worth it.

If you have experienced even a mild version of gourd flu, you probably never want to have it again. So next time you have a friend remind you to wear a mask for carving or a gourd instructor specifies that you should bring a face mask to the class, take heed and protect your lungs! We are all looking forward to your next creation, after all.

Masks: Examples of masks that are available. The left one does the least amount of filtration. The right pictured is a better choice for carvers.



Above is AGS Tutorial Article for IDGS

Gourders,
 Hope to see you at the IAW show in March. Be sure to keep up with the latest news on the IDGS Website or on Facebook. Chris Peters is really great sending out all member emails to everyone regarding class updates and important news. Please thank her. I know some of you are not on Facebook but most of you have access to email. AS she is ALSO the AGS Treasurer, she is busier than the whole beehive. This extra work she does for IDGS needs to be appreciated and remembered by all of us. Congratulations, Chris on your election!

New members- How good it is to meet you and see you joining in at the Patches and at Woodcraft. You are so very welcome.
 To the new Knee generation. Hope all is bending well with you.
 To everyone else - Spring is almost here. Another winter gone. We made it! That in itself is just perfect!
 Caro

Show-Me Gourd Society
22nd Anniversary
Fine Art Festival

Ozark Empire Fair Grounds
 3001 N Grant Ave
 Springfield, MO 65803
April 4 & 5, 2020
 Fine Arts and Crafts by Local and Nationally Known Artists
 Saturday 9:00-5:30
 Sunday 10:00-3:00

Gourd Artist of the Year
Merrill McHenry - 2020

Admission: \$5.00. Children under 12 free!
 Good for both days of the show. Free parking.

Highlights:

- AGS Sanctioned Competition
- Competition classes: Growers, Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Masters
- Register in advance for workshops with teachers from around the USA. Workshops will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- Nationally recognized gourd artist showing and selling their work.
- Live auction - noon on Saturday
- Vendors selling gourds, gourd supplies and embellishments
- Awards
- Dinner Saturday
- Free Demonstrations
- Concession stand Saturday and Sunday
- Raffles for prizes throughout the weekend.

www.showmegourdsociety.com



Please make sure you thank Woodcraft for all they do for IDGS - like every month letting us use their facilities for our meetings!!!!!!

2020 IAW Sales Booth Information

The following is information for members of clubs participating in IAW wanting to sell their work at the 2020 Artistry in Wood show.

In the past, we have discouraged the sale of entries in the judged competition. This year we are excited to again offer artists an opportunity to sell, and to provide the public an opportunity to purchase, a wide variety of wood and gourd art through a sales booth at the show.

We do ask that you be considerate of how many pieces you submit, or more importantly, how much space your item/s will take in the store. We would like as many different artists as possible to participate so we have a great variety to offer attendees. It is difficult to plan show space not knowing how many pieces to expect. We will do everything possible to display at least one piece from each artist submitting work to sell. It will be the sales booth coordinator's discretion which pieces will be displayed; and if we have lots of artists participating (which we hope will happen), we may only be able to display one or two pieces from each artist. Pre-registering will be a huge help in our planning of space requirements and display options.

Each piece you bring to sell must have a price tag attached. The price tag must include your sale price and your name. Each piece needs to be listed on the Store Inventory-Registration form. While pre-registration is not required, pre-registering your pieces will help us in planning the store setup. Please mail the Sales Inventory-Registration form as indicated below. There is no "registration fee", but 10% of all sales will be retained for support of IAW. We will add 6% state sales tax to your sale price and collect that amount at the time of sale. Your proceeds will include your sale price, plus the 6% we collect for you, less 10% for IAW. **You will be responsible for reporting and paying sales tax to the State.** If the customer wants to pay with a credit card, we will accept those, adding a 3% convenience fee which we will keep to cover credit card processing fees.

If you have a seller's permit, attach a copy when you mail your item registration. If you don't pre-register, you must bring a copy with your items. If you don't have a seller's permit, temporary seller's permits will be available for you to complete when you bring your items to the store.

You are welcome to put business cards by your work and bring small placards to set by your pieces that might list your name, kind of wood, price, or special details about your work. If you have display stands for your items, those will be greatly appreciated; i.e.: pen stands, ornament hangers, plate stands, etc. Be sure your name is on your display stand.

Please bring your items to IAW-JUMP Friday, March 20th, from noon – 6:00 p.m. You **MUST** pick up remaining items at the close of the show. We will be closing the sales booth one hour before the close of the show so you can pick up your items at the sales booth before collecting your entered pieces. Any unclaimed items will be returned to the respective club presidents at the end of the show. Every effort will be made to have sale proceeds available at the end of the show. However, if we are really busy, it will be more important to have the accounting accurate than to disburse proceeds immediately. If proceeds aren't ready by the end of the show, they will be mailed no later than March 27.

Please mail a copy of your sales inventory-registration list and Seller's Permit (if you have one) **NO LATER THAN March 10th** to

Trudy Webb
25751 Clubhouse Ct.
Wilder, ID 83676

For me, it feels like it has been a mild winter although it started early into my garden. Nevertheless, it is nice to see the days warming up and I truly hope my words here I don't jinx it. (Ed note: Fingers crossed, Ron, cause I am with you!) My bees have been coming out and flying around and that is a good sign. I just recently placed my order for gourd seeds and can't wait to start planting this year's crop and washing last year's crop! My kids will earn their keep this summer. Between the gourds I grew and my trip to Welburn Gourd Farm in CA last week, they'll have at least 700 gourds to scrub. I want to say I feel sorry for them, but who am I kidding! It'll build character and, oh, the stories they'll have to share with their friends!

I'm really excited for our festival this fall, especially since the IDGS is hosting the American Gourd Society and starting a day earlier with classes. It's going to be great! I know we are still several months out, but the planning has already begun and there will be lots and lots to get done. Every year we've succeeded because of the tremendous output of support from all our wonderful volunteers. Yes YOU, and there is no way we could do it without your dedication to the Festival. Stay tuned and we'll keep you posted with what is going on and where we need you. I'm always amazed with the incredible members we have and especially enjoy seeing the new faces that have joined our group. THANK YOU!!!!

Pres Ron



The poster features a colorful watercolor background in shades of blue, green, and purple. At the top, it reads "Idaho Gourd Society is celebrating its 21st festival!". The main title "IDAHO GOURD FESTIVAL" is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters with a yellow outline. To the right of the title is the Idaho Gourd Society logo, which is a circular emblem containing a gourd and the text "IDAHO GOURD SOCIETY" and "Gourd Art & Science". Below the title, the dates "2020 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 9-5 AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 10-4 2020" are presented in a yellow box. Underneath the dates, it lists "Special Guests: the American Gourd Society Executive Board". The poster also advertises "Gourd Art Competition, Make & Take for all ages, Gifts, Vendors, Demonstrations, Exhibits, and more!". A large, stylized orange gourd with a stem is positioned on the left side. At the bottom, the website "idahogourdsociety.org/2020-festival" is provided, along with a small copyright notice "© 2020 Chris Peters".

Idaho Gourd Society is celebrating its 21st festival!

IDAHO GOURD FESTIVAL

2020 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 9-5 AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 10-4 2020

Special Guests:
the American Gourd Society Executive Board

Gourd Art Competition, Make & Take for all ages, Gifts, Vendors, Demonstrations, Exhibits, and more!

\$4 Admission, Kids 9 & Under FREE!
7311 W. POTOMAC DR., BOISE, IDAHO
Potomac Manor
formerly The Clubhouse Event Center

idahogourdsociety.org/2020-festival

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