

2011 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta Offers \$10,000 Weigh-Off Purse

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta will host the Third Annual Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Weigh-Off on Sunday, October 2, 2011, at Pinkham's Plantation, 431 Biscay Road, Damariscotta, Maine. The Master of Ceremonies for the Weigh-Off will be WGME 13 Chief Meteorologist and giant pumpkin grower Charlie Lopresti.

This weigh-off is sanctioned by the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC). The weigh-off is open to resident and non-resident growers in both adult and children (growers between 8 and 16 years) classes. Pumpkin drop-off for the GPC-sanctioned event will be between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. on October 2, with the weigh-off beginning promptly at 10 a.m.

Cash premiums will be paid to the first through tenth places in Adult Giant Pumpkin, Adult Giant Squash, Children's Giant Pumpkin and Children's Giant Squash classes. First place in the Adult Giant Pumpkin class will pay \$2,500, with a second place premium of \$1,300, and third place paying \$750.

First place in the Adult Giant Squash class will pay \$1,000, with a second place premium of \$500, and third place paying \$250.

The total weigh-off purse will be \$10,000. It is required that the top five pumpkins at the weigh-off remain at the weigh-off site for display during Damariscotta Pumpkinfest which ends on October 10. Pumpkin pick-up will be on Sunday, October 9 between the hours of 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

In addition to the sanctioned GPC weigh-off, a Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Volunteer Growers' weigh-off will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2011. This special weigh-off is open to all growers who picked up free "Pumpkinfest Plantlets" at Pinkham's Plantation in the spring and wish to weigh their grown pumpkins. Prizes and gift certificates will be awarded on a "pick your prize" basis while prizes last.

Pumpkin drop-off for the Volunteer Growers event will be between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 1, with the weigh-off beginning promptly at 10 a.m.

Volunteer growers are strongly encouraged to "volunteer" their pumpkins for sculpting, carving, painting or boat building at the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta. Volunteer growers may participate in the sanctioned GPC weigh-off instead of the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Volunteer Growers weigh-off if they so choose.

Questions on the weigh-off should be sent to Bill Clark at stunner906@roadrunner.com. Details about all

Pumpkinfest events may be found at www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com.

Photo Caption:

Ed Pierpont of Jefferson, ME with last year's Maine giant pumpkin record holder -- weighing in at 1,471 pounds -- at the 2010 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Weigh-In. (Photo courtesy of Pumpkinfest.)

