

Idaho Gourd Society

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 11, 2023

The fall general membership meeting took place Saturday, Nov. 11, with 41 people attending. The morning started with the Wheel of Goodies. which set a record with \$132 in tickets sold.

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by President Alan Sweeney who welcomed several new members. 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.”

Minutes

Prior to the meeting a copy of the spring general membership meeting minutes was sent to all members. Treasurer Corlis Kent moved to approve the minutes. Director Steve Kiser seconded it and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Corlis then presented a report on finances from the September Idaho Gourd Festival at Franz Witte Nursery Center. The festival brought in \$8,102.99, with expenditures of \$3,815.78. The net profit was \$4,317.21.” The October IDGS bank statement showed \$12,561.66 in the account. Because Corlis was out of the area for the festival, Carol Joyce served as interim treasurer. She paid \$422 Idaho State Taxes, leaving a balance of \$12,424.50 in the account. Director Liz Meyer moved to accept the treasurer’s report; Caro Frazier seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Corlis thanked Sandy Kock for handling the festival registration for her while she was out of town.

Membership

Membership chair Madlen Tarlton was unable to attend the meeting, but her husband Bill reported IDGS now has 171 members. It was noted that two years ago, when COVID ended, membership had sunk to 68. So, IDGS is living up to its mission statement to grow membership.

Membership dues for 2024 are due by Dec. 31 but will be accepted until Jan. 15. Dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for family membership (for those living in the same household).

Idaho Artistry in Wood

Guest speaker was Bill Nowlin, president of the Woodworkers, one of six member organizations of the Idaho Artistry in Wood group. This year's event is set April 6-7, 2024 at the JUMP center in downtown Boise. IDGS will be responsible for providing three items for the live auction, five for the silent auction and 15 raffle prizes. Nowlin would like to have the auction items by February and the latest early March.

IDGS received \$500 for participating in the 2023 event. This year, Leanna Saenz and Wanda Walker are the IDGS representatives to IAW. They asked for suggestions for a theme for the show. They are pulling together proposed increases in admission to the show and registration options for entries in the gourd competition. As soon as the theme is decided on, it will be included in the IDGS Prospectus for the gourd portion of the show so folks can plan on entering a theme gourd. Chris Peters, Carol Joyce, and Ron Swank have volunteered to create the prospectus.

Calendar

Watercolor artist Carol Thompson created a calendar featuring monthly paintings designed around gourd art created by area artists. Liz Meyer sold several at the meeting.

Election of new board members

There were three openings on the IDGS board of directors for 2024-2025. Bill Tarlton headed up the election committee and said three people stepped up for the open seats. Because they were unopposed, only a yay and nay vote was taken. Corlis moved to accept the nominees and Director Christy Pletcher seconded. Those present approved Robi Hathorn as vice president; Janet Melligh as treasurer; and Radenne English as director.

Alan then thanked the outgoing board for their service: Dee Smart, vice president; Corlis, treasurer; Ken Gordy, director. He also thanked Caro Frazier for the wonderful job she does on the IDGS newsletter several times each year.

Christmas party

The annual Christmas party, Dec. 9, will be at the Eagles Lodge, 7025 W. Overland Road, Boise. The club is paying the \$200 rental fee and \$50 cleaning deposit and will provide chicken, beverages, and paper goods for the event. Those attending should bring a potluck dish and arrive at 11:30, with lunch to begin at noon. Another spirited gourd-related gift exchange is planned, with Ron Swank serving as the official timekeeper.

Patch reports

Kuna meets at 11 a.m. the second Tuesday; Boise Woodcraft meets 6-8 p.m. the second Tuesday; Sunshine (Nampa) meets 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday; and Boise Dancing Dog meets at 11 a.m. the first and third Tuesday.

Name tags

Everyone was reminded to wear name tags to the meetings or pay a 50-cent fine.

Show and tell

Show and tell included a talk on manipulated gourds by Carla Arnold, who brought a wide variety of gourds she had grown and explained the process. Alan brought in one of the enormous gourds he grew this year and shared how he hand-pollinated the flowers and later collected the seeds from the very thick gourd. "There's a myth that you can't grow thick gourds in Idaho," he said. "You can grow awesome gourds here."

Others sharing their projects were Bill Tarlton, Kay Burns, Ben Ciulla, Radenne, and new member Rachel Myers who showed the project gourd she made in Radenne's Woodcraft Patch class.

Five \$10 prizes were awarded from the monthly Wheel of Goodies and the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hibdon, secretary