



Pumpkinfest & Regatta

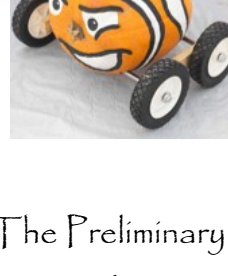
FRESH FROM THE PATCH...

In This Issue:

- The Latest Dirt... General News & Updates
- Calling All Pumpkin Heads... Volunteers Needed
- How Does Your Pumpkin Grow? Growers Tips & Guidelines
- Great Pumpkins' Favorite Picks... Upcoming Events Not to Miss
- The Pumpkin Store... Merchandising

The Latest Dirt...

Welcome Back Pumpkinfest Family...to the 5th Annual and Best Ever, Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta currently in the making! Each year brings exciting new Events, Entertainment, Vendors, Artists, Growers, Sponsors, Volunteers and of course... Pumpkins!! If you have not yet jumped on the Pumpkin Wagon, what are you waiting for?



Introducing ... The Pumpkin Derby!

This New Event is sure to be All The Rage for the 2011 season, so be sure to stay tuned as we reveal more details in the coming months.

The Preliminary 2011 Schedule of Events is available for viewing at <http://damariscottapumpkinfest.com/> ... be sure to mark you calendars accordingly and pass the word on to friends and family!

Exciting new developments are taking place every day and there is no telling where wild imaginations may take us, so the only thing to do now, as our Regatta Captains advise ... is jump on board and hold on tight! Breaking News posted daily on our [facebook page](#) and our [website](#).

Calling All Pumpkin Heads...

Volunteering for Pumpkinfest is not only tons of fun, but it feels great to get involved in the wonderful community in which we live. There are many levels of participation, that cover a variety of different interests. Join us to find your niche and become a member of the Pumpkinfest family.

Volunteer Opportunities Available:

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Plantlet Give-Away May 22, 2011

We've been cooped up all winter long and this event is the perfect opportunity to get outside, socialize, celebrate the arrival of Spring AND help out with a great event! For information on how you can help contact Jen York at JYork@tidewater.net. For more information about the event, see the Events Section of this newsletter below.

Maine Artists Submit Your Design By April 15th, 2011

There is still time to submit your design for the official 2011 Festival Tee..for details visit our website at <http://damariscottapumpkinfest.com/2011/03/14/calling-all-artists-2/>

Regatta Organizer/Chairman Immediate Opening

This Pumpkin Crew needs a Skipper and in our Coastal Community we just know our perfect Mate is out there! Interested in jumping on board the most popular event of the festival? Contact Kathy at Kathypaul7@aol.com.

Experienced Grant Writer Immediate Opening

Do you have experience with grant writing and a desire to share your knowledge with our team? If so, please contact Kathypaul7@aol.com.

General Volunteer Opportunities Ongoing

Do you enjoy working with children, building things, taking photographs or performing administrative tasks? Or maybe music is your passion, or theater, or art, or creating the perfect mixture of all things pumpkin. Maybe you're a history buff, native to the area with interesting knowledge of farming and harvesting and how it has changed over the years. Maybe you're more of an Adventure seeker who enjoys smashing, gutting or throwing things. No matter your hobby of choice, guaranteed there is a volunteer position just right for you, on the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta Committee. What are you waiting for?

How Does Your Pumpkin Grow?

...And now ladies and gentlemen... the dirt you've all been waiting for... Tips, Suggestions and Secrets from our very own Pumpkin Expert Panel..

There's still time to prepare your beds for the new pumpkin crop... here are a few hints to consider before your new little-one comes home from the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Nursery on May 22nd...

- All weeds should be removed from the patch.
- Apply aged manure, cow is best with horse being the second choice.
- Compost, Compost, Compost !!!
- Till the bed thoroughly so the manure is evenly distributed.
- Apply a balanced fertilizer such as Espoma Garden Tone and the

appropriate amount of Gypsum and Greensand. For example on a 400 square foot patch, use one 50# bag of Garden Tone and one 50# bag of Gypsum, depending on the subject soil. (The best way to determine fertilizer needs is to obtain a professional soil test. Soil tests can be obtained through the University of Maine at: <http://anlab.umesci.maine.edu/>. Request the Standard Soil Test, Soil Package #1.)

- Roto-till all the amendments into your soil, incorporating thoroughly, and your patch will be on its way to a nutrient rich soil by May 22nd.
- After your patch is tilled, erect a small hoophouse or coldframe over the area where your seedling will be planted. The purpose of this mini-greenhouse is two

-fold. Your plant needs the ground to be warm before planting and your plant will need to be protected from cold weather on those early spring nights. The enclosure should be large enough for the plant to grow inside for up to 3 weeks so a 3' x 3' area should be the minimum area it covers. Remember if you keep the top of the enclosure fairly low to the ground, you will retain more of the days heat after dark. Many growers utilize lightbulbs or heaters to keep the temperature up at night. For more growing tips, visit <http://www.maine-pumpkins.com/howto.html>

Author/Publisher and Giant Pumpkin Guru, Don Langevin



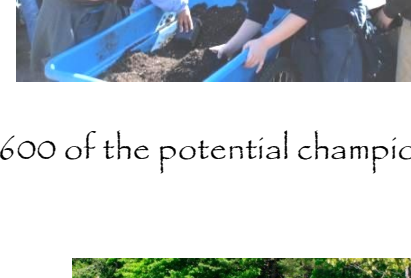
shares his growing tips, as well as a rather personal look at his home life...

- http://www.giantpumpkin.com/preparing_seeds_2.html
- http://www.giantpumpkin.com/growing_schedule.html

Great Pumpkins' Favorite Picks...

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Plantlet Give-Away May 22, 2011

It's time once again to collect your FREE Giant Atlantic Pumpkin Plantlet ... Thanks to the "Garden and Greenhouse" Students at Great Salt Bay School who will spend a week with their hands in the dirt,



600 Giant Atlantic pumpkin seeds will be planted and ready for adoption! Just like previous years, the FREE plantlets will be available at Pinkham's Plantation, 431 Biscay Road in

Damariscotta, from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. or until all 600 of the potential champion gourds are placed.

BRING YOUR OWN BUCKET

for your FREE 5 gallons of

Pinkham's Poo (AKA: Organic Amendment)



Pinkham's Plantation will also have their \$5 pumpkin kit available for purchase. Also available for our growers convenience... our 'Pumpkin Expert Panel', {award winning giant pumpkin growers... Bill Clark, Buzz Pinkham and Tom Lishness, Curt Crosby and Edwin Pierpont}, will be onsite to assist in your effort to grow Maine State's 2011 champion gourd! Be sure to take advantage of this rare opportunity to pick their pumpkin expert brains and maybe even learn a few of their secrets!

Between Now and Then..., please remember to give some thought to the local non-profit that you will select to be the recipient of half of your 'pumpkin pledges' this year, as our registrars will be asking ... See you there!!!

The Pumpkin Store...

Purchasing merchandise from our Pumpkinfest collection is an excellent way to help promote and support the Event and Maine Artists alike. Not to mention the added benefit of sporting really cool gear!

Commemorative Caps, T-shirts & Pens currently will be available for Purchase at The Plantlet Giveaway Event!