

# *Karo's Gourd Shard's*

April, 2024  
Idaho Gourd Society



## Little Gourd

There was a lonely little gourd sitting on a vine  
Crying softly to herself, because the sun wouldn't shine

Although I love the rain, she mumbled and I need every drop  
Please Make The Grey Clouds Go Away, And This Soggy Rain Stop

When The Sun Does Shine, I'll Grow Big And Round  
My Roots Will Grow Deep Down Into The Ground

Then One Day An Idgs Member Will See Me There  
They Will Pick Me, They Will Love Me, And Take Me To The Fair

There Will Be Cheers From The People In The Crowd  
I'll Win Blue Ribbons And Make My ID Member Proud

Then Off, I'll Go To The Idgs Festival  
And I Will Win As The Best-Of-All

Sent in anonymously - Thank you, whoever you are.

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April marks the beginning of our annual IDGS Festival in September. The Gourd Board of Directors have already started planning for a wonderful display/the gourd competition/festival activities that I will happily share with you.

This year is extra special because the American Gourd Society Board will be here to hold their annual meeting. We are hoping for some gourd classes perhaps from some of AGS participants.

Coming on the heels of the annual IAW Show you already have started making gourds for the competition. If you haven't thought out your entry in this competition, now is the time to begin!

'The Gourd Board, via emails from President Alan Sweeney, keeps us up to date on pop-up' meetings. I am including one upcoming **Pop-up** that happens in May but first you need to read a recent Alan message about the Gourd Competition Prospectus.

"Everyone is encouraged to enter our judged competition at our upcoming IDGS Gourd Festival. Chris Peters, Ron Swank and LaRae Palmanteer have worked hard together to revise our show prospectus. There have been some exciting new changes from past shows added to this years prospectus. One of the main items is that entry fees have been waved for the first 3 entries. Please see our new 2024 Festival Prospectus by clicking on this link [https://www.google.com/search?q=r\\_04\\_10\\_20&rlz=1C1GCEA\\_en&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=r_04_10_20&rlz=1C1GCEA_en&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8) or go to our website at [The Idaho Gourd Society](http://The Idaho Gourd Society). and click on the Festival link. "

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Greetings Everyone,


Our upcoming Gourd Festival is only 5 months away, and your festival sub-committees are already hard at work. As most of you know our Festival Gourd Store is our biggest means of supporting our festival. Radenne English and Christy Pletcher have taken on the this BIG task and will be asking for your help from now until Festival time. Please see the attached documents for information regarding the Gourd Store and ways you can help out.

Thank you and have a beautiful day, Alan Sweeney


## Fall is ON SO GOURD-geous


### Gourd Fall Challenge 2024

Your Idaho Gourd Society will be holding its annual gourd challenge (with a bit of a twist) to support the upcoming IDGS festival in September. Between now and August 10, 2024, each member is invited to create a gourd for the challenge. Your gourd can be any size or style. Any technique is allowed so long as it is made of gourd(s).

 **New this year:** This year's challenge will feature anything related to fall, Halloween, or Jack O'Lanterns.

Psst...Hint, Hint, Hint...The Jack O'Lanterns are super popular at the Gourd Store.

 **New this year:** Unlimited entries allowed. Members may enter more than one piece.

 **New this year:** One challenge-*two* winners. Judging will be done by the members in attendance using an anonymous ballot. Each member in attendance will receive one ballot. The top two entries receiving the most votes will win an IDGS paid membership for the coming year.

Bring your finished gourd(s) to our August 10, 2024 monthly membership meeting to be entered into the competition.

Put your creative hat on and join the fun.

#### Official Rules-

1. You must be a current member of the Idaho Gourd Society to play.
2. Gourd Art Challenge Pieces must be made predominately from gourds; embellishments allowed.
3. All entries **must be donated** to IDGS Gourd Store and will be sold at a price determined by Gourd Store Management Team.
4. Members may enter as many pieces as they want (no limit).
5. Each entry must be the sole work of the entrant. However, any person with a disability may be assisted in the creation of their entry.
6. You must bring or have delivered your entry to the August 10, 2024 membership meeting for judging.
7. In the clear case of a tied vote, a coin toss will determine the winner.
8. Christy Pletcher, Radenne English and/ or the IDGS board of directors may add to or change these rules in the case of any discrepancy.

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## Planning Ahead:

- **Fall Challenge** (previously the jack o'lantern challenge)
  - Entries due at the August 10 general meeting
  - Prize to the top two places-paid membership for the coming year
  - See flyer "Fall is Oh So Gourd-geous" for details.

**The Countdown is On**

## Donation Needs

- Member's Gourd Art
- Gourds-craft ready
- Gourds-cleaned
- Bag of gourd shards
- Alcohol ink, acrylic paints, leather dyes, etc.
- Pigment powders
- Painting supplies
- Embellishments
- Weaving Supplies
- Tools-new or used
- Art books-new or used
- Gourd tops
- Spinnerets gourds for key chains
- Storage containers

Donations can be brought to the IDGS monthly meeting or dropped off at the Sunshine Patch in Nampa. Christy and Radenne will also be willing to pick up items in the local area.

Christypletcher@gmail.com  
englishradenne@gmail.com



*Pop-Up Event:* finished project will be donated the Gourd Store

- **Fairy Birdhouse** @ Radenne's-Saturday, May 18, 9:00 am...
  - you supply the gourd
  - Radenne & Christy will supply the embellishments and crafting items.
  - Space for 6-8 people. RSVP to Radenne to participate (englishradenne@gmail.com)

**Your contributions are greatly appreciated**

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The IAW show is now history and I have taken a mixture of photographs of the entries and of the crowd. It was a fantastic turnout, as IAW has reported that over 1200 visitors attended and make this the largest one of the most successful shows ever.

First, however, is a list of winners from Head Judge, Steve Kiser.

## Division Winners:

Youth 1 - Atticus Saenz

Individuals with Disabilities - Ben Ciulla

Novice - Randy Lentil

Intermediate - Radeene English

Advanced - Sharon Joswik

Expert - Taeko D'Andrea

Masters - Lorrie Ferris

## Special Awards

BEST OF SHOW - Sharon Joswik

2nd choice - Lorrie Ferris

3rd Choice - Taeko D'Andgrea

PEOPLES' CHOICE - Sharon Joswik

Total Show entries- 82

Congratulations to our winners. I thought it was a tough competition as all the entries were stunning! I was so impressed at the skill, detail, color, carving, & you name it of the entries. To me all were winners!

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Here are, in no particular order, photos from this years IAW competition. I lost a great many due to a camera error. This was any photographer's nightmare and I was greatly saddened not being able to share a great many pictures. I will make sure I do better in the IDGS Festival competition! Of course, any photo donations are gladly accepted.



Best of Show and People's Choice winner - Sharon Joswik

I love it when the expression in the photo needs no words .



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Number: 15  
RADEEN ENGLISH



# *Karo's Gourd Shard's*

Below: Sandy Kock and  
Corlis Kent



Kudos to these ladies who are tirelessly working to enter the gourds. What a job this is!

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## **The Other Day, A Friend Asked Me How I Became A Gourd Artist.**

So I told her: When I look into a bin of gourds, there's one that is looking back at me, trying to catch my attention, trying to let me know that it is the perfect gourd for my next creation. There it sits surrounded by all its gourd friends trying as hard as it can to make sure I choose it out of all the others.

As I pick it up, I know that we will become close friends over the next few weeks. It wants me to make it beautiful and show it to my Gourd society. I want it to bring me peace, contentment, and positive energy.

As I turn on the TV and watch politics or war tragedies, or even advertisements about little animals that are suffering, I feel a pit in my stomach and a pain in my heart so I know it's time for me to go find my little gourd and begin to create.

As I clean the little gourd my mind drifts into a creative world, a world of peace, tranquility and imagination with no limits. I visualize the little gourd as a finished piece of art, and my hands move over it, cutting, staining, coiling, beading, adding a dab of glue here, and a pinch of clay there; the little gourd begins to emerge as the beautiful piece of art it was meant to be.

That little gourd gives more to me than I give to it-I receive hours of calmness; hours in an imaginary world of creativity; hours of meditative relaxation during the process of changing a simple gourd into a work of art.

After a few weeks, sometimes months, I present the gourd to a friend, family member, or even a festival, and I know it is happy. But I never forget to thank the little gourd for all it has given to me; peace, tranquility, and enjoyment.

After the bloom of satisfaction begins to fade, I turn TV on again but it doesn't take long for me to realize it's time for me to go find another gourd friend.

Submitted by LaRae Palmanteer

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And so we have reached the end of the Shard!

Note: Have you read Alan's message about the 2024 Gourd Festival at Franz Witte and the need for donations? If not, zip back and read because this is most important. Also, keep in mind if you haven't volunteered yet, now is the time to step up and become a working member for the IDGS. You don't have to commit to a lifetime of work, rather, it important that you support your Society. I was looking at the names of folks who had helped us over the years and I was grateful to see a few new faces at the IAW show. For instance, you could spend a few hours on day one when all hands are needed to set up. What a job this is.

Barb Gamel has worked on the staging of the competition for several years now. It is time for a newbie to step up and join her. She will be setting up at our Festival and could show a newbie the ropes so they could manage it the following year with help from Barb. It is like passing the torch to the next group. If two of you wanted to take on the leadership in this role what a partnership it would be. It is always more fun with a friend.

Now if you wanted to donate 2-3 hours, there are plenty of opportunities to do so on the day of your choice. The Gourd Store always has a need for volunteers as well as the donations. Make new gourd friends and make new member friends. Join the IDGS and truly become a member. This is not like a royal family where only a few can participate. We need everyone!

Please come to the IDGS meeting this Saturday as it is the April Annual Meeting. There will be opportunities for you to learn more about the Festival and understand the workings of the IDGS. Remember, the meeting starts at promptly 10:30 AM and the social hour begins at 10:00Am. The social hour allows all the meet and greet and find a seat!



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I simply had to show this final gourd as it just made me HAPPY. Every time I passed it during the IAW show I had to smile. The detail and originality appeals to my sense of humor, drawing me back to the ET days. (Remember the movie ET?) To all of you who have done such a fabulous job of originality with your creations, this is what it is all about. Striking the visitor in some way making the viewer want to look again.



Thanks and happiness to you, Karo  
[lemonsandsangria@gmail.com](mailto:lemonsandsangria@gmail.com)

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