

Release: Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Giant Pumpkin Plantlet Give-Away on May 20, 8 a.m. - Bring a Pail!

Nightly frosts are gone, flowers are blooming, and it's again time to get your FREE Giant Atlantic Pumpkin plantlet at the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta 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! In addition, Pinkham's Plantation will be selling its official \$5 "Pumpkin Plant Kit" which includes special organic fertilizers.

Togus the Cat, "Storm Center" mascot of the WCSH6 (Portland) and WLBZ2 (Bangor) Morning Report, will be appearing at the Give-Away. Togus grew the largest pumpkin among the "volunteer growers" with help from his human "dad" Don Carrigan in 2009.

Togus is Maine's favorite Coon Cat with close to 10,500 Facebook friends. He now has his own children's book: "TOGUS: A Coon Cat Finds A Home." The book is written by well-known TV journalist Don Carrigan and beautifully illustrated by local artist Thomas Block. Copies of the book will be available.

At the 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 there to answer questions and offer suggestions on how to grow the 2012 Maine State champion gourd.

When you register for your free plant on the day of the giveaway, be sure to find out about participating in the "Pumpkin Sponsorship Program." Last year, \$2,000 was raised for local nonprofit organizations designated by the growers.

The official Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta ball caps (\$15) and die-cut Pumpkinfest pins (\$5) will be available. All of the proceeds from official merchandise sales helps pay for Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta event costs.

The magazine sponsor for the 2012 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta is Down East Magazine. For details on all things Pumpkinfest, visit the official website at <http://DamariscottaPumpkinfest.com>.

Photo Caption:

Volunteer growers get some giant pumpkin tips from Edwin Pierpont, 2010 record-setting Maine pumpkin grower and one of Pumpkinfest's five experts at the 2011 Plantlet Give-Away. (Photo courtesy of Damariscotta Pumpkinfest)

