

The St. Croix Grower's Association



~~The Vine~~
January
2014

Editor's Rant

I'm going to begin this column with an apology. As a member of the SCGA, you are entitled to receive scheduled newsletters with content pertaining to our hobby. I, Joe, as the editor of this publication, have not been following through to get editions of this newsletter created and into your hands on a regular basis. For that I am sorry. However, I am happy to report that following the SCGA post-weighoff wrap-up meeting, I have worked with our members to reignite the newsletter as well as other initiatives within the club. And thanks to the generous contributions of members who are willing to step up and take on various responsibilities, our club will continue to grow in its ability to deliver value to its membership.



2013 season recap: What started off as the coldest, wettest season in recent memory ultimately turned out to be an incredible, record-setting year for growers in the upper-midwest. Notably, Stillwater HarvestFest's top-ten site average clocked in at an astounding 1499lbs! That is a 16% increase over last year's TTA of 1291lbs. This effort also resulted in Stillwater HarvestFest capturing the #2 TTA world-wide. Elk Grove, CA took the #1 spot within a runaway TTA of 1563lbs.

Notable accomplishments by SCGA members: Chris Stevens' HarvestFest-winning 1783lb pumpkin was

8th largest official entry in the world this year and is WI's second largest pumpkin (right behind Chris's 2010 world record 1810.5). Joe Werner blew the doors off the MN state record with a 1779lb entry that earned him 2nd place at HarvestFest and the #9 spot worldwide. Scott Steil (1734lbs), Garry Gantner (1625lbs), and Pete Midthun (1546lbs) rounded out the top five, each of them setting personal bests at the scale.



All the data for HarvestFest and other sites around the world can be found by clicking the "GPC weigh-off results" link on the Bigpumpkins.com homepage.

This newsletter contains information about lots of important dates/events on the horizon. I hope you enjoy the content and look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events! -Joe



SCGA Spring Meeting

Saturday, March 29 12:00-3:00pm at the Water Street Inn, Stillwater, MN
Lunch & Beverages will be served.

Seed & Product Raffle, Pumpkin Presentations, Socialize with other growers

2014 3rd Annual GTC Big Show



"Honoring the past, preparing for the future"

The GPC 2014 Edition of 'The Big Show' will be in Orlando, Florida at the [Holiday Inn](#). The seminar will be held February 21st and 22nd, 2014.

Agenda

- Friday, February 21, 2014
 - 12pm - 4pm session
 - 6pm - 12am networking room with assorted beverages & snacks
- Saturday, February 22, 2014
 - 9am - 3pm session including lunch buffet
 - 6pm - 12am awards dinner, awards show, & networking with snacks

Special Attractions

- Discount Disney tickets including theme parks & Disney cruises arranged through the Cruise Connection. More information can be found on our [Flyer](#)
- Daytona 500 tour bus seats for race, tailgating, pit passes. Information can be found on our [Flyer](#).
- More information coming soon!!

Registration and Rate Information

- The [2014 Big Show Registration Form](#) is now available and must be submitted for each attendee(s). Payment can be included with the form or using the Paypal links below.
- Rates are:
 - \$175 - full convention including lunch Saturday & awards dinner
 - \$200 - *full convention if room is booked outside of GPC block*
 - \$40 - Lunch (Saturday) Only
 - \$60 - Dinner and Awards Show (Saturday) Only
 - ***\$40 Lunch and \$60 Dinner are for ADDITIONAL meals for anyone not already registered under full convention fee. (ie. spouses, children, friends, etc.)***
- Hotel reservations can be made by calling 866-253-2182 and ask for the "great pumpkin commonwealth rate" or "PKP". You can also make your reservation online at the [Holiday Inn](#) site. Be sure to use the following information when you make your reservation:
Booking Link: Great Pumpkin Commonwealth
Booking Code: PKP
- The GPC asks that you make your reservations using our room block. This allows the GPC to offset costs and keep them as low as possible to our attendees.

Wisconsin Giant Pumpkin Growers

Spring Forward Seminar



March 7th – 8th
Chula Vista Resort
Wisconsin Dells, WI



Agenda:

Friday evening: Club meeting with cocktails to follow

Saturday: Seminar will start at 10:00 am

---Focus will be on growth enhancement products

Saturday Evening: Awards and cocktails

Non-Member Entry Fee for Seminar: \$25.00 Club members are free

Overnight Accommodations:

Chula Vista is a family orientated water park resort. We have reserved a set number of rooms at a discounted rate for club members, so sign up early to ensure the rates below.

Room rates: Friday night \$89.00 plus taxes and fees

Saturday night \$119.00 plus taxes and fees.

For reservations call 1(855)360-1429

Reservation ID: C63365

“How to Grow a Giant Pumpkin” Community Education Courses:

Sat, April 5th, 10:00-12:00, Osceola, WI Comm Ed

Sat, April 12th, 10:00-12:00, New Richmond, WI Comm Ed

Sat, April 12th, 1:00-3:00, Amery, WI Comm Ed

Sat, April 26, 10:00-12:00, Hudson, WI Comm Ed

Sat, April 26, 1:00-3:00, River Falls, WI Comm Ed

Come as a learner and/or as an instructor!