

Portland Artist Karen Lybrand Selected as Pumpkinfest T-Shirt Artist for 2015

Midcoast wildlife is prominently featured on the design of Portland artist Karen Lybrand, who was selected to decorate this year's Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta T-shirt and related merchandise. In addition to a harbor seal piloting a Pumpkinboat, the whimsical design includes a number of attractions that make the midcoast and Damariscotta so appealing to residents and visitors alike, including alewives, for which the town is named, lobsters and autumn foliage.

Lybrand graduated from Syracuse University College of Visual and Performance Arts, with a BFA in Illustration and Advertising Design. In addition to her work as a freelance designer/artist, Lybrand has taught art in a community college program, public schools and as an outreach instructor in Native Alaskan villages. She also creates relief and intaglio prints and original works of art in a variety of media.

When asked about how she heard about the contest, Lybrand said that she was urged to enter a design by Damariscotta resident Ed Seidel. "I included alewives in the design as a nod to Ed and his efforts to build the stone fishway in Damariscotta Mills," said Lybrand." For more information on Lybrand's work, please visit www.karenlybrand.com.

An enormous "thank-you" goes out to the thirteen artists who submitted eighteen designs in this year's contest. The judges had an extremely difficult task choosing one design from among the terrific entries; so difficult, in fact, that two votes were needed to narrow the field of incredibly imaginative designs.

There is still plenty of opportunity for artists to be involved in this year's Pumpkinfest, as all of the giant pumpkins in the area need to be turned into works of art during the festival itself. "Artists at work" has become an extremely popular activity during Pumpkinfest, as festivalgoers enjoy chatting with the artists and watching as the giant gourds are re-invented in all manner of imaginative media. If you are interested in lending your talents to this monumental task, please email info@damariscottapumpkinfest.com .

The 2015 Pumpkinfest T-shirts will be available during August at a cost of \$20 (short sleeve), \$25 (long sleeve) and \$40 (hoodie), at the following Damariscotta retailers and sponsors: Supplies Unlimited, 47 School Street @ Main Street (Business Highway 1); Pinkham's Plantation, 431 Biscay Road; and Hannaford Supermarket & Pharmacy, 469 Main Street. They will also be available through merchandise@damariscottapumpkinfest.com. Official Pumpkinfest merchandise will be available downtown and at the remote event venues during the festival in October.

Pumpkinfest & Regatta is a 501(C)(3) organization whose mission is to promote education to citizens of all ages regarding the specific agricultural science

required to grow giant pumpkins, and to provide local non-profit organizations with opportunities for dissemination of information on their activities and fundraising. For more information, visit www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/damariscottapumpkinfest.com), or twitter (www.twitter.com/squashbuckler).