

## Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta Issues Call for Giant Pumpkin Artists

Local pumpkin growers are busy growing, and Pumpkinfest planners are busy preparing for the 2011 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta which is scheduled to begin with the Volunteer Grower's Weigh Off on Saturday, October 1.

Last year, local Maine artists more than met the challenge of carving and/or painting almost 50 Giant Pumpkins displayed from Wiscasset to Newcastle and Damariscotta. The results were extraordinary and brought thousands of viewers from all over New England and beyond.

This year the giants will be delivered on pallets, Thursday evening, October 6. They will be available for carving, painting, and decorating on Friday and Saturday. The size of the pumpkins, subject to the vagaries of Mother Nature, may range anywhere from "Jack-O-Lanterns" (about 200 pounds), to Great Pumpkins (about 400 pounds), up to "Maximas" (600 pounds and up). They could stand about 4 feet tall, if September results in good growing conditions.

We are again looking for help from Maine artists to transform these giant pumpkins into creative, fabulous works of art. Many of last year's artists will be returning this year, but more artists are needed.

Please join the 2011 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta and make the Giant Pumpkins come alive. To sign up or if you have questions, contact Nancy MacKinnon by phone at 207-677-2257, or by email at [gowethaflo@aol.com](mailto:gowethaflo@aol.com).

Additional photos of previous year's Pumpkin Art and additional information on the festival may be found at the Pumpkinfest's website <http://damariscottapumpkinfest.com>.

Photo Caption #1: Jane Hebert painting rich, glowing colors on her "Autumn Abundance" pumpkin which graced Rising Tide Market in 2010. (Photo by Phyllis Guss)



Photo Caption #2: The finished pumpkin. (Photo by Phyllis Guss)



Photo Caption #3: Glenn Chadbourne grinning almost as widely as his pumpkin in front of King Eider's Pub. (Photo by Phyllis Guss)

