



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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**LARGEST PUMPKINS IN THE UNITED STATES ON DISPLAY
AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
October 20–31, 2012**

**Giant Pumpkin Weighing 1,872 Pounds, Beating Last Year's World Record Holder,
Is Among Amazing Winners of Weigh-Off Competitions From Around the World**

Three winning pumpkins from regional weigh-offs across the United States, part of growing competitions around the world, including one that broke the world record for heaviest pumpkin set last year, will be on display from October 20 through October 31, 2012, at The New York Botanical Garden. The enormous pumpkins each weigh over 1,750 pounds. The largest pumpkin, weighing an astounding 1,872 pounds, was grown by Ron Wallace from Greene, Rhode Island.

The two runners-up are equally impressive. They include: one pumpkin grown by Steve Geddes from Boscawen, New Hampshire, weighing 1,843.5 pounds (larger than last year's winner by 25 pounds); and another grown by Steve Daletas from Pleasant Hill, Oregon, weighing 1,778.5 pounds.



Poised to amaze everyone arriving for *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden*, sponsored by Fisher-Price, and other autumn attractions at The New York Botanical Garden, this showcase of champions will be on view through October 31. In collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC), the recognized standard of weights, measurements, and fairness of competition, the three behemoths will be housed at the Garden's Clay Family Picnic Pavilions, where visitors can marvel at and take pictures with these wonders of both nature and growing technique.

On October 20 and 21, Master Carver Ray Villafane of *Food Network* fame, along with a team that includes Andy Bergholtz of the hit television show "Halloween Wars," Alfred Paredes, and other carvers, will transform humongous pumpkins into zombies and other unearthly creatures.

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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On Saturday, October 20, 1–5 p.m., children can get in on the carving action as part of **MasterCard's® Priceless Budding Masters** program at the Botanical Garden. Participants 8–15 years old will have a chance to be part of a team creating a giant pumpkin masterpiece. Inspired by Villafane's work, this one-of-a-kind creation will become part of *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden*. Children will learn first-hand how Villafane makes his creations come to life, and each participant will carve and take home their own pumpkin creation. Tickets are \$75, limited, and available at <https://www.priceless.com/newyork/offer/?productNumber=94>.

Garden partner Pumpkin WoW will carve and shave a giant pumpkin with a zombie theme, consistent with the pumpkin sculpture that Villafane Studios is masterfully creating for this same event. This pumpkin will be on display throughout *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden* event. The zombie design will be applied to the pumpkin using Pumpkin WoW's patent pending process of applying a carving pattern to a pumpkin using a temporary tattoo.

The GPC is the governing body of almost 100 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 used the RTI Industries giant pumpkin program to obtain these weights and world records. More information about the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth can be found at <http://gpc1.org>

The three largest pumpkins in the United States and the dioramic fall display with the glorious landscape as a backdrop will be a picturesque sight for everyone to behold during their fall visit to The New York Botanical Garden. For more information about *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden*, visit nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

Supporting Sponsor: Fisher-Price

Produced in collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth

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

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 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, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour. Grounds admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit www.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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