

## Release: Damariscotta Pumpkinfest and Farmers' Market Partner to "Squash Hunger" at May 22 Giant Pumpkin Plantlet Give-Away

The Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta aims to grow 50,000 pounds of pumpkins by this year's festival over Columbus Day weekend. To help Pumpkinfest meet this goal, be sure to get your FREE Giant Atlantic Pumpkin plantlet at the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta Plantlet Give-Away on Sunday, May 22, 2011, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Pumpkin Plantlet Give-Away will be held at Pinkham's Plantation, which is located at 431 Biscay Road in Damariscotta, Maine 04543.

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest is very happy to partner with the Damariscotta Farmers' Market this year to "Squash Hunger." At the pumpkin seedling giveaway, people can also pick up a free Butternut Squash seedling courtesy of the Damariscotta Farmers' Market. At the Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off on October 1 and 2, the Damariscotta Farmers' Market will be collecting squash at Pinkham's and donating them to a local food pantry.

The Damariscotta Farmers' Market is held on Fridays at the DRA on Belvedere Road 9 a.m. to noon, and Mondays starting June 13 at Rising Tide Market from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Be sure to bring a bucket to collect your free, 5 gallons of compost! In addition, Pinkham's Plantation will be selling its official \$5 "Pumpkin Plant Kit."

At the Pumpkin Plantlet Give-Away, please plan to spend some time with Pumpkinfest's horticultural experts. These experienced and award winning giant pumpkin growers - Bill Clark, Curt Crosby, Tom Lishness, Edwin Pierpont, and Buzz Pinkham - will be available to answer questions and offer suggestions on how to grow the 2011 Maine State champion gourd.

Find out about participating in the "Pumpkin Pledge Program" when you register for your free plant on the day of the giveaway. Last year, close to \$3,000 was raised for local nonprofit organizations.

The official 2011 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta T-shirt (\$15), Pumpkinfest ball caps (\$15), and die-cut 2010 Pumpkinfest pins (\$5) will be available. Food and snacks will also be sold during the giveaway. All the proceeds from official merchandise and food sales help pay for Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta event costs.

The magazine sponsor for the 2011 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta is Down East Magazine. The Lincoln County News is the official newspaper sponsor. For details on all things Pumpkinfest, visit the official website at <http://damariscottapumpkinfest.com>.

### Photo Caption #1:

Two, third graders from Great Salt Bay School carefully file Giant Atlantic pumpkin seeds from the prize-winning 425 pounder grown in 2010 by Bristol School student Crystal Miller. About forty students helped this week with preparations for the May 22 Plantlet Give-Away. (Phyllis Guss photo)



### Photo Caption #2:

Togus the Cat, “Storm Center” mascot of the WCSH6 (Portland) and WLBZ2 (Bangor) Morning Report, will be

appearing at the Give-Away from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Togus grew the largest pumpkin among the “volunteer growers” with help from his human “dad,” TV journalist Don Carrigan in 2009. Pictured (left to right) are Bill Clark, Togus, Donna Carrigan, and Buzz Pinkham. (Phyllis Guss photo)

