



I Remember Jim Story by Bill Lanning

I met Jim Story many years ago at the gourd show held at Mt. Gilead, Ohio. My wife and I were coerced to attend the show by one of the exhibitors who is a good friend.

Wilda Vogelehuber introduced us to Jim and he immediately made us feel welcome. He told us how great it is to work with gourds and also the gourd people are great friends. We found Jim to be a true gentleman who truly lived his life surrounded by friends and gourds. I believe he told everyone about gourds and explained the advantages of joining the American Gourd Society.

It was because of Jim's enthusiasm that we ended up as gourd exhibitors, judges and became fully involved in the Ohio Gourd Society.

One humorous recollection about Jim is his organizing a hat contest every year. One young lady that he had influenced to enter the hat contest showed that he was

a true gentleman. She wore a hat that was an elephant in great detail. It looked very nice from the front, but as she walked past the judges, it was obvious that it was a male elephant. It was the only time that I saw Jim Story speechless and very red-faced.

Another memory of Jim was the gourd garden he had perfected over the years. He twisted, bent, manipulated and formed interesting shapes, especially with the extra-long handled dipper gourds. He was always willing to share his knowledge and expertise about gourds. He was an excellent grower and artist. My wife cherishes one of his twisted gourd creations that is used as a vase to exhibit gladiolus.

