



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release  
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## Enjoy Spooky Halloween Fun in *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden*

**Hundreds of Creatively Carved Pumpkins, Pumpkin Parties, Giant Pumpkin Carving,  
and More Await at The New York Botanical Garden**

**Saturday, October 6–Wednesday, October 31, 2012**



From Saturday, October 6, through Wednesday, October 31, *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden* at The New York Botanical Garden, sponsored by Fisher-Price, will treat visitors to frightful Halloween fun. Experience the thrills and chills of the season with a garden full of intricately carved pumpkin sculptures, bugs, bats, parties, and parades. On October 20 and 21, master carver Ray Villafane of *Food Network* fame will transform humongous pumpkins into zombies and other unearthly creatures. Pumpkin sculptures of spooky scarecrows, frightening spiders, sneaky snakes, and more await discovery at every turn in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. Every day, youngsters can play inside a "gourd-geous" Pumpkin House, put on a scary show at the Pumpkin Puppet Theater, learn about owls, and join a Halloween Parade, while every weekend offers even more treats.

Pumpkin artist Michael Natiello has again collaborated with the Garden to bring to life *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden* in the Adventure Garden. The display includes more than 500 intricately hand-carved pumpkin sculptures. These whimsical creations include scarecrows, bugs and insects, bats, spiders and snakes. On select weekends, creepy nighttime trails through the Children's Adventure Garden will be lit and include spooktacular delights.

Ray Villafane is an American sculptor based in Arizona. Best known for his 3-D style pumpkin carvings, Villafane is also famous for sculpting sand and snow, and he creates action figures and collectibles. A regular competitor on the *Food Network*, he was a recent finalist on "Halloween Wars."

*The Haunted Pumpkin Garden* in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden is open all day for exploration, with guided activities from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekends. During these guided activities, children can join afternoon parades starting in the Adventure Garden Discovery Plaza; visit Habitat Hub for Fisher-Price fun; decorate their own science bag to collect the season's fallen fruits and leaves; sort seeds, dissect an owl pellet, and explore the Children's Adventure Garden; pot-up buckwheat seeds to bring home and grow; and put on their own performance in the Pumpkin Puppet Theater. Each weekend, they can watch pumpkin carvers in action in the Carving Studio adjacent to the Discovery Center. Expert carvers will demonstrate tips and tricks that everyone can try at home.

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## Spooktacular Pumpkin Party

During Columbus Day Weekend, October 6, 7, and 8, 12–5:30 p.m., get into the Halloween spirit with whimsical costumed performers, live music, spooky story readings, pumpkin parades, and more. Come face-to-face with the largest bat in the world, the Gigantic Flying Fox of Malaysia, and more batty fun. Also enjoy samples provided by Whole Foods Market® and performances of Little People® Live! on Saturday, October 6, at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., and Sunday, October 7, at 10:15 p.m., including meet and greets with favorite characters. Little People® Live! will be back again with more performances on October 13 and 14 at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in the Ross Hall.

## Giant Pumpkin Carving Weekend

Giant pumpkins from around the world once again arrive at the Garden. On October 20 and 21, watch Ray Villafane alongside carvers Andy Bergholtz, Patrick Burke, Trevor Grove, Alfred Paredes, and Chris Vierra, transform these pumpkins into works of art. Poised to amaze everyone arriving for The Haunted Pumpkin Garden and other autumn attractions at the Garden, this showcase of champions will be on display through October 31. 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 of 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. All the winning growers use the RTI Industries giant pumpkin program to obtain these weights and world records.

## Spooky Nighttime Adventures

On October 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28, from 6:30–8 p.m., grab a Con Edison flashlight and explore the pumpkin sculptures as you trick-or-treat in the Adventure Garden after dark. Get tasty treats on the Whole Foods Market® Trick-or-Treat Trail, listen for critters of the night, dig around for decomposers, and decorate gourds too. MasterCard cardholders can add a spooky forest walk to their visit at [nybg.org/priceless](http://nybg.org/priceless). *Adults and kids of all ages: Non-Member \$20/Member \$15. Advance tickets recommended.*

For more information, visit <http://www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2012/halloween/index.php>

*Supporting Sponsor: Fisher-Price*

*Produced in collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth*

*MasterCard® is the Preferred Card of The New York Botanical Garden.*

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**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 or subway. The Botanical 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](http://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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