

New Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Website Goes Live; 2012 Giant Pumpkin Plantlet Give-Away Set for May 20

Learn about all things Pumpkinfest at the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta's brand new website. The URL is the same: www.DamariscottaPumpkinfest.com, but the site is bigger and very user friendly.

Not only does www.DamariscottaPumpkinfest.com include the full schedule of festival events, it also contains photos and videos of past festivals. Viewers can print out forms to enter the pumpkin dessert or pie eating contests, see how to build a pumpkin boat or derby racer, and more.

The site was designed by Ted Strauss, who donated much time, expertise, and energy to Pumpkinfest. Ted Strauss Websites, LLC, is a website practice specializing in site design and maintenance for small businesses. In the fourteen years since its inception, Ted has designed over 375 unique sites for local, national, and international clients. He focuses on creating sites that are tailored to the client and their business, as well as providing advice on the importance of marketing a website. Please visit his website, www.TedStraussWebsites.com, for more information including detailed examples of his work and testimonials from many of his clients.



The image shows the home page of the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta website. At the top left is a cartoon illustration of a jack-o'-lantern with a ghostly figure emerging from it. To its right is the title "Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta" in a stylized font. Below the title is a vertical navigation menu with links: Home, 2012 Events, Newsletter, Partners, Nearby Attractions, Plan Your Visit, Merchandise, Media Center, and Contact Us. In the center is a photograph of two young children holding small pumpkin seedlings. Below the photo is the caption "Great Atlantic Pumpkin Plantlet Give-Away". Underneath the photo is a text box with a link to become a volunteer "squashbucker" and another link for questions. To the right of this text box is a logo for "Down East THE MAGAZINE OF MAINE" with the website address www.downeast.com. At the bottom of the page is a footer with a copyright notice for 2012 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest, a disclaimer about photo usage, and the website design credit to THE STRAIN SOLUTIONS, INC.

Photo Caption: Home Page of new Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta website: www.DamariscottaPumpkinfest.com. (Courtesy of Ted Strauss and Damariscotta Pumpkinfest)

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Giant Atlantic Pumpkin Plantlet Give-Away on Sunday, May 20, 2012, from 8 a.m. on. The Pumpkin Plantlet Give-Away will be held at Pinkham's Plantation, which is located at 431 Biscay Road in Damariscotta, Maine 04543. Be sure to bring a bucket to collect your free, 5 gallons of compost!

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 you can grow the 2012 Maine State champion

gourd, and take home your share of the \$10,000 total purse from the official GPC Weigh-Off!

Find out about participating in the “Pumpkin Pledge Program” when registering on the day of the giveaway. Volunteer-growers may obtain multiple pledge-sponsors for their free pumpkin plantlet from friends and family during the growing season. Over \$5,000 has been contributed to local non-profits by Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta from pledges since 2009!

Among those who have grown a Giant Atlantic Pumpkin and will be attending the Give-Away, is Togus, a 26-pound Maine Coon cat “owned” or at least housed by WCSH6 News Center reporter, Don Carrigan and his wife Donna. When not eating, catching mice, eating, purring, eating, cat napping, and eating, Togus is the morning mascot of the Channel 6 Storm Center. With the help of Don and Donna, Togus will be growing a giant pumpkin and gathering pumpkin sponsorships again in 2012.



Photo Caption: Togus the Cat, the morning mascot of the WCSH Channel 6 Storm Center, is seated on his 2009 prize-winning pumpkin. (Photo courtesy of Don and Donna Carrigan)

In addition, members of the Pumpkin Derby Pit Crew will be at the Give-Away to relive last year's First Annual Pumpkin Derby, showing race movies, photos of the pumpkin racers, and talking about building a Derby Racer. The Second Annual Pumpkin Derby again will be free to all entrants in 2012. The top three winners of the 2012 Derby will be awarded trophies as well as bragging rights for the year.

New for 2012, as a separate event, is an exciting race loosely patterned after NASCAR. Racers in this “professional class” will pay a \$50 entry fee to race their Derby Racers in the Damariscotta Association of Stock Pumpkin Racers (DASPR) race. The fee can be paid by the racer, or be collected from sponsors whose names and logos decorate the Derby Racer. Joining DASPR is easy: payment of the entry fee automatically confers membership. The top three winners of the DASPR races will be awarded cash prizes. Be sure to stop by the Pumpkin Derby Pit Crew table to learn more about both the Pumpkin Derby and the exciting new DASPR race.



Photo Caption: Pumpkin Derby entrant under construction for inaugural 2011 Damariscotta Pumpkin Derby race. (Photo courtesy of Damariscotta Pumpkinfest)