



Fresh From the Patch...

In This Issue

[The Latest Dirt...](#)

[Calling All PumpkinHeads...](#)

[How Does Your Pumpkin Grow?](#)

[The Great Pumpkins' Favorite Picks...](#)

[The Pumpkin Store](#)

The Latest Dirt...

Calling All Pumpkins...

Please email Bill Clark as soon as you can at: stunner906@roadrunner.com with an estimate of the size and number of your crop, so that we might have an idea of what to expect at the weigh-off and for decorative pumpkins downtown ! And THANK YOU ALL for growing your pumpkins this summer...there wouldn't be a Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta without our volunteer growers !!

The Prizes...

VOLUNTEER-GROWERS' WEIGH-OFF FOR PRIZES & GIFT CERTIFICATES - SATURDAY OCT. 1:

In addition to the officially sanctioned GPC weigh-off, a separate "Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Volunteer Growers' Weigh-Off" will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2011. Pumpkin drop-off will be between the hours of 7AM and 10AM on Saturday, October 1, with the Volunteer-Growers' Weigh-Off beginning promptly at 10AM that day.

This special Volunteer-Growers' weigh-off is open to all growers who picked up free "Pumpkinfest Plantlets" at Pinkham's Plantation in the spring and wish to weigh their grown pumpkins. Prizes and gift certificates will be awarded on a

"pick your prize" basis while prizes last. Volunteer growers are welcome to participate in the sanctioned GPC Weigh-Off instead of the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Volunteer Growers Weigh-Off if they so choose, but they cannot participate in both weigh-offs.

PLEASE BRING YOUR PUMPKIN TO THE WEIGH-OFF SITTING ON A PALLET TO EXPEDITE WEIGHING AND MOVING THE GIANTS !

It would be very much appreciated if pumpkinfest's volunteer growers would "volunteer" ALL of their pumpkins (whether boat sized or not) for use as downtown display pumpkins, pumpkin catapult, drop and chunking ammunition, children's activities, or boat building at the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta... a plaque will be hung from each of the downtown display pumpkins with your name noted as the pumpkin's grower, as well as its weight, the financial sponsor's name and the artist....a "tour guide" of pumpkin locales will be found on the web site after the pumpkins are deployed on Thursday night, October 6, and you will be able to tour downtown during Columbus Day weekend to find your pumpkin !!

OFFICIAL GPC WEIGH-OFF - SUNDAY, OCT. 2:

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta will host the Third Annual Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Weigh-Off on Sunday, October 2, 2011, at Pinkham's Plantation, 431 Biscay Road, Damariscotta, Maine. This weigh-off is officially sanctioned by the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC) <http://www.greatpumpkincommonwealth.com>. Master of Ceremonies for the official GPC Weigh-Off will be WGME 13 Chief Meteorologist and Giant Pumpkin Grower, Charlie Lopresti.

The GPC Weigh-Off is open to resident and non-resident growers in classes for both adult and children (growers between 8 and 16 years). Pumpkin drop-off will be between the hours of 7AM and 10AM on Sunday, October 2, with the GPC Weigh-Off beginning promptly at 10AM.

It is required that the top five pumpkins in all categories at both of the weigh-offs remain at the weigh-off site for display during Damariscotta Pumpkinfest from October 2 through 9. Pumpkin pick-up will be on Sunday, October 9 between the hours of 3PM and 4PM or later during that week.

The Food...

-

PUMPKIN DESSERT CONTEST REGISTRATION NOW OPEN:

Interested participants please contact event supervisor Gail Berry at 563-1774 (nailsbygail@hotmail.com) or go to www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com to download a registration form.

Prizes will include \$150 for first prize, \$100 for second and \$50 for third. All types of pumpkin desserts -- pies, cakes, cookies, muffins, shortbreads, puddings, crisps, clafoutis, cobblers, tarts, candies, mousse, souffles, ice creams, tortes, trifles, creme caramels, flans, semifreddos, crepes, strudels, are eligible but they must include fresh, frozen, or canned pumpkin.

PUMPKIN DELIGHTS AND OTHER "STREET FOOD":

During the 2011 Pumpkinfest & Regatta, the streets of Damariscotta will be filled

with the smells of a variety of delicious offerings from downtown restaurants, as well as vendors and service clubs. Delectable delights will be on sale at locations both in town and at the remote event locations, all of which will be noted on the new "2011-Menu Map". This map will be available on our web site, as well as in hard copy, FREE at sponsor's businesses. Food will include pumpkin treats such as whoopee pies, bisque and muffins, as well as traditional fare such as burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches and Italian sausage will be offered. Local delights including lobster rolls and seafood chowder, and seasonal favorites like such as caramel apples and soft pretzels will also be available. With such a wide array of options, there promises to be something for everyone!

The Logistics...

MAINE EASTERN RAILROAD EXCURSION TRAIN BETWEEN BRUNSWICK & ROCKLAND TO STOP AT NEWCASTLE/DAMARISCOTTA DURING PUMPKINFEST:

Check out: <http://www.maineeasternrailroad.com/> and plan on taking the kids on a train ride to or from Damariscotta for Pumpkinfest ! The train will stop at the old Newcastle train station (on Academy Hill between Lincoln Academy and the Newcastle Publick House) where a shuttle van will be waiting to take you downtown.

FREE SHUTTLE VANS AVAILABLE FROM LINCOLN ACADEMY (L.A.) PARKING LOT TO DOWNTOWN EVENTS:

The Lincoln County News will publish a 12 page supplement in September which will include articles written by our volunteers regarding events and pumpkin experiences, as well as a very helpful map of events/L.A. parking lot and shuttle van pick-up points/the new food court & infozone/Maine Eastern Railroad Train Station/ etc. . We hope you will look for the supplement and retain it for use during the festival, October 1-10, 2011 ...

Calling All Pumpkinheads...

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. For available volunteer opportunity please contact jyork@tidewater.net.

How Does Your Pumpkin Grow?

More Fresh Dirt according to our expert grower Bill Clark...

Late Season Protection:

- Cold weather can sometimes come early in the northeast. Your pumpkin can continue to grow right up to the day you cut it free from the vine, only at a much slower rate. These extra few pounds can make a difference when it comes time to weigh your fruit. So extra

steps need to be taken to protect your fruit and plant as cooler weather sets in.

Something that can be done to keep your fruit growing is to cover your fruit with a blanket or two when the temperatures at night dip into the 40's. The blanket will help keep the heat of the day in your fruit for a longer period at night thereby encouraging continued growth. Another step that can be taken to prolong your season is to protect the plant when the threat of frost looms later in the season. Pumpkin plants have no tolerance for frost and even a slight frost can leave you waking up to leaves that are black and wilted, ending your season. There are a couple things you can do to protect the plant when the temperature dips down to levels where frost is possible. One thing that can be done, although somewhat labor intensive is to erect a cover over as much of the plant as possible, keeping the heat of the day inside the enclosure and holding the frost at bay. This entails what amounts to a full-size greenhouse or a big cold frame, requiring quite a bit of material and added cost to your effort. Some growers will even use different types of heaters inside the enclosure to keep the temperature up. Another, somewhat easier way to protect your plant from frost is to run sprinklers on a timer over the plant at intervals throughout the night. The water acts to warm the plant surface and prevent frost from forming. In either case, there is added effort involved and it is up to the individual grower as to what extent one will go to keep the plant growing late in the season.

Estimating Weight:

Thanks to years of research and effort by a group of growers, there are two methods a grower can use to estimate the weight of an Atlantic Giant pumpkin as it grows through the season. Growers use these weight estimates to gauge progress and interpret what the plant may need or is lacking as weights increase or slack off.

- The first method that can be used is by simply measuring your fruit at mid girth parallel to the ground and bouncing that measurement off a circumference chart (See Table 2 Below). This method can give a rough idea of weigh, but can be skewed due to the wall thickness of a fruit or odd shape.

- The most accurate and widely used method is known as the Over-The-Top method or OTT. This method is done by adding up 3 measurements; circumference, side-to-side measurement and end-to-end measurement. For circumference, use the technique described above. The side-to-side measurement is made by holding one end of the tape on the ground vertically below the side of the fruit and stretching it up to the side, over the top of the fruit and down to the ground vertically below the other side. The end-to-end measurement is the same as the side-to-side only it is measured from the ground vertically up the stem end, along the surface over the top of the fruit and down to the ground vertically below the blossom end. Make sure you run the tape vertically down to the ground from the furthest extending point, not along the surface under the fruit for both the side-to-side and the end-to-end measurements. Add these three measurements together and bounce the total off the OTT chart (See Table 1 Below).

Inches	Lbs.																				
91	21.3	121	44	151	80	181	131	211	201	241	293	271	412	301	561	331	743	361	962	391	1221
92	21.9	122	45	152	81	182	133	212	203	242	297	272	417	302	566	332	750	362	970	392	1230
93	22.5	123	46	153	83	183	135	213	206	243	300	273	421	303	572	333	756	363	978	393	1240
94	23.2	124	47	154	84	184	137	214	209	244	304	274	426	304	578	334	763	364	986	394	1249
95	23.8	125	48	155	86	185	139	215	212	245	308	275	430	305	583	335	770	365	994	395	1259
96	24.5	126	49	156	87	186	141	216	214	246	311	276	435	306	589	336	777	366	1002	396	1268
97	25.1	127	50	157	89	187	143	217	217	247	315	277	440	307	595	337	784	367	1010	397	1278
98	25.8	128	51	158	90	188	145	218	220	248	319	278	444	308	600	338	791	368	1019	398	1288
99	26.5	129	53	159	92	189	147	219	223	249	322	279	449	309	606	339	798	369	1027	399	1297
100	27.2	130	54	160	93	190	149	220	226	250	326	280	454	310	612	340	805	370	1035	400	1307
101	27.9	131	55	161	95	191	152	221	229	251	330	281	458	311	618	341	812	371	1044	401	1317
102	28.6	132	56	162	96	192	154	222	232	252	334	282	463	312	624	342	819	372	1052	402	1327
103	29.3	133	57	163	98	193	156	223	235	253	338	283	468	313	630	343	826	373	1060	403	1337
104	30.1	134	58	164	100	194	158	224	238	254	341	284	473	314	636	344	833	374	1069	404	1347
105	30.8	135	59	165	101	195	161	225	241	255	345	285	478	315	642	345	840	375	1078	405	1357
106	31.6	136	60	166	103	196	163	226	244	256	349	286	483	316	648	346	848	376	1086	406	1367
107	32.4	137	62	167	105	197	165	227	247	257	353	287	488	317	654	347	855	377	1095	407	1377
108	33.1	138	63	168	106	198	168	228	250	258	357	288	493	318	660	348	862	378	1104	408	1387
109	33.9	139	64	169	108	199	170	229	253	259	361	289	498	319	666	349	870	379	1112	409	1397
110	34.7	140	65	170	110	200	172	230	256	260	365	290	503	320	672	350	877	380	1121	410	1408
111	35.6	141	66	171	112	201	175	231	260	261	369	291	508	321	678	351	885	381	1130	411	1418
112	36.4	142	68	172	113	202	177	232	263	262	374	292	513	322	685	352	892	382	1139	412	1428
113	37.2	143	69	173	115	203	180	233	266	263	378	293	518	323	691	353	900	383	1148	413	1439
114	38.1	144	70	174	117	204	182	234	269	264	382	294	523	324	697	354	907	384	1157	414	1449
115	39.0	145	72	175	119	205	185	235	273	265	386	295	529	325	704	355	915	385	1166	415	1460
116	39.9	146	73	176	121	206	187	236	276	266	390	296	534	326	710	356	923	386	1175	416	1470
117	40.8	147	74	177	123	207	190	237	280	267	395	297	539	327	717	357	930	387	1184	417	1481
118	41.7	148	76	178	125	208	193	238	283	268	399	298	545	328	723	358	938	388	1193	418	1492
119	42.6	149	77	179	127	209	195	239	286	269	403	299	550	329	730	359	946	389	1202	419	1502
120	43.5	150	78	180	129	210	198	240	290	270	408	300	556	330	736	360	954	390	1212	420	1513

Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.
31	12.5	51	48.0	71	112	91	210	111	345	131	537	151	770	171	1111
32	13.7	52	50.5	72	116	92	215	112	353	132	548	152	784	172	1133
33	14.9	53	53.0	73	120	93	221	113	360	133	558	153	798	173	1155
34	16.2	54	55.7	74	125	94	227	114	368	134	569	154	812	174	1177
35	17.6	55	58.4	75	129	95	233	115	377	135	580	155	827	175	1201
36	19.0	56	61.2	76	133	96	240	116	385	136	591	156	841	176	1224
37	20.4	57	64.0	77	138	97	246	117	393	137	602	157	857	177	1249
38	22.0	58	67.0	78	142	98	252	118	402	138	613	158	872	178	1274
39	23.6	59	70.0	79	147	99	259	119	410	139	624	159	888	179	1299
40	25.2	60	73.1	80	152	100	265	120	420	140	635	160	904	180	1325
41	27.0	61	76.2	81	156	101	272	121	431	141	646	161	921	181	1352
42	28.8	62	79.5	82	161	102	279	122	442	142	658	162	938	182	1380
43	30.6	63	82.8	83	166	103	286	123	452	143	669	163	955	183	1408
44	32.5	64	86.2	84	171	104	293	124	463	144	681	164	973	184	1436
45	34.5	65	89.7	85	177	105	300	125	474	145	693	165	992	185	1466
46	36.6	66	93.2	86	182	106	307	126	484	146	706	166	1010	186	1496
47	38.7	67	96.8	87	187	107	314	127	495	147	718	167	1029	187	1527
48	41.0	68	100.6	88	193	108	322	128	506	148	731	168	1049	188	1558
49	43.2	69	104.4	89	198	109	329	129	516	149	744	169	1069	189	1590
50	45.6	70	108.2	90	204	110	337	130	527	150	757	170	1090	190	1623

2003
Tables prepared
by
DAVID MARTIN

from equations
obtained primarily from 2001 and
2002 data provided from AGGC file
to Len Stellpflug

January 2003

David Martin

L. B. Stellpflug

You can Download the latest Weight Estimation Tables at:
<http://www.bigpumpkins.com/Attachments/2005WeightTables.pdf>

The Great Pumpkins' Favorite Picks...

PUMPKINBOAT CONSTRUCTION -- FREE TUTORIAL OFFERED AT MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Workshop: How To Build a Pumpkin Boat
Wednesday, September 28, 2011
from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Maine Maritime Museum Boatshop
253 Washington St.
Bath, ME

FREE

Learn how to turn a giant pumpkin into a boat! Bill Clark, master pumpkin boat builder, and Buzz Pinkham of Pinkham's Plantation in Damariscotta, will lead this workshop and discuss the history of giant pumpkin growing in Maine. Both men are master giant pumpkin growers, and were instrumental in launching the annual Damariscotta Pumpkinboat Regatta, which will be held this year on Sunday, October 9 in Damariscotta Harbor. This free workshop is open to the public. Please call or email Kurt Spiridakis to register, at 207-443-1316 or boatshop@maritime.org

Kurt Spiridakis
Boatshop Manager
Maine Maritime Museum
<http://www.bathmaine.com>
243 Washington St, Bath, ME 04530
207-443-1316 ext. 334

REGATTA TEAMS: BOAT BUILDING IS FUN ! COME BY PINKHAMS PLANTATION AND CREATE YOUR OWN WATERCRAFT -

Remember that no one can build your team's boat better than you can. Plan to participate in creation of your team's watercraft ! The giants will await your team's expertise from Thursday, October 6 on. Remember it is always best to have a freshly built boat in the water, so you don't want to start too early. Of course, leave enough time so your teammates can make it seaworthy !! It's fun, and there will be plenty of experienced advisors to assist your team in your creation !

Your team also might want to select your specific pumpkin before it is seeded, in order to obtain the right hull-shape. In that case, drop by Pinkham's Plantation on Wednesday and Thursday to choose your pumpkin and help seed your boat.

boatshop@maritimeme.org

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!

OFFICIAL DAMARISCOTTA PUMPKINFEST CAPS/PINS/PRINTS:

If you still don't have your official 2011 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta T-shirt, ball cap or pin, be stop by Supplies Unlimited, Pinkham's Plantation on Biscay Road in damariscotta or Romeo's

Pizza <http://www.romeospizza.biz>, and get stocked up!! Remember that the black ball caps and 2011 Tee's cost \$15.00, the commemorative pins are \$5.00....all proceeds are used to produce Pumpkinfest, and the items are really cool !!!



Commemorative Caps, T-shirts & Pins are now available for purchase, as well as our NEW 2011 Tee's... For more information on how to purchase email info@damariscottapumpkinfest.com

More Pumpkin Connections...

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Charter Sponsors...

**And Last But Certainly Not Least...
A Pumpkinboat-Load of Thanks To Our Generous Sponsors....
We couldn't do it without you!!!!**

The Lincoln County News

DownEast
THE MAGAZINE OF MAINE
www.downeast.com



Trusted Email from **Constant Contact** FREE
Try it FREE today.