

UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS

The Pumpkin Vine

Sept. 2009

VOL IV ISSUE II

We've had several inquires about the weigh off this year. Sorry that we are so late in getting out the details. Due to circumstances beyond our control this year's weigh off has been moved to Thanksgiving Point in Lehi. Not too long ago Rockin'E County Store informed us that they would not be able to hold the weigh off there because of road construction on street in front of their store. The State is tearing up Rockin' E property to widen the road. This is limiting them to one narrow entrance and exit combined and no street parking.

We were able to quickly talk to a couple of places where we thought we could hold the weigh off. We determined that Thanksgiving Point would be the best place given the circumstances we faced. So please cut us some slack if things don't run too smoothly.

For more information and a weigh off entry form are included with this news letter.

Over all it has been a terrible year for Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers. Weather, disease and other factors have taken many growers, experienced and novice alike out of this year's competition. Of the remaining growers who still have something to bring to the weigh off many won't have a personal best. So be happy if you have something and please bring it to the weigh off.

This year's weather along with plant stress caused naturally occurring harmful viruses, fungi and bacteria to multiply to high levels, taking down many plants.

Early spring was warmer than normal allowing the bad guys to get an early start. Then June was cooler and wetter than normal giving them a chance to continue to grow while slowing plant growth. Then July was normal, hot and dry, which created extra stress on the plants lowering their resistance to their attackers. In all Utah soils there are naturally occurring Fusarium, Pythium, Phytophthora and Verticillium in varying degrees. It is also important to know that there are different kinds of all these diseases. I believe Fusarium was our main culprit this year. On the patch tour this year Neal Westwood mentioned that he had a diseased plant tested last year. The test came back as a particularly bad type of Fusarium. The only treatment for this type was Basamid, an expensive soil fumigant. Other types of Fusarium can usually be treated with Banrot. Planting in the same place year after also can lead to a building up of these diseases.

Throw away your plants; don't till them into your soil. Lessons learned are that there are lots of naturally occurring diseases in our soils which can be better or worst depending on the weather and the stress condition of our plants. Rotating where you grow can also help. But often times that is not an option. A blanket application of something may or may not help. A tissue test can help to pin point the problem but is expensive.

Treatments can also be expensive and have varying effectiveness. The internet is a great tool to study up on pumpkin diseases and problems; and the off season is the best time to do it.

Remember good seeds, good soil and good luck? Well fall is the best time to amend your soil. Adding organic matter is the best way to improve any soil. The best organic matter out there is compost. If you can add several inches of compost to your patch it will go a long to helping you improve your soil and you pumpkins pumpkins weight.

2009 UGPG Weigh-Off Entry Form

Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers 5th Annual Weigh off
at
Thanksgiving Point, Lehi, Utah 84043

Growers Name (please print) _____

Current Member: YES or NO If No fill out middle section.

Pumpkin ____ Squash ____ Sound ____ Damaged ____

seed (f) _____ pollinator (m) _____ poll. date _____

start date _____ sq ft _____ feet out ____ lobes ____ main vine Y N

Circ. ____ f-b ____ s-s ____ OTT ____ Est.wt. _____

Signature _____ Date _____

By signing this form the applicant agrees to the rules & regulations.

Membership Application _____ A membership is \$20.00 from Jan-Dec 2009

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

The Rules & Regulations

- 1.) This contest is open to UGPG members only. UGPG Membership is \$20.00 per calendar year.
- 2.) "The entry" must be a Cucurbita sp. specimen that was grown by the exhibitor (person signing this document).
- 3.) Entry is limited to one specimen per grower. Please be honest.
- 4.) Minimum weight for an entry is 100 lbs.
- 5.) Additional specimens are welcome, but are ineligible for prizes.
- 6.) Heaviest sound entry wins.
- 7.) A Pumpkin will be defined as 50% or more orange, red, yellow, cream or a combination thereof.
- 8.) A Squash will be defined as more than 50% green, gray, blue or a combination thereof.
- 9.) The entry will be sound without significant soft spots, cracks, or holes through to the cavity. Any material used to seal a breach must be removed for inspection. Judges will probe cracks to determine soundness. Refusal to submit to inspection will result in disqualification. The judge's rulings are final.
- 10.) The entry must be clean & free of dirt or chemical residues. The vine must be trimmed within one inch of the stem. No foreign material may be included with the entry on the scale.
- 11.) The three Judges are; three club/grower representatives.
- 12.) Any attempt to coerce or influence a judge is grounds for disqualification at the discretion of the UGPG executive board.
- 13.) If a judge has a fruit entered and should the entry require a Judge's ruling, then the entered Judge will be replaced by another grower until after the final decision is made.
- 14.) Registration begins at 8:00 AM. All entries must be on the ground staged for inspection by 11:00 AM. All entries must arrive on a pallet.
- 15.) Neither Thanksgiving Point nor the UGPG will be responsible for any damages caused to any person(s) or specimen(s) at this event.
- 16.) Exhibitor must be present to win, unless other arrangements have been made prior to the weigh off.

Prizes have not been finalized.

UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS 2009 WEIGHOFF
SATURDAY OCT 10th
at
THANKSGIVING POINT
LEHI, UTAH 84043
www.thanksgivingpoint.com

Registration is from 8 am till 11 am. Bring each pumpkin on a pallet.

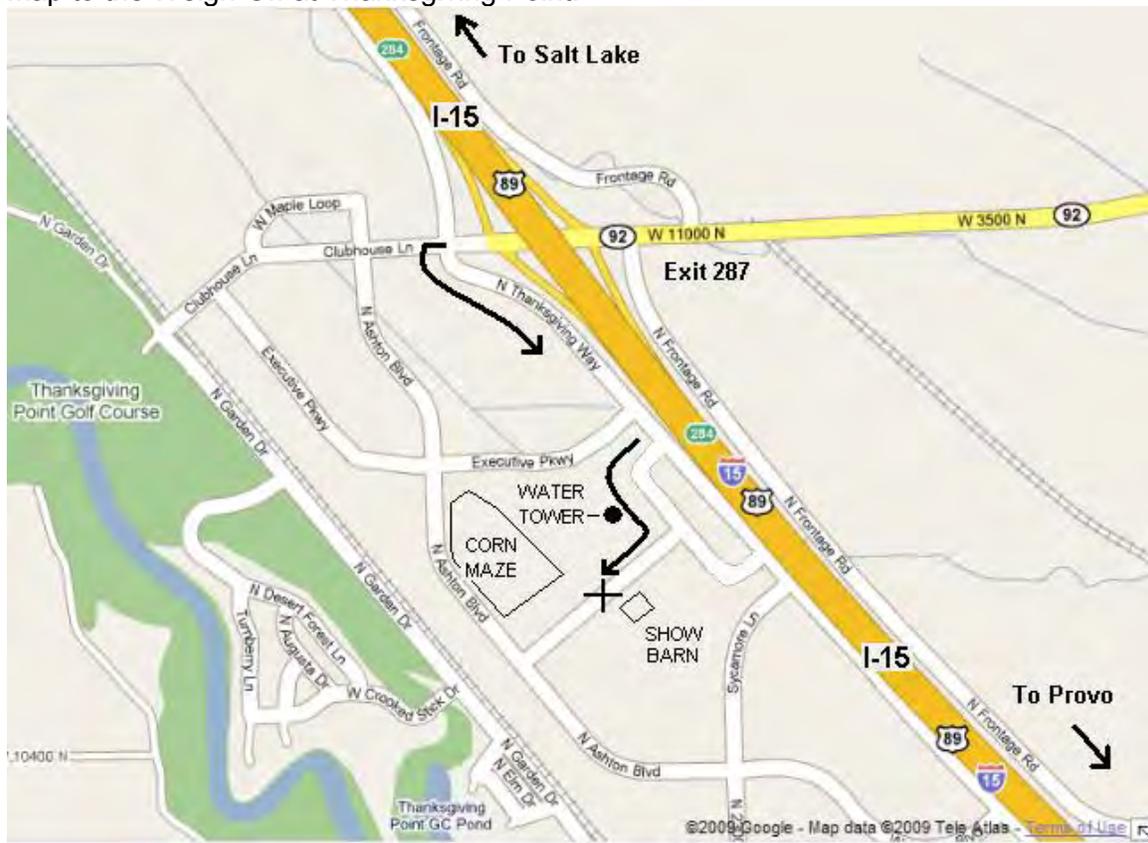
Judging is from 11 am till noon.

Weigh off starts at Noon.

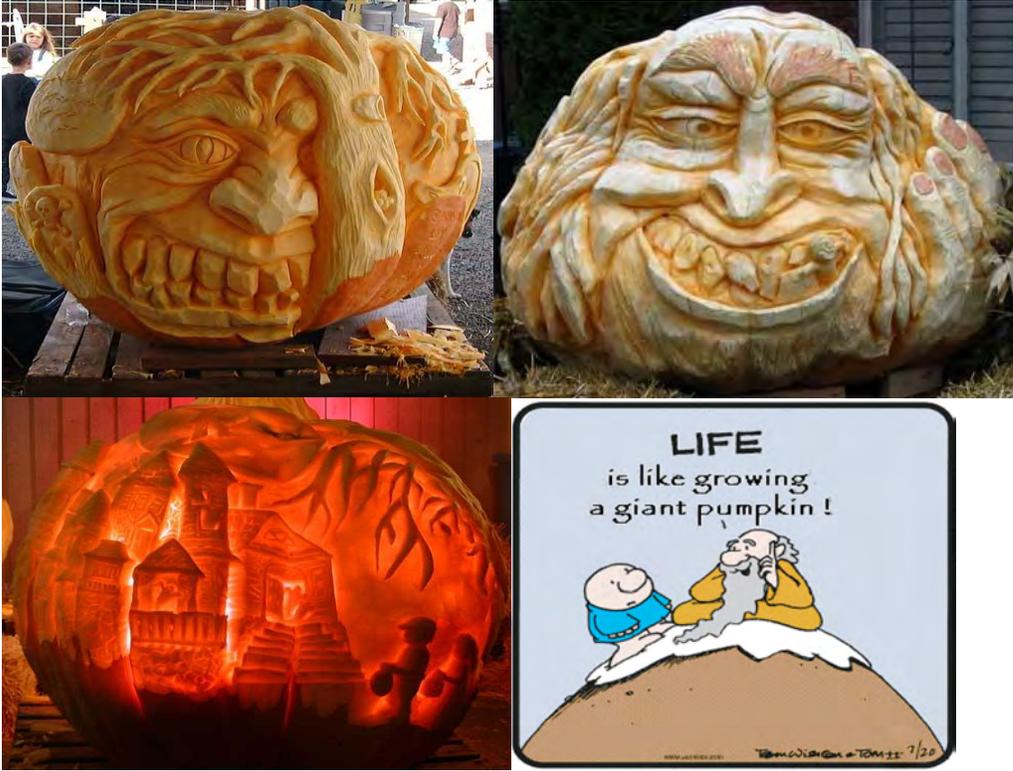
Up two pumpkins per grower are allowed but only one will count toward prizes. If desired, extra pumpkins may be weighed contact Gordon, Andrew or Kevin in advance.

Election for new club officers will be held in the fall after the weigh off. At the weigh off we will be accepting nominations for the following positions: President, Vice President- Sponsorships, Vice President- Weigh-Off Coordinator, and Treasurer. Other positions where we could use help are Seed Auction on BigPumpkins.com, Annual Seed Distribution, Newsletters, Web-site manager, and Patch Tour Coordinator.

Map to the Weigh-Off at Thanksgiving Point:



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UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS
1393 SOUTH 750 EAST
KAYSVILLE, UT 84037-3006