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Issue #3

Late Summer 2012



Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta

Fresh From the Patch...

In This Issue

[The Latest Dirt...](#)

[Calling All PumpkinHeads...](#)

[The Great Pumpkins' Favorite Picks...](#)

[The Pumpkin Store](#)

The Latest Dirt...



PUMPKINFEST GOES POSTAL!

That's right! The US Postal Service will be using a Pumpkinfest postage cancellation stamp for all mail dated Saturday, October 6th! Now how cool is that?

PUMPKINFEST IS KNOCKING ON HGTV'S FRONTDOOR.COM

Or is it the other way around? Be on the look out for the 15 Most Spooktacular

Halloween Celebrations in America...you just might recognize a pumpkin or two!

HEAR YE PUMPKIN GROWERS -IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Please email Bill Clark as soon as you can

at: bill@damariscottapumpkinfest.com with an estimate of the size and number of your crop, so that we might have an idea of what to expect at the weigh-off and for decorative pumpkins downtown ! And THANK YOU ALL for growing your pumpkins this summer...there wouldn't be a Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta without our volunteer growers !!

PUMPKIN PLEDGES HELP NON-PROFITS

Volunteer giant pumpkin growers are invited to join Maine's famous feline, Togus, in gathering pledges for the non-profit organization of their choice. Togus, the well know mascot of the WCSH6 (Portland) and WLZ2 (Bangor) Morning Report, and his human "dad," South Bristol native Don Carrigan, are serious giant pumpkin growers, producing the largest pumpkin among the volunteer growers in 2009.

This year Togus wants to "give back" to the Lincoln County Animal Shelter and based on this year's pumpkin weight is gathering pledges that will be shared with them!

All volunteer growers can benefit a non-profit organization of their choice, as half of the pledge amount turned in will be sent to that organization. The remaining half of the pledges helps to fund the many Damariscotta Pumpkinfest events, keeping them free to the entire community.

Pledges can be made in one of two ways - a flat amount pledged, or a specified amount per pound. Do warn your pledger that giant pumpkins are heavy. If yours weighs 200 pounds, a 10 cent a pound pledge could result in \$20.00. Please be aware that these pledges need to be collected within a week of the weigh off which will be held at Pinkham's Plantation in Damariscotta on Saturday and Sunday, September 29th and 30th.

Pledges can then be sent to:

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest

PO Box 1101

Damariscotta, ME 04543

Thanks for your support! Through your pledges you help some great non-profits and the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest and Regatta, too!

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

If you are associated with a local non-profit and would like to hand out literature to the thousands of Damariscotta Pumpkinfest visitors during Columbus Day weekend, please contact our Non-Profits Committee chairman, Pam Gormley at pgormley@MSLN.net. An InfoZone area will again be available this year. You might also check to see if any of your organization members and friends are among the volunteer giant pumpkin growers. They are encouraged to take pledges for their pumpkins, half of which can be given back to the non-profit organization of their choice! Why not make it yours?!?!?

'WATERPROOF' PADDLERS & BOATERS WANTED FOR THE PUMPKINBOAT REGATTA !

Ever wondered what it would be like to paddle or motor a 600# gourd? This just might be your year to find out !! At least three teams, each composed of five competitors (2 primary + 1 alternate paddlers/boaters) are needed; how about creating your own 'pumpkinboat regatta team' from where you work, or go to school, or play ? boats and safety gear will be provided, or you can furnish your own ... if interested in participating up close and personal in the pumpkinboat regatta on Sunday morning, October 7, email Bill Clark at regatta@damariscottapumpkinfest.com and we will get your nautical career underway...

also needed are a couple of dozen loaned outboard motors, both 3-5 HP and 5-7 HP for the various motorized heats of the pumpkinfest's regattathe loan of an outboard motor would be very much appreciated!! Please contact Bill Clark at regatta@damariscottapumpkinfest.com and we will add your name to the list of generous volunteers and participants in the regatta !

CALLING ALL PUMPKIN ARTISTS AND SCULPTORS:

Nancy MacKinnon, pumpkin artists committee chairman, would love to hear from any of you who are intrigued with the idea of sculpting or painting or decorating a main street pumpkin (contact her directly at: GOWETHAFLO@aol.com) ... the giant pumpkins will be delivered downtown Thursday evening, October 4th on pallets, and will be available for carving immediately thereafter ... remember that

these are giant pumpkins which, even hollowed-out, offer 'thickness' which can be sculpted for shading, depth and other artistic methods...

Calling All Pumpkinheads...

Volunteering for Pumpkinfest is not only tons of fun, but it feels great to get involved in the wonderful community in which we live. There are many levels of participation, that cover a variety of different interests. Join us to find your niche and become a member of the Pumpkinfest family. For more information on volunteer opportunities available please email jen@damariscottapumpkinfest.com.

How Does Your Pumpkin Grow?

Here's the Dirt on how to make your plant flourish during the next month, according to our expert grower Bill Clark...

Late Season Protection:

- Cold weather can sometimes come early in the northeast. Your pumpkin can continue to grow right up to the day you cut it free from the vine, only at a much slower rate. These extra few pounds can make a difference when it comes time to weigh your fruit. So extra steps need to be taken to protect your fruit and plant as cooler weather sets in.

Something that can be done to keep your fruit growing is to cover your fruit with a blanket or two when the temperatures at night dip into the 40's. The blanket will help keep the heat of the day in your fruit for a longer period at night thereby encouraging continued growth. Another step that can be taken to prolong your season is to protect the plant when the threat of frost looms later in the season. Pumpkin plants have no tolerance for frost and even a slight frost can leave you waking up to leaves that are black and wilted, ending your season. There are a couple things you can do to protect the plant when the temperature dips down to levels where frost is possible. One thing that can be done, although somewhat labor intensive is to erect a cover over as much of the plant as possible, keeping the heat of the day inside the enclosure and holding the frost at bay. This entails what amounts to a full-size greenhouse or a big cold frame, requiring quite a bit of material and added cost to your effort. Some growers will even use different types of heaters inside the enclosure to keep the temperature up. Another, somewhat

easier way to protect your plant from frost is to run sprinklers on a timer over the plant at intervals throughout the night. The water acts to warm the plant surface and prevent frost from forming. In either case, there is added effort involved and it is up to the individual grower as to what extent one will go to keep the plant growing late in the season.

Estimating Weight:

Thanks to years of research and effort by a group of growers, there are two methods a grower can use to estimate the weight of an Atlantic Giant pumpkin as it grows through the season. Growers use these weight estimates to gauge progress and interpret what the plant may need or is lacking as weights increase or slack off.

- The first method that can be used is by simply measuring your fruit at mid girth parallel to the ground and bouncing that measurement off a circumference chart (See Table 2 Below). This method can give a rough idea of weigh, but can be skewed due to the wall thickness of a fruit or odd shape.

- The most accurate and widely used method is known as the Over-The-Top method or OTT. This method is done by adding up 3 measurements; circumference, side-to-side measurement and end-to-end measurement. For circumference, use the technique described above. The side-to-side measurement is made by holding one end of the tape on the ground vertically below the side of the fruit and stretching it up to the side, over the top of the fruit and down to the ground vertically below the other side. The end-to-end measurement is the same as the side-to-side only it is measured from the ground vertically up the stem end, along the surface over the top of the fruit and down to the ground vertically below the blossom end. Make sure you run the tape vertically down to the ground from the furthest extending point, not along the surface under the fruit for both the side-to-side and the end-to-end measurements. Add these three measurements together and bounce the total off the OTT chart (See Table 1 Below).

Table 1: Over-the-Top Inches vs. Estimated Weight

Inches	Lbs.																				
91	21.3	121	44	151	80	181	131	211	201	241	293	271	412	301	561	331	743	361	962	391	1221
92	21.9	122	45	152	81	182	133	212	203	242	297	272	417	302	566	332	750	362	970	392	1230
93	22.5	123	46	153	83	183	135	213	206	243	300	273	421	303	572	333	756	363	978	393	1240
94	23.2	124	47	154	84	184	137	214	209	244	304	274	426	304	578	334	763	364	986	394	1249
95	23.8	125	48	155	86	185	139	215	212	245	308	275	430	305	583	335	770	365	994	395	1259
96	24.5	126	49	156	87	186	141	216	214	246	311	276	435	306	589	336	777	366	1002	396	1268
97	25.1	127	50	157	89	187	143	217	217	247	315	277	440	307	595	337	784	367	1010	397	1278
98	25.8	128	51	158	90	188	145	218	220	248	319	278	444	308	600	338	791	368	1019	398	1288
99	26.5	129	53	159	92	189	147	219	223	249	322	279	449	309	606	339	798	369	1027	399	1297
100	27.2	130	54	160	93	190	149	220	226	250	326	280	454	310	612	340	805	370	1035	400	1307
101	27.9	131	55	161	95	191	152	221	229	251	330	281	458	311	618	341	812	371	1044	401	1317
102	28.6	132	56	162	96	192	154	222	232	252	334	282	463	312	624	342	819	372	1052	402	1327
103	29.3	133	57	163	98	193	156	223	235	253	338	283	468	313	630	343	826	373	1060	403	1337
104	30.1	134	58	164	100	194	158	224	238	254	341	284	473	314	636	344	833	374	1069	404	1347
105	30.8	135	59	165	101	195	161	225	241	255	345	285	478	315	642	345	840	375	1078	405	1357
106	31.6	136	60	166	103	196	163	226	244	256	349	286	483	316	648	346	848	376	1086	406	1367
107	32.4	137	62	167	105	197	165	227	247	257	353	287	488	317	654	347	855	377	1095	407	1377
108	33.1	138	63	168	106	198	168	228	250	258	357	288	493	318	660	348	862	378	1104	408	1387
109	33.9	139	64	169	108	199	170	229	253	259	361	289	498	319	666	349	870	379	1112	409	1397
110	34.7	140	65	170	110	200	172	230	256	260	365	290	503	320	672	350	877	380	1121	410	1408
111	35.6	141	66	171	112	201	175	231	260	261	369	291	508	321	678	351	885	381	1130	411	1418
112	36.4	142	68	172	113	202	177	232	263	262	374	292	513	322	685	352	892	382	1139	412	1428
113	37.2	143	69	173	115	203	180	233	266	263	378	293	518	323	691	353	900	383	1148	413	1439
114	38.1	144	70	174	117	204	182	234	269	264	382	294	523	324	697	354	907	384	1157	414	1449
115	39.0	145	72	175	119	205	185	235	273	265	386	295	529	325	704	355	915	385	1166	415	1460
116	39.9	146	73	176	121	206	187	236	276	266	390	296	534	326	710	356	923	386	1175	416	1470
117	40.8	147	74	177	123	207	190	237	280	267	395	297	539	327	717	357	930	387	1184	417	1481
118	41.7	148	76	178	125	208	193	238	283	268	399	298	545	328	723	358	938	388	1193	418	1492
119	42.6	149	77	179	127	209	195	239	286	269	403	299	550	329	730	359	946	389	1202	419	1502
120	43.5	150	78	180	129	210	198	240	290	270	408	300	556	330	736	360	954	390	1212	420	1513

Table 2: Circumference vs. Estimated Weight

Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.	Inches	Lbs.
31	12.5	51	48.0	71	112	91	210	111	345	131	537	151	770	171	1111
32	13.7	52	50.5	72	116	92	215	112	353	132	548	152	784	172	1133
33	14.9	53	53.0	73	120	93	221	113	360	133	558	153	798	173	1155
34	16.2	54	55.7	74	125	94	227	114	368	134	569	154	812	174	1177
35	17.6	55	58.4	75	129	95	233	115	377	135	580	155	827	175	1201
36	19.0	56	61.2	76	133	96	240	116	385	136	591	156	841	176	1224
37	20.4	57	64.0	77	138	97	246	117	393	137	602	157	857	177	1249
38	22.0	58	67.0	78	142	98	252	118	402	138	613	158	872	178	1274
39	23.6	59	70.0	79	147	99	259	119	410	139	624	159	888	179	1299
40	25.2	60	73.1	80	152	100	265	120	420	140	635	160	904	180	1325
41	27.0	61	76.2	81	156	101	272	121	431	141	646	161	921	181	1352
42	28.8	62	79.5	82	161	102	279	122	442	142	658	162	938	182	1380
43	30.6	63	82.8	83	166	103	286	123	452	143	669	163	955	183	1408
44	32.5	64	86.2	84	171	104	293	124	463	144	681	164	973	184	1436
45	34.5	65	89.7	85	177	105	300	125	474	145	693	165	992	185	1466
46	36.6	66	93.2	86	182	106	307	126	484	146	706	166	1010	186	1496
47	38.7	67	96.8	87	187	107	314	127	495	147	718	167	1029	187	1527
48	41.0	68	100.6	88	193	108	322	128	506	148	731	168	1049	188	1558
49	43.2	69	104.4	89	198	109	329	129	516	149	744	169	1069	189	1590
50	45.6	70	108.2	90	204	110	337	130	527	150	757	170	1090	190	1623

2003
 Tables prepared
 by
DAVID MARTIN

 from equations
 obtained primarily from 2001 and
 2002 data provided from AGGC file
 to Len Stellpflug

 January 2003

 David Martin

 L. B. Stellpflug

The Great Pumpkins' Favorite Picks...

Event Re-Caps....



Pumpkinfest Goes Home With The Gold!

We are very proud of our Pumpkinfest Parade Posse who took first place in the 2012 Olde Bristol Days parade a few weeks ago.

Show Us Your Pumpkins! Do they look like these?





The Pumpkin Store...

Purchasing merchandise from our Pumpkinfest collection is an excellent way to help promote and support the Event and Maine Artists alike. Not to mention the added benefit of sporting really cool gear!

NEW 2012 Caps and T-shirts & commemorative Pins are now available for purchase. Be one of the first in town to sport the new design fresh off the press! For more information on how to purchase any of these great items please email merchandise@damariscottapumpkinfest.com



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