

Karo's Gourd Shards

March, 2025



INTRODUCING YOUR 2025 IDGS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



FRONT ROW- VICE-PRESIDENT- ROBI HATHORN, PRESIDENT-
RADENNE ENGLISH, TREASURER JANET MELLIGH, SECRETARY -
KAREN HIBDON, AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIR- MADLEN TARLTON
STANDING BACK ROW- BOARD OF DIRECTORS - RANDY LENTILL,
ALAN SWEENEY, AND CHRISTY PLETCHER, WEBMASTER/MEDIA -
CHRIS PETERS, GOURD SHARDS- KARO FRAZIER

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Letter From Our President: Radenne English

A friendly message from your IDGS Gourd president...

IDGS...It's the place that nourishes my soul with friendship and knowledge!!!

The New Year rang in with a bit of snow and the promise of new things to come. I truly hope that the new year blesses you with happiness and health. I am honored and excited to assume the role of President of our beloved IDGS.

As I embark on this new journey, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your new president. I know that I have some big shoes to fill. I am committed to working diligently to ensure that IDGS continues to be a place for all our members. I pledge to facilitate IDGS with commitment, to honor your ideas, and promote camaraderie. Together, we can foster a vibrant community and share our knowledge, skills, and passion.

This coming year, we will be participating in some of our favorite activities, like monthly Saturday meetings where Gordy's Goodies is sure to bring laughter, Patch Meetings, special classes lead by local talent, demonstrations at fairs, the picnic, the Christmas Party, and of course the FESTIVAL. So what's new?

I'm excited to tell you about some new developments, such as Outreach, The Curiosity Shop, and Gourd Buddies. I have also had the privilege to sit on a few committees and am amazed at the knowledge and skills that IDGS folks have. Stay tuned for updates.

At the end of January, I traveled to the Wuertz Gourd Festival. I was lucky enough to take two classes (one from our talented Ron Swank).

I love my family of friends, the laughter we share, and the knowledge that you have given me. Boy do we ever have local talented artists!

I look forward to the year ahead, filled with exciting projects, memorable events, and lasting friendships. It's my goal to stay organized, keep members informed, and learn new techniques.

Radenne,

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This year has started off with the excitement of a fireworks display. Always the Gourd Festival updates are discussed in about every Board meeting, but we are adding several new Projects I want you to know about and think of participating in. The Curiosity Shop. Outreach, Judging Gourds Class and Mentorship.

First - Outreach. To continue to grow and introduce folks to IDGS, we must continue to include outreach. For instance, we have reached out to Community Education classes, School classes, organization classes, etc. I learned about gourding through Alan Sweeney and Duane Langworthy's Chip Carving class years ago. From there I went to a IDGS Festival at the old Holiday Inn. Outreach's importance can't be emphasized introducing gourd art to all age groups.

(See Janet Melligh's Article on last page)

Second - Mentorship. After reaching new members then what? How many of you have told me that when they joined IDGS they were flummoxed as what to do. Yep, I was flummoxed too - still am when it comes to figuring out this Pages program! At our Board Meeting we discussed the importance of mentorship for new members. It was decided that the super mentor Barb Gamel would take the chair role in assigning mentors to new members. She spent endless hours with me at first teaching me tools, gourds, etc. She has what it takes to be a great mentor including warmth, knowledge and interest in help new members. If you, too, are interested in becoming a mentor contact a Board Member and we can put you in touch with Barb. One thing to take note of, a mentor must be a IDGS member and a regular at monthly meetings and a member of a Patch. You will need to take the newbie around and introduce them to our gourd growers and artists.

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Third - Curiosity Shop. The brainstorm of member Bill Tarlton. he can explain it much clearer than I. Here is Bill Tarlton's introduction to the Curiosity Shop

ARE YOU CURIOUS?

At the February member's meeting, Radenne English introduced the roll-out of the Idaho Gourd Society Curiosity Shop. The idea spawned from a Board of Directors initiative to enhance recruitment of new members and as one more way to bring value to an IDGS membership. Bill Tarlton suggested that we consider creating an electronic bulletin to help members sell their gourd related items, as well as serve as a platform where new - and seasoned members - could find a good deal. Board members were enthusiastic about the idea and voted to implement it. Bill volunteered to do all the legwork associated with bringing it to life and to maintain it through its growing pains.

He sure didn't waste any time because the IDGS Curiosity Shop is already a "Thing" that you can check out on our website. Kudos to Chris Peters, our Webmaster, for making everything work smoothly on the website – it looks professional. You can actually advertise your **For Sale** items as well as advertise for items you may be looking for. There's money to be made and money to be saved just by taking advantage of this free service! All it takes is for you to familiarize yourself with the instructions/rules, which by the way, are as simple click on the hotlink right below the IDGS Curiosity Shop. There, you will find the email address you need to send your ad to, the necessary contact information to provide, how long your particular ad will run and the rules for re-listing ads. In order not to compete with the Gourd Store or Wheel of Goodies, the IDGS Curiosity Shop **will not** list any free items. As in the past, those items can still be donated by contacting any IDGS board member or simply bring them to the member's meeting or drop them off at a patch.

You are encouraged to use the Curiosity Shop to list gourd related items such as:

- Raw Gourds: Clean or dirty
- Paints, inks, stains, formula 49, brushes, cases, pigments, etc.
- Tools: Burners, Carvers, Scrapers, Burs, Exacto Knives
- Embellishments, books, patterns

The above is not all-inclusive, but should give you an idea of the types of items you will find listed. Remember, if what you're looking for is not listed, you can simply list it as "Wanted".

Help us make the IDGS Curiosity Shop blossom and grow into something that becomes a valuable tool for every gourd member. The easiest way to do that is to advertise what you don't use or need any more, or have an excess of. Radenne English will attach the most current IDGS Curiosity Flyer to her monthly "All Members" meeting announcement. You can also look at the most current flyer on the IDGS website at any time.

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Finally another important item - Judging at the Festival written by LaRae Palmanteer.

LaRae Palmanteer has written about the importance of judging for your own artwork and for the IDGS Festival. We can't have competition if we don't have judges! We want impartial judges who have a basic understanding of the work needed in looking at each gourd competition.

Judging Gourds

Years ago, when I joined the Idaho Gourd Society, I would watch other gourders create beautiful works of art. I asked questions and I experimented and I tried to find my style, but then there was a judging class offered at Liz's sunshine patch.

I was given a manual listing important features in each type of gourd classification. The class was full of artists, sharing their ideas and explaining differences in one gourd to another. I learned how to look at my own artwork and see it as a judge might see it. I refer back to the manual even now, years later.

I remember the camaraderie we had in that room of 20 or 30 people, the information that was shared, and how valuable it was and still is to me.

Radenne shared these photos from Arizona Gourd Festival 2025



Arizona Gourd Festival
Radenne English, Corlis Kent,
Christy Pletcher, Cheryl Byron



Ron Swank
Rain Stick class
Arizona Gourd Festival

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Madlen Tarlton Shared these photos from a Sunshine Class with instructor Bill Tarlton teaching a Cloisonné class on January 15th , 2025



Gaylene Austin and Leslie Bonney really concentrating on their work! Leslie what on earth is that yellow object in your hand?



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Kristen Vollrath and Randy Lentell really intent!



Above: Sharon Willis and Corlis Kent

Above right: Kay Burns



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Christy Pletcher and Radenne English sent me photos of the December making gourdaments and the January Patch was the embossing powder of cut outs of Native American Bear. This Woodcraft Patch is a usually a "make and take" in one class project and they furnish materials needed. Check the [Idaho Gourd Society](#) web site for this and all other classes and patches.

Following are the photographs from the December Woodcraft class



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Krissy Vollrath

Jerri

Patty Heesch



Patty Heesch

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Next- Woodcraft January Class - Embossing Powders and Enamels



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Neurographic Art on Gourds

March 11, 2025

11:00 - 2:30ish

Dancing Dogs Gourds

Boise

208.860.9379

Neurographic art is a meditative and intuitive artistic process that links the unconscious and conscious mind using brain cells called neurons. In the human brain there are 100 billion neurons and over 100 trillion synaptic connections. When the artwork is finished, neurographic art ends up resembling neurons and cells.



We will learn how to draw and connect lines and circles together to form a contemporary design similar to photo. This is a relaxing, enjoyable process anyone can do!

I will supply pencils, ink pens, colored pens and everything you need EXCEPT your gourd. Please bring a cleaned gourd (any size or shape will do).

Cost is \$35.00. Class payment will reserve your spot, class size is limited to 6 students. Please call Lorrie for any questions.



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Helena Freilich

What a lot of happenings going on with our Idaho Gourd Society. Our March monthly meeting is ahead on March and there will be lots of discussion going on in addition to the Show and Tell sector ! Helena shows off a perfect little fairy home!

This sharing time is a fun way to end the meeting with all members who want to share, classes, projects and their own gourd art ideas. Which actually reminds me that Kay Burns (bellow) shared her idea of using clear sealant in place of clay to put

into molds and use on her art. Maybe she will bring her gourd she showed me and explain this unique technique at our next Monthly meeting.. Just another way our members have tried a new idea! Thank you all for your pictures Madlen, Radenne, Christy.

Thus endeth March's Shards. Hope you all stay warm and keep gourdin'. Share ideas and pictures at lemonsandsangria@gmail.com.



Actually the last page is not the endth! **Flummoxed** is the word of the hour. Janet Melligh wrote an article for our Shards about my favorite topic of the Shards..and when I inserted it into this, every page either was lost or rearranged. I have had days like that too! Even this wee bit of print had changed to Form 3 whatever that is. However, I want to share Janet's letter too much so I am overcoming all Page's attempts to screw this up! Ta Da...

From Janet Melligh - OUTREACH

What an exciting year this is going to be for IDGS. We have so many things in the works. One of the most exciting is the commitment IDGS is making to spread our love of gourds to our community. IDGS has a new Outreach program that is intended to offset the cost of doing volunteer teaching to organizations in our community. In the past, members have reached out to the community through community education, school classes, and organization classes. Often members have paid for all the art supplies from their own pockets. This year IDGS created a budget just for the purpose of offsetting the supply cost. Our goal is to expand the number of community contacts we have each year and to take away the economic burden of participating in these activities.

For example, if you have been asked to teach a class on gourd art to a 4-H group, the cost of the art supplies may be covered by IDGS. If you are asked to speak on how to grow gourds to a garden club and want to print a handout to share, the cost of printing may be covered. The same is true if you volunteer to teach an art class to a group at a senior center or school.

An Outreach committee has been working away to define what type of expenses will be covered by IDGS via this program. At this time, it looks like IDGS will be covering the cost of art supplies, the cost of gourds (if not donated), and the cost of printing. A process has been defined that will require the IDGS member to submit an Outreach Funding Request in advance of the event to the IDGS Board and include an estimated cost of supplies and/or printing. The board will review the request and get back to the member with the approved budget amount. IDGS hopes to build a batch of reusable art supplies (e.g. paintbrushes, rulers, scissors, pencils) that members can use when engaging with the community. The committee will present their suggestions for outreach guidelines and applications to the Board in March. Once approved by the Board it will roll out to the membership with the applications and guidelines being published on the IDGS website.