



THE PRIMARY VINE SPRING/SUMMER 2020



Word from the President: **Everything is the same. Only different.**

As you can imagine, there is a great uncertainty in club events similar to what's happening in the rest of the World. The best we can do is to stay flexible and patient as the time moves on and we receive more up to date information. Currently, our Sam Mazza's weigh off is still on and scheduled for September 19th.

Depending on what happens with other area weigh offs, we may have to ask people pre-register as we are concerned that we may have too many pumpkins there than we can handle. Vermont residents, members, and those that have previously weighed at Mazza's will be the priority, but we will need to get an official count about 2 weeks before the weigh off.

We are planning a patch tour of sorts without group gatherings or BBQ, unfortunately. On Sunday, August 23rd, there will be a few patches to tour in the northern portion of the state on an individual basis. We will request masks and social distancing, but still gives us a chance to see a couple of different gardens and to talk pumpkins from a distance. We will have further information that I will email out along with addresses and times open. We are hoping that we will be able to see some decent size pumpkins at this later date as opposed to our typical early August tours.

So, you can see, things are the same. Kind of. I am hoping that gardening has helped everyone get through these scary times, your plants are healthy and your pumpkins are swelling up to monstrous size.

Grow them big!

John Young

MEET THE MEMBERS

(The featured member this issue is Wilbur Horton. He has been a member since 2004. Wilbur grew his personal best pumpkin and personal best squash in 2016, 1422 lbs and 1204.5 lbs {Vermont State Record} respectively. He also grows various other giant vegetables and holds the State Record for largest Rutabaga at 58 lbs.)

Where do you live and how many years have you lived there?

I live in Springfield Vermont. Born in the local hospital back in 1967. Living in roughly the same location since. I obtained my lot of land from my grandparents years ago.

What do you do for regular work (if retired what did you do for work, how long)?

I'm a licensed professional engineer. My specialty is electrical design. I design electrical power, lighting, fire alarm and data system for many types of building projects.

What is your family status, married, kids, pets, etc? Do you have any other hobbies?

I'm single with no pets. My hobbies vary depending on what interests me. Currently I have been entertaining myself with 3d printing and some electronics.

How many years have you been growing giants?

I started growing giants in 2004.

How did you get interested in growing giants?

I read Don Langvin's book on giant pumpkins and decided to give it a try as something different in the garden.

What do you like most about growing giants?

It is really hard to nail it down to one item. I like to be out in the patch or garden. Some of it is the challenge/puzzle of how to make them grow bigger.

What is your biggest challenge or obstacle in growing?

Like most people it is what mother nature throws at me. Weather is often a problem with pest usually coming in second. And sometimes they tag team up to make things really difficult.

Do you have any help in the patch?

No help in the patch other than my niece's cat who is getting old. I need a good cat to keep the vermin down in the yard.

What is one thing you've done that you think has improved your weights?

There is not one thing to make weights go up but a bunch of little things. You have to try changing every thing a little and see what works and what doesn't in your specified patch. No two patches are the same, to maximize the growth you have to find what will work for you in your patch.

Any words of advice for new growers?

To have fun in the garden and enjoy growing pumpkins.



Strange Lights, by Terry Keim :

Has anyone ever called the police on you because you grow pumpkins?

We live on a quiet dirt road and we typically only see a police car two or three times a year. One week in late April a police cruiser drove down our road at 10:00PM with it's search lights on. I thought that was kind of weird and Cathy said "I wonder what they are looking for?" Two days later, the same thing, 10:00PM, another police car drives by with it's search lights on, turns around and drives by our place again. Then it hit me, what's different? It's pumpkin season, I have my grow lights and heat lamp on in my greenhouse, it produces an eerie light. Someone must have called the cops to investigate, did they think it was a car off the road, someone growing wacky weed or better yet an UFO? I had to laugh. The general public just doesn't understand these things...



Upcoming Events:

VGPGA patch tour: August 23rd, we won't have BBQ this year, more of an "open house" style. Further details to follow via email in the upcoming few weeks.

VGPGA Annual Weigh-off : currently scheduled for Saturday September 19th at Mazza's Farmstand in Colchester, VT. We do have a back-up plan if Mazza's cancels but let's hope it doesn't come to that. But we will find a way to weigh your pumpkin. ☺



2158 GEDDES, 30 DAYS OLD, 256 OZ

Social distancing giant pumpkin grower style: stay at least one giant pumpkin apart and don't forget to wear your mask ☺

Q: Why were the two pumpkins so close?

A: They had deep roots.

Q: Why did the pumpkin cross the road?

A: It fell off the wagon.

Lisa Gates has been working hard on her two plants this year, she plans to grow five pumpkins on those two plants. Pumpkin shown below is 15 days old :



Looking good Lisa, keep up the good work. Good luck to everyone!