



GOURD GREETINGS

Issue Seventy Seven

The Beta Chapter of the American Gourd Society

March 2018



Our 2018 Ohio Gourd Show theme is 'Fall Into Gourds'.

A Riddle: What do Gourds and Shrubs Have in Common?

By Michelle Thall, October 20, 2017

I've always dabbled in making liqueurs by soaking fruits and herbs in vodka, but was interested in exploring other methods of extracting flavor without the alcohol. Enter the *shrub*, my favorite new drink, and kitchen experiment!

While you may be picturing a short, green, bushy thing, it's not "that" shrub. The *shrub* I'm talking about is a syrup - made from fruit, vinegar, sugar and other spices - intended to be mixed with water to make a refreshing beverage. *Shrubs* were popular eons ago due to the vinegar that kept it fresh before refrigeration existed. During Prohibition, *shrubs* were enjoyed as a substitute for alcoholic beverages. Today, with renewed interest in craft beer, wine and cocktails, the *shrub* is showing a revival.

OK, OK, what does this have to do with the Gourd?

Well, as I began playing with *shrub* recipes, my Gourd-Head friend asked if I would help at her vendor booth at the Ohio Gourd Show in Delaware, Ohio. Immediately, I wondered if there was a way to make a beverage from a gourd..... Although my friend looked at me like I'd grown a 3rd eye in the middle of my forehead, I cannot resist a good challenge!

Enter the BITTER GOURD!! Of the family Cucurbitaceae, bitter gourds are edible gourds common in Chinese and Indian cuisines. Interestingly, the bitter gourd is considered to be very nutritious and in fact has been used in traditional Asian medicine for a variety of ailments - from stomach complaints to diabetes!

Weeks later, I was elbow-deep in bowls full of chopped gourds trying to figure out how to extract a flavor that could be married with a vinegar and a sugar to create a refreshing *shrub*. My initial experiments were clear failures as it was difficult to rid the drink of an offensive, bitter aftertaste.



Chinese bitter gourd.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Momordica_charantia



After a few more tries, I found the perfect technique to banish the bitter and uncover an earthy flavor. Then I created a recipe of bitter gourd, vinegar, sugar and spices until the flavors came together to create a complex sweet and sour syrup. I bottled it up, and loaded it into a cooler for the trip to the Show.

And then came the ultimate showdown: I served small samples of my Gourd *shrub* topped with seltzer water at the Gourd Show and asked people to tell me the truth... was it "yuk" or "yum?" The results were surprisingly positive! Most found it "interesting," "unique" or "refreshing," and some have already marked their calendar to look for it again next year. All in all, it was a great learning experience for me - and hopefully - for my fellow gourd enthusiasts!

Shared by Vikkie Mustad

"CALLING ALL JUDGES & CLERKS"

"Gourdings"!

The Ohio Gourd Show is looking for Judge and Clerk volunteers for the 2018 Show! The show will once again be held at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, October 5th-7th, 2018. Judging will begin at 11am Saturday October 6th, and finish that afternoon. I have 25 spots to fill and hope that you can join us for our 2018 show! Please respond by September 1st, 2018. Please include in your response if there are certain classes you would/ would not like to judge. I will be sending judging packets, class assignments, and other information before the Show! Thank you! I hope to see you at the show!

859.466.9308 agourdfamily@gmail.com 455 Bells Run Road Sardinia, Ohio 45171

Laura Martin Judging Coordinator.



JULY 25th - AUG 5th



"IT IS ALMOST OHIO STATE FAIR TIME"

That's Right! It is not too early to plan for entries at the 2018 Ohio State Fair. This year, the Fair runs from July 25th thru August 5th. The information about entries is carried on the Ohio State Fair website at: www.ohiostatefair.com. Cardinal Hall is a fantastic venue for the arts and crafts entries, and everyone involved in 2017 is hopeful for an even bigger display in 2018. The general classes for Gourd Art (Division 4201) are: 1. Painted/Colored, 2. Carved/Wood Burned, 3. Decorated (any technique), 4. Doll/Animal/Character, 5. Jewelry, 6. Musical Instrument, and 7. Holiday Theme. Please be sure to check the Fair's website to see the exact class descriptions. Entries for the 2018 Ohio State Fair are always due on **June 20th**.

For more information, contact John Martin at; 937-446-2174 or email him at; martin.jf.kl@frontier.com

By John Martin

Visit
delaware
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The Ohio Gourd Society, Inc. is a Beta Chapter of the American Gourd Society. All members must be a member of the American Gourd Society.

“GROWING GOURDS” by Esther Flatness

The most common gourds grown in gardens are the Lagenarias, or hard shell gourds, the luffa sponge gourd, and the Ornamental gourds.

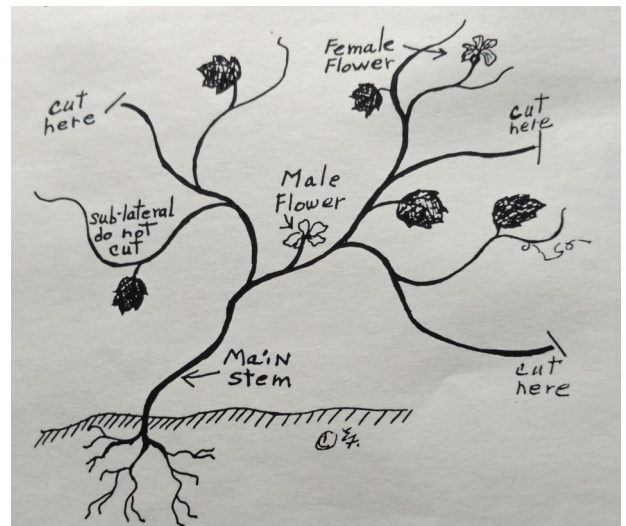
Gourd seed can be slow to germinate. Lagenarias planted outdoors in the ground may take a week to ten days. They can be started in peat pots inside under a growing lamp but need to be set out and gradually introduced to the sun before planting in the garden.

The method I like best is to place the seed in a damp paper towel and keep warm until they sprout. Cover with another paper towel and keep moist. Begin checking the seeds for white sprouting roots peaking out. Take them to the garden to be planted being careful not to let the seed root dry out.

Like pumpkins and squash they require lots of sun and plenty of water during the first part of the season. Plant in any good well-drained garden soil with compost, manure, or a low nitrogen fertilizer such as 2-8-6 mix. Do not plant until the danger of frost has past. Plant seeds 1-1/2 to 2 inches. Plant at least two in a hill about 3 feet apart to allow for growing room. Large heavy gourds grow on the ground while other lighter gourds may grow on a fence or trellis.

The striped cucumber beetle will bother gourds. Pesticides may be used to help in this situation.

To get the most production the vines should be pruned. If left unpruned, the main stem may grow 50 feet long with only one or two branches. The



female flowers, where the fruit develops, on the branches or laterals as they are called and the male flowers that produce the pollen grow on the main stem. When the main stem is 10 to 12 feet long, cut off the end forcing the laterals which produce female flowers. When these laterals have four leaves, again cut off their ends, to bring sub-laterals. **DO NOT PRUNE THE SUB-LATERALS.**

Both kinds of flowers must be in bloom at the same time for

pollination to take place in order to produce the gourd fruit. In the luffas and ornamentals, which have yellow blossoms that appear during the day, the pollination is done by bees in the morning hours since the blossoms usually close by 11am. The Lagenarias are night blooming and their flat, white blossoms are pollinated by moths. If you notice the tiny fruits falling off in a day or two, you may need to do some hand pollination. Use a small brush or Q tip to pick up the pollen from the male flower and transfer it to the pistil of the female flower. **Note: Be sure to use a different brush or Q tip for each type of gourd to be pollinated.** For night bloomers you need to do this during the late evening or early morning hours. Excessive heat or rain can cause poor natural pollination.

Natural or open pollination, done by insects, may result in cross pollination between varieties. Hand pollinate if you want to keep the gourd fruit true to type. The white flowered Lagenarias or hard shelled gourds will not cross pollinate with yellow flowered pumpkins or squash.



GOURD HAPPENINGS

“The Franklin Park Gourd Event”



March 3rd, & 4th 2018
Franklin Park Conservatory
1777 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43203



There will be gourd crafts for sale along with demonstrations of musical instruments and different gourd techniques. Please come join us for the weekend. Admission to the park is required.

“OGS 2018 Annual Spring Meeting”

Sat., April 21st, 2018 at 11am. Lunch will be at 12 noon



Franklin Park Conservatory



Outback Kitchen

This will also be at Franklin Park Conservatory. There will be a potluck lunch. Please bring a main dish and a side dish to share along with drinks of your choice and table servings for your family. The meeting will be held in the Outback Kitchen bldg. take the outside road along the east side of the conservatory and look for the signs. Hope to see you ALL there!

OHIO GOURD SOCIETY MEETING DATES

Franklin Park Gourd Event

March 3th & 4th

Franklin Park Conservatory
1777 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43213

OGS SPRING MEETING

April 21st 2017

Franklin Park Conservatory
1777 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43213

OHIO STATE FAIR

July 25th - August 5th

Ohio Exhibition Center
17th Avenue,
Columbus, OH 43211

OHIO GOURD SHOW

October 5, 6, & 7th 2018

Delaware County
Fairgrounds
236 Pennsylvania Ave.
Delaware, Ohio 43015

ohiogourd@hotmail.com

www.ohiogourdsociety.com

www.facebook.com/ohiogourdshow

614-206-6083

At the Spring Meeting we will be talking about many items concerning our activities throughout the year. This is a good time to get acquainted with the OGS Officers and to learn more about how your Ohio Gourd Society, Inc. works and what it takes to make all these things happen. We are always in need of volunteers to help along the way leading up to the Ohio Gourd Show in the fall. At this meeting we will be discussing those needs and hopefully getting new people to volunteer taking the load off of our current offices and Committee Members. PLEASE plan to attend this meeting to help us keep the Ohio Gourd Society, Inc. and the Ohio Gourd Show going. The mission of the Ohio Gourd Society, Inc. is to educate people, young and old, about GOURDS!

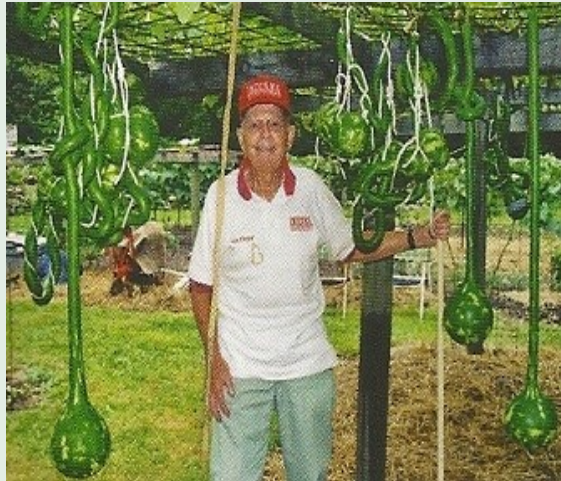
If you plan to attend, please RSVP the number of people you will have attending to Bruce Barber at; 614-206-6083 or ohiogourd@hotmail.com

JIM STORY-GOURD FEVER-HOW I GOT IT

Since the mid 60's I have grown gourds. Not having sufficient space at our home, we grew gourds in my father-in-law's garden in Anderson, Indiana, in my neighbor's back yard and in another neighbor's backyard across the street. Mr. William T. Mears of Anderson, a long time member of the "American Gourd Society", introduced me to the "American Gourd Society" and the "Ohio Gourd Show". We started attending the Ohio Gourd Show in the early 70's. My interest in gourds was intensified by the amazing exhibits at the shows. Mr. O.C. Stevens is difficult to turn down and the thought of exhibiting and competing intrigued me. Starting in 1979, we have exhibited in every gourd show.



Participation in the 'Ohio Gourd Show' has caused the gourd fever to worsen. The cordial and friendly attitudes of Ohio Gourd people have contributed to my seemingly incurable condition. In to the Ohio folks, the "Ohio Gourd Show" has acquainted us with some of the most interesting and famous gourd people of America, such as Marvin Johnson of North Carolina, Minnie Black of Kentucky and many more.



Our gourd activities have brought us recognition. We are now being asked to put gourd programs for garden clubs. Several club members have used our gourds in floral designs for flower shows. They like the Long Handle Dippers with contorted handles. Mr. Bob Thomas, a nationally known

flower design instructor, has used Story gourds in some of his classes.

Gourds are really fun to grow and the bonus is what you can do with them after they are dry. Mature gourds can last for centuries. Gourds offer unlimited possibilities for the craftsman. If you want to add spice to your life, start exhibiting at the "Ohio Gourd Show."

RX for Gourd Fever;

1. Join the American Gourd Society, Inc. or one of it's chapters.
2. Grow both Lagenarias, (Hard Shell) and Cucurbita gourds.
3. Find uses for your dry gourds. There are hundreds of ways they can be used.
4. Get acquainted with as many gourd people as possible. Ask questions.
5. Exhibit at the Ohio Gourd Show. It is not as difficult as you think. You will receive all the help you need. Ask for a show booklet with classes to enter in.
6. Promote gourds in your community. Accumulate dry gourds and craft items and display them at craft shows. Offer to give gourd programs to local garden clubs. Share gourd seed and culture information. Ask news papers to take pictures of outstanding and unusual gourds.



OHIO GOURD SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE OR PROV _____

ZIP CODE OR POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER (____) _____

EMAIL _____

The Annual Dues for Membership are \$12.00. **These dues are due January 1 of each year.** This membership includes your subscription to our quarterly **Gourd Greetings**. Please make your check or money order (US \$12.00) PAYABLE TO:

OHIO GOURD SOCIETY, 6305 Dustin Rd., Galena, OH 43021-9758

email: ohiogourd@hotmail.com web site: www.ohiogourdsociety.com

All OGS Members must be a member of the American Gourd Society www.americangourdsociety.org

GG Information:

Gourd Greetings "GG" is the official publication of the Ohio Gourd Society, (OGS) Inc. No part may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from the OGS, Inc.

Publications are; March, June, Sept., Dec. **Article submission deadline is the 1st day of the previous month.**

"GG" correspondence should be addressed to:

Gourd Greetings, C/O Bruce Barber, 6305 Dustin Rd., Galena, Ohio 43021-9758 Ph. 614-206-6083 email; ohiogourd@hotmail.com

You **MUST** be a member of the American Gourd Society, (AGS) Inc. in order to be a member of the OGS Chapter. The OGS does not collect dues for the AGS. Send AGS Dues \$15.00 to American Gourd Society, Inc., P.O. Box 2186, Kokomo, IN 46904 www.americangourdsociety.org

Membership in OGS is \$12.00 per year **Due each year the 1st of January** and includes 4 issues of the "Gourd Greetings", with articles about growing, crafting, gourd happenings, and special events and our Annual Show Booklet. It also entitles members to have a vote at all OGS meetings and a free listing on our OGS Web Site.

NOTE: Your membership has expired when the date is in RED!

HELP NEEDED

Souvenir's Membership Gourd Greetings

**Interested, Contact Bruce Barber at :
614-206-6083 or ohiogourd@gmail.com**

2018 Officers of the "Ohio Gourd Society"

President _____ Nelson Litzenberg
1st Vice President _____ Abe Martin
2nd Vice President _____ Celia Roberts
Secretary _____ Jenn Ross
Treasurer _____ Judy Litzenberg
Assistant Treasurer _____ Gordon Smith
Membership Secretary _____ Judy Barber
Director _____ Norm Roberts
Director _____ Anna Miller
Show Chair _____ Bruce Barber
Publicity _____ Christina Voise
Publicity Ass't. & Photographer _____ Jenn Ross
Historian _____ Marcia Hintz
Advisor _____ John Martin
GG Editors ---- Bruce Barber & Larry Sherman
Website ----- Lyn Rehm⁷

Gourd Greetings
C/O Bruce Barber
6305 Dustin Rd.
Galena, Ohio 43021-9758

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Cover Story



The picture on the cover goes along with our show theme for the 2018 Ohio Gourd Show, “Fall into Gourds”. When you mention Fall Gourds, Most people think of the gourds we use to decorate our homes or businesses with. These are ornamental gourds. I hope to see many show entries using hard shell gourds also in our display area. Gourds with leaves and so on. Get your thinking cap on and see what you can create for this theme category.

FEATURED ARTICLES

ATTENTION OGS MEMBERS

If you have an article that you would like to see featured in the GG, Please send me a picture of your gourd and a brief description about it to: Ohio Gourd Society, Inc.,
ATTN: GG Editor, 6305 Dustin Rd. Galena, OH 43021
or email to: ohiogourd@hotmail.com