

NYBG/125

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Seasonal Fun Comes to NYBG with Scarecrows & Pumpkins!

September 17–October 30, 2016



A rendering of a vignette in *Scarecrows: From the Heartland to Horror*. Image courtesy of Villafane Studios.

Bronx, NY—Fall at The New York Botanical Garden brings several seasonal offerings that tell the stories of this bountiful time of year, including the gourds and pumpkins of Halloween's spookiest fun and a larger-than-life artistic look at scarecrows created by sculptor Ray Villafane. Starting on September 17 and running through October 30, NYBG presents four exhibitions and programs: ***Pumpkins: Playful & Plentiful*** in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden; an art installation titled ***Scarecrows: From the Heartland to Horror***; the **Giant Pumpkin Weekend**; and **Scarecrow Nights** for children and families.

***Pumpkins: Playful & Plentiful* in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden**

More than 25 friendly scarecrows watch over the Everett Children's Adventure Garden in ***Pumpkins: Playful & Plentiful***, open all day for exploration, with guided activities from 1:30 to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. Daily hands-on activities feature a puppet playhouse, while weekends bring parades and interactive demonstrations featuring bats, reptiles, and other creepy creatures.

Scarecrows: From the Heartland to Horror

Throughout history, scarecrows have been the guardians of gardens. Sculptor and artist Ray Villafane returns to NYBG to create an original art installation that explores the evolution of the scarecrow in the United States, from its everyday role in agriculture to its status as a cultural icon in film and comic books. Located along the Mitsubishi Wild Wetland Trail, the animatronic exhibition *Scarecrows: From the Heartland to Horror*, presented by the Tri State Cadillac Dealers, features larger-than-life sculptures with moving eyes, hands, limbs, and more crafted from natural materials. Visitors are invited to explore the detailed display during the day and discover its surprises after dark.

Villafane's artistic mastery will be seen in three scarecrow vignettes. The first scarecrow depicts the earliest scarecrows used by settlers in the United States; the second scarecrow is set in the American heartland during the mid-20th century; and the third scarecrow shows the evolution of the scarecrow from popular culture into the American psyche by way of horror films and comic book lore. Though this exhibition is historically-based, it also provides thrills for the fall season.

Giant Pumpkin Weekend, October 22 & 23

For Giant Pumpkin Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, October 22 & 23, monstrous pumpkins from around the country—weighing in at more than a ton—once again arrive at the Garden. In collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC), the recognized standard of weights, measurements, and fairness of competition, the winners of global pumpkin weigh-offs will be delivered to the Garden, where visitors can marvel at and take pictures with these wonders of nature and growing technique.

The GPC is the governing body of over 80 official weigh-off sites worldwide, their supporting clubs, and growers. These sponsored sites host hundreds of thousands of visitors to the ever popular annually run festivals and weekend events held each summer and fall. The GPC strives to foster an environmentally friendly approach using basic organic techniques that have shown extreme fruit development can be obtained without harming our surroundings.

Creepy Creatures of Halloween at NYBG Every Saturday and Sunday in October

Each Saturday and Sunday in October, Creepy Creatures of Halloween introduces critters from our backyard and beyond during live animal presentations that discuss unique adaptations that help the creatures survive in their habitats. Erik Zeidler, founder of New York Wild! brings a wide selection of featured animals from the reptile family on select dates. Creatures vary each weekend. Presentations are at 12 and 2 p.m. at the Clay Family Picnic Pavilions.

Back by popular demand, during Columbus Day Weekend, October 8–10, at 12, 2, and 4 p.m., meet a Big Brown Bat from North America, the endangered Rodrigues bat, and come face-to-face with the largest bat in the world, the Gigantic Flying Fox of Malaysia. Bats have been surrounded by myths for ages. It is time to learn the truth about these heroes of the night. In this family-friendly, live animal program, Rob Mies—conservation biologist, bat expert, author, and executive director of the Organization for Bat Conservation—tells visitors how bats impact humans and keep our environment healthy while further explaining what can be done to help these unique mammals.

Scarecrow Nights for Families

Scarecrows take over NYBG on Scarecrow Nights for kids of all ages on October 21, 22, 28, and 29, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For those looking for a fright, the **Scarecrows: From the Heartland to Horror** installation comes to life with stories from the characters who know them best. There's plenty of family-friendly fun in the Adventure Garden too. Grab a ConEdison flashlight and explore the trails and sculptures as you travel along the Whole Foods Market Trick-or-Treat Trail after dark. Listen for critters of the night, and mix and mingle with larger-than-life skeletons. Adults and kids of all ages: Non-Member \$20/Member \$15. Advance tickets recommended.

The year 2016 marks the 125th Anniversary of the founding of The New York Botanical Garden. Since 1891 NYBG has been a museum of plants dedicated to achieving excellence in horticulture, education, and plant research and conservation. Today it is one of the great cultural institutions in the world, a preeminent center for botanical research, a natural treasure for visitors of all ages, and a leader and national model for plant-based education.

For more information about what's happening at NYBG, visit www.nybg.org.

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Scarecrows: From the Heartland to Horror

Presenting Sponsor:
Tri State Cadillac Dealers

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the All-Garden Pass, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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Images available.