

Karo's Gourd Shards

October 2025

Randy Lentell created a most unusual costume for the Gourd Festival Parade. Randy 's gourd cap revealed team Washington Nationals MLB baseball team hat ! The bat was a Langenariaville Slugger instead of the Louisville Slugger. (Hardshell gourds are Lagenaria siceraria).

The player signature was Wee Willie Whackum on the fat end. Let's encourage Randy to bring his costume to an IDGS. upcoming monthly meeting.

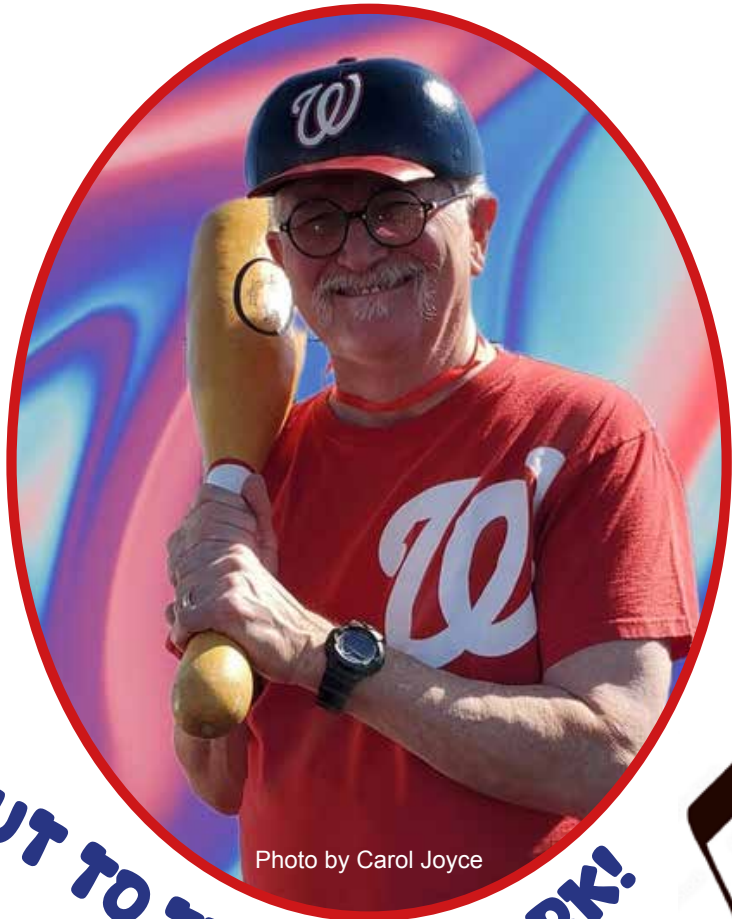


Photo by Carol Joyce

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL PARK!





A message from Radenne English, IDGS president-to all our amazing Idaho Gourd Society members:

Now that the dust (and gourd seeds!) has settled, and the Idaho Gourd Festival is officially over, we are thrilled with its success. Thank you to all who made it happen. It truly highlights the passion and talent of our club.

You created an event packed with wonderful opportunities: from classes, informative demos, and engaging Spotlight presentations to the incredible artistry showcased in the competition display. Guests also enjoyed exploring the many vendor booths, getting hand-on with the Make and Take station, face painting, shopping at the Gourd Store and winning bids at the silent auction. Thank you for making every moment so fun-filled!

The entertainment this year was truly unique! We especially loved the performance by Taeko D'Andrea, with a special guest appearance by Ron Swank. And the hilarious Silly Gourd Parade was full of action as members paraded through the beautiful Franz Witte grounds.

It was a pleasure to see members from our neighboring states. Kathy Allen and Terry Cunningham traveled from Oregon. Lisa Libby and her husband made the trip from Washington. All three members jumped right into festival life, making donations, doing demos, and helping wherever they were needed. Their smiling faces and bubbling personalities were a delight.

Straight from the mouth and heart of Kathy Allen...

"A thank you to the Idaho Gourd Festival 2025. Our first gourd festival ever. We were privileged to be so welcomed and participate! Great people, classes, demos, gourd store, spotlight presentations, multi daily raffles, gourd gallery displays, vendors and gourd show and dinner. Not to mention laughs with old and new friends. A fantastic venue. A must for next year!", wrote Kathy.

Grace, Franz Witte event coordinator, had this to say,

"I've had a chance to get together with some of our staff and have heard plenty of wonderful things about the festival overall. Some highlights for us were the parade, the flamingo themed gourd art (of course), as well as the keychains that many of our staff members are now sporting. Thank you so much for being a responsive and easy to work with a group of individuals. Your creativity and collaboration as a society is inspiring! "

So, thank you, Sally, for the ever popular donation of your keychains. It just goes to show how the little things can make our day.

I'd like to recognize a few people and the special awards that were given at the festival.

“People’s Choice”-Steve Kiser

“We Don’t Hide the Crazy, We Parade It”- Corlis Kent

“Out of our Gourds”- Carol Joyce

And numerous door prize drawings.

And finally, I have some fantastic news to share: we gained several new members during the festival! To our new members, I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome! I am excited to have you join IDGS and look forward to seeing your creativity shine. You’ve joined the best club around!

What’s next? We have elections coming in November at our annual fall membership meeting. The positions that are available are vice president, treasurer, and one director position. I hope you will consider one of these positions. It’s a great place to strengthen friendships and to give input in all things related to the Idaho Gourd Society.

Looking ahead to December 13 - our annual **Christmas party** at the Eagles’ Lodge. I can’t wait for the yummy food and our gift exchange that is full of “laughs and steals”. Thank you again for your passion, dedication and tireless efforts. You make us who we are.

Radenne English, IDGS president

Corlis Kent and Radenne English created these flags for the Parade members to show WE ARE PROUD MEMBERS... (maybe ones that have the crazies)



2025 Idaho State Fair

Another State Fair success for the Idaho Gourd Society. Lots of Ribbons:

- **Steve Keiser:** 2-1st place, 1-2nd place, 1-3rd place, 1-Special Award
- **Christy Pletcher:** 2-1st place, 1-2nd place
- **Corlis Kent:** 1-1st place, 2-2nd place
- **Mike Chiulla:** 1-1st place
- **Esther Ussing:** 3-1st place

Other Gourd winners:

- **Bill Scherrer:** 2-1st place, 2-2nd place
- **Rhonda Cates:** 1-1st place
- **Maria Jensen:** 2-1st place, 2-2nd place, 1-Special Award.
- **Beck Beus:** 1-2nd place.
- **Mac Browning:** 1-1st place
- **Joy Derry:** 1-3rd place
- **Maria Kuenzli:** 3-1st place, 1-Best of Division.
- **Donna Kirk:** 1-3rd place

Volunteers at the Table included, Esther Ussing, Christy Pletcher and Cheryl.

Congratulations to everyone!



Esther Ussing



Ben Ciulla



Arden working as a demonstrator



2025 Idaho State Fair



2025 Gourd Festival

2025 Competition Awards:

Best in Show, 1st place – **Taeko D'Andrea**



Best in Show, 2nd place – **Carol Joyce**



Best in Show, 3rd place – **Liz Meyer**

Division Winners

Youth – **Oaklee Freilich**



Individual with Disabilities – **Ben Ciulla**



Novice – **Sue Lentell**

Intermediate – **Terry Cunningham**

Advanced – **Carol Joyce**

Expert – **Taeko D'Andrea**

Master – **Liz Meyers**

Peoples' Choice – **Steve Kiser**



2025 Gourd Festival

Make & Take and Face Painting



Crazy Gourders on Parade!



Janet Melligh



Robi Hawthorne



Karo Hall-Frazier



Crazy Gourders on Parade!



Christy Pletcher



Karen Hibdon



Cheryl Byron



Ben Ciulla



2025 Gourd Festival

Some of the vendors...

Gaylene Austin



Liz Meyer



Kathy Allen



Kathy Coughran

Helena Freilich



The Tole Shed



2025 Gourd Festival

Special moments...

IDGS demonstrating a powerful performance with the Taiko Drummers

Ron Swank demonstrating powerful music on his hand-made gourd flute



Mom and her son just enjoying the day



*Such a beautiful combination—
Franz Witte in the Fall,
sunshine and the
Idaho Gourd Society*



Franz Witte Signs for Visitors



Visitor and her Pup-in-a-Handbag



2025 Gourd Festival

Here are a few of the many, many volunteers who assisted in creating a stunning Festival.

Welcome Center with Debbie Ciulla



Ken Gordy designed and manned the Gourd Festival Welcome Center with his red candy apple. Note it is an apple gourd filled with candy for guests. Cute play on Candy Apple.



An anonymous donation from a gifted artist welcomed every visitor with her smile.



Randy Lentell, Corlis Kent and Gaylene Austin—super volunteers they are! From the beginning Gourd Competition entries to the Final Wrap-up..these folks were found everywhere along with other volunteers.

2025 Gourd Festival

Silent Auction



Christy Pletcher, Linda Ungson and Cheryl Byron



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Anna Hendricks

Gina Perkins

Ken Gourdy

Cheryl Byron

Helena Freilich

Mark Spiegel

Chris Peters

Janet Melligh

Paulette Bray

Christy Pletcher

Karo Fraiser

Volunteers

Peggy Lee

Ron Swank

Taeko Hibiki

Radenne English

Steve Kiser

Wendy Butterfield

Robi Hawthorne

Steve Ussing

From: IDGS Gourd Festival's Silent Auction



First and most important to me is to thank Helena Freilich for her amazing work on this newsletter. She has been most patient with me the whole way through the ordeal of errors including Sparklight constantly dumping WIFI. Many thanks to Esther Ussing, Sue Lentell and Carol Joyce for the pictures. This newsletter would not have been possible without these special people.

As this newsletter is already lengthy the December edition will contain more Festival pictures including many of the gourds entered in the competition.

Franz Witte was astounding with their help and support of the Idaho gourd Society. Their employees judged the Parade members. IDGS member, Corlis Kent, won this first event.

It is futile for me to try and explain all the Festival work behind the scenes the Board Members and other IDGS member donate. Thanks to each and every one for making the best Festival EVER.

Karo

