

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 9, 2010**

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**Gourd Festival Coming to Michigan - You'd be Out Of Your Gourd to Miss This**  
*1<sup>st</sup> Annual Michigan Festival of Gourds Benefitting Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation to be held  
September 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Imlay City*

Come September, gourd artists and suppliers who prize this unique fruit for its creative, functional and culinary uses, will converge at the Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds for the inaugural Michigan Festival of Gourds.

The goal of the three day event from September 17-19 is two fold: to bring together gourders so they can share their knowledge and to raise awareness of programs at Children's Hospital of Michigan. All net proceeds from the weekend will go the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation.

Want to learn more about gourds? Some of the classes being offered include:

- seed saving and growing gourds
- gourding 101
- power-carving on gourds
- making a drum
- jewelry making
- cooking with gourds and blossoms.

Pre-registration is required. Find all class listings at the website.

Well known gourd artist Bonnie Gibson from Arizona will be one of the instructors. She is the first artist working with gourds to be selected for the National Parks "Artist-in-Residence" program. A slide show will be featured documenting her experience at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

The festival will also feature demonstrations, live entertainment, a "make and take" gourd crafts area for children plus food and refreshments. Vendors will be on hand selling fresh and dried gourds, decorating supplies such as wood-burners, power-carving tools, dyes, paints, embellishments and more.

Another exciting attraction of the weekend is an American Gourd Society judged competition which will be organized by the Michigourders, a group of gourd artists and enthusiasts from southeast Michigan.

Gourdster races will pit miniature gourds on wheels against one another in a soap box derby-type contest. This is one of the family fun activities that will be offered.

A quilt of gourd tiles, decorated by artists from across the United States, Canada and Australia, will also be on display.

Admission to the festival is \$5.00 for adults, kids 12 and under get in for free.

For more information about class registration, selling, volunteering or sponsoring, please visit the festival web site at [www.michiganfestivalofgourds.com](http://www.michiganfestivalofgourds.com)

The mission of the Michigan Festival of Gourds is to host its annual festival which raises funds for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation.