

NYBG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 17, 2023

The New York Botanical Garden Transforms into Everyone's Pumpkin Headquarters During *NYBG Fall-O-Ween*, September 16 through November 12, 2023

Fun Programming for All Ages Includes Master Carver Adam Berton Pumpkin-Carving Demonstrations and Competition, Giant Pumpkins on Display, Mini-Pumpkin Decorating, the Return of Bales & Ales, Spooky Garden Nights, and More

Tickets on Sale Now at <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/>



Bronx, NY— The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) becomes the region's pumpkin headquarters during *NYBG Fall-O-Ween*, offering a fun and engaging array of activities, programs, and photo opportunities for all ages, from Saturday, September 16 through Sunday, November 12, 2023. Experience hundreds of pumpkins and gourds on display; food and beverage talks, demonstrations, and tastings; and two family-friendly Spooky Garden Nights, offering Halloween-themed entertainment for adults and children alike. Fan favorite Adam Berton returns to NYBG to create his intricate and nature-inspired pumpkin carvings and to host a master carver competition. Once again, the Botanical Garden is *the* place to see giant pumpkins during the last two weeks of October, culminating in the exciting Giant Pumpkin Carving Weekend. At the "pumpkin patch" at NYBG Shop, pick and purchase the perfect pumpkin to take home for decorating or eating, and on select weekends, get a mini-pumpkin to paint either at the Garden or at home. *Fall-O-Ween* concludes with two Fall Forest Weekends, with programming celebrating the colorful spectacle of autumnal foliage in the Thain Family Forest. Tickets for *NYBG Fall-O-Ween* are on sale now at <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/>.

Special Weekends and Programs During *NYBG Fall-O-Ween*

Join us for a special weekend of pumpkin carving, as well as the return of our popular ticketed beer sampling event for adults. Evening events give kids the chance to show off their Halloween costumes and more.

Mini-Pumpkin Decorating

Saturdays, September 16, 23, and 30, 2023; and October 7, 14, and 28, 2023

Sundays, September 17 and 24; and October 8 and 15, 2023;

12–3 p.m.

Mosholu Entrance Solar Pavilions

On select weekends, pick up a mini-pumpkin to decorate right on-site or to take home for later. Be inspired by master carver Adam Bierton's creations during the weekends, or other pumpkin and fall themed activities and attractions at the Botanical Garden. Stop by NYBG Shop to purchase the perfect harvest and Halloween décor to complete your visit.

Pumpkin Carving with Adam Bierton

Saturdays, September 16, 23, and 30, 2023; and October 7, 14, and 21, 2023

Sundays, September 17 and 24; and October 1, 15, and 22, 2023;

Monday, October 9, 2023

11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Leon Levy Visitor Center

Watch amazing pumpkin faces and designs emerge from pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. Adam Bierton is a professional sculptor and pumpkin carver, as well as the season five winner of the Food Network series *Halloween Wars*. Most famously known for his 3D-style pumpkin carvings, Bierton has masterfully carved some of the largest pumpkins from all over the country.

Bales & Ales

Saturday, September 30, 2023; 12–5 p.m.

Rain Date: Sunday, October 1, 2023; 12–5 p.m.

Daffodil Hill

Tickets: Non-Member \$50, Member \$25

(Tickets are for adults 21 and older and include a commemorative sampling mug and All-Garden Pass. Advance purchase is recommended to guarantee admission, as events do sell out.)

Celebrate the autumn harvest season at NYBG with a host of local breweries. With the souvenir sampling mug included with ticket purchase, explore unlimited samples of craft beers, ciders, and seltzers available. Settle on the lawn for music, games, and light bites available for purchase. Don't miss harvesting and fermentation demonstrations with visiting brewers. It all adds up to an unforgettable fall afternoon.

- **Beer Garden**

Daffodil Hill

Pick up a souvenir mug and sample the many craft beers, ciders, and seltzers available from local breweries, including Kings County Brewing Collective, Lunar Seltzer, Broken Bow Brewery, Threes Brewery, Peekskill Brewery, Alewife Brewing, Kills Boro Brewing, The Bronx Brewery, and The Bronx Beer Hall.

- **Live from the Lawn**

Daffodil Hill

A line-up of four New York City bands provides live musical sets throughout the afternoon—Sophie Said, The Royal Minx, Garth., and Kaleta & Super Yamba Band. Enjoy favorite lawn games such as cornhole, giant Jenga, bean bag toss, and more. A variety of delicious off-the-grill bites and refreshing drinks are available for purchase.

- **A Brewer's Guide to the Garden**

Clay Family Picnic Pavilions

Stop by this aroma recognition training activity led by Garden staff and identify common aromas found in beer, from orange to banana to pumpkin.

- **Taste the Harvest: Demonstrations with Broken Bow Brewery**

12:30, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 p.m.

Clay Family Picnic Pavilion

Learn how Broken Bow Brewery makes their beer from harvesting to packaging and the steps in-between. Taste some samples with the souvenir mug. Grain to glass, Broken Bow's passion for their craft reflects their commitment to quality, sustainability, and each other. Broken Bow Brewery is a family-owned and operated New York State microbrewery, the first of its kind in the village of Tuckahoe.

Weekend Beer Garden

Saturdays and Sundays through October 29, 2023

Leon Levy Visitor Center, Hudson Garden Grill Bar, and Pop-Ups across Garden Grounds

Every weekend through October, enjoy seasonal brews on tap at the Visitor Center's Beer Garden, at the Hudson Garden Grill Bar, and at pop-ups across the Garden grounds. Sip on seasonal IPAs, stouts, and lagers from local Bronx breweries, chill out with a frozen apple cider cocktail, and snack on a variety of savory and sweet treats. Enjoy a beer or two at any one location, or take flight across the Garden by purchasing tickets redeemable for additional draft beers at locations throughout the grounds. For heartier fare, sit down at the Hudson Garden Grill, featuring fall-inspired farm-to-table dishes, or stop by the Pine Tree Café for artisanal panini, Neapolitan-style pizza, and signature salads.

Flavors of Fall

Saturdays and Sundays, October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, and 29, and November 4, 5, 11, and 12, 2023; 12–3 p.m.

Leon Levy Visitor Center

Savor your favorite flavors of the season's harvest and explore the botanical and culinary backgrounds and uses of pumpkins, spices, maples, and more with food and beverage talks, demonstrations, and tastings from local artisan vendors, such as Sahadi's of Brooklyn, Boogie Down Bronx Honey, Plant Candy, Kris Da Bronx Vegan, and XOLO Kitchen.

Top Carver: A Master Pumpkin Carving Face-Off

Sunday, October 8, 2023; 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Leon Levy Visitor Center

Three carvers battle in a round of intense pumpkin carving challenges, hosted by master carver Adam Bierton.

Giant Pumpkins on Display

Saturday, October 21–Sunday, October 30, 2023

Leon Levy Visitor Center

Explore this year's crop of award-winning giant pumpkins from growers around the country and see one transformed by expert carver Adam Bierton on October 27, 28, and 29.

Great Pumpkin Commonwealth Q&A

Saturday, October 21, 2023; 1 and 3 p.m.

Sunday, October 22, 2023; 1 p.m.

Leon Levy Visitor Center

The giant pumpkin winners from the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth will be on display at NYBG. Meet the growers of these gargantuan gourds and enjoy deseeding demonstrations, and conversations about their growing processes and techniques.

Giant Pumpkin Carving Weekend

Friday, October 27, Saturday, October 28, and Sunday, October 29, 2023; 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Master carver Adam Bierton returns for a pumpkin carving finale. Last year, after 16 hours of scraping, chiseling, carving, and detailing, a dragon's head emerged from his 2,424-pound pumpkin. Don't miss the masterpiece Bierton creates this year.

Spooky Garden Nights

Saturday, October 21, and Saturday, October 28, 2023; 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Tickets: Non-Member \$30, Member \$25

(Advance purchase is recommended to guarantee admission, as events do sell out.)

Wear your Halloween costume while exploring the Everett Children's Adventure Garden and enjoy hands-on crafting activities such as decorating trick-or-treat bags and potting up plants.

Witness pumpkin carving with Adam Bierton, shadow puppet shows by Hit Lights Theater, and roaming giant skeletons by Lucrecia Novoa.

- **Dancing Skeletons**

Larger-than-life skeletons specially commissioned by Bronx-based visual artist, educator, and puppeteer Lucrecia Novoa greet visitors of all ages during these fun evenings. Novoa is the founder and director of the performing art group “Mascara Viva.”

- **Live Shadow Puppet Performance**

Award-winning storytellers from Hit the Lights! Theater Co. return to the Botanical Garden, using the magic of shadow puppetry, vintage overhead projectors, and live music to tell an enchanting tale about scarecrows that awaken on Halloween night.

- **Nighttime Giant Pumpkin Carving**

Marvel as master carver Adam Bierton continues to carve into the night and see his jack-o-lanterns begin to glow.

Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition

Saturday, October 28–Sunday, November 12, 2023; 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Bourke-Sullivan Display House at the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections

Artfully trained Japanese chrysanthemums—known as *kiku*—are on display in unique, sculptural forms that take nearly a year to grow. Visitors can marvel at this year’s *kiku* collection in an intimate snapshot of a generations-old artform.

Fall Forest Weekends

Saturdays and Sundays, November 4, 5, 11, and 12, 2023; 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Thain Family Forest

Explore the 50-acre Thain Family Forest—New York’s largest old-growth woodland—in its fall splendor. These weekends also spotlight Native American Heritage Month offerings, tours, educational demonstrations, and entertainment.

Big Tree: A Conversation with Author Brian Selznick and Dr. James Boyer

November 4, 2023; 11 a.m.

Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall

This family-friendly, hour-long conversation and book reading is an introduction to author Brian Selznick’s children’s book *Big Tree*, exploring what it means to live on this planet. Selznick, the author of best-selling *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, is joined by Dr. James Boyer, NYBG’s Stavros Niarchos Foundation Vice President for Children’s Education. Their conversation will be followed by a book signing in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery.

Vanishing Art: A Living Gallery

This pop-up programming includes performances, chalk art, and poetry readings on select

dates, focusing on sustainability in art and art that leaves minimal traces on the environment. In October, Vanishing Art features a bilingual children's theater performance that celebrates the power of community.

- **Pop-Up Chalk Designs**

Saturdays and Sundays, August 26 and 27, 2023; 12–3 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, September 2, 3, and 4, 2023; 12–3 p.m.

Visitors can observe chalk artist Ben Young III create ephemeral botanical drawings across the Botanical Garden's landscape.

- **Poetry Readings**

Sunday, August 20, 2023; 12–3 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, September 9 and 10, 2023; 12–3 p.m.

Youth poets and their mentors at Urban Word, a New York City youth literacy organization, present special readings that include pieces from celebrated poets who have engaged with the work of the visual artist who created the Garden's major site-specific 2023 exhibition, Ebony G. Patterson.

- ***iCorre, Abuelita, Run!* with New York City Children's Theater**

Saturday, October 7, 2023; 12 and 2 p.m.

This interactive Spanish and English performance, a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, uses language, music, puppetry, and movement to explore the vibrant and diverse neighborhoods of New York City. *iCorre, Abuelita, Run!* celebrates and explores the power of community, the joy of intergenerational family relationships, New York City, and the importance of language and traditions.

Ongoing Offerings During *NYBG Fall-O-Ween*

There is so much to see and do at the Botanical Garden every day during *NYBG Fall-O-Ween*.

Pumpkin Promenade

Saturday, September 16–Sunday, October 29, 2023

Leon Levy Visitor Center and Garden Grounds

Capture picture-perfect fall photos with the autumnal display of chrysanthemums, apple crates, pumpkins, and bales of hay in the Visitor Center Reflecting Pool or the NYBG Shop Lawn's Pumpkin Wall and "Pumpkin Patch" as the backdrop. Explore hundreds of pumpkins and gourds of all shapes, sizes, and colors on view amid chrysanthemums, apple crates, and bales of hay. Marvel at master carver Adam Bierton's pumpkin creations. Learn about some of the many pumpkin varieties to be found at NYBG this fall, from decorative gourds in fascinating shapes to the best pumpkins to use for pie. Pick and purchase your own pumpkin at NYBG Shop.

Pumpkins and Scarecrows

Tuesday, September 19–Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Self-guided activities: All Day, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Guided activities: Weekdays, 1:30–5:30 p.m.; Weekends and Monday Holidays, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Everett Children's Adventure Garden

Fun scarecrows return to greet visitors along the Everett Children's Adventure Garden trail festively decorated for the fall. Favorites like the puppet theater and musical instruments offer the chance for kids to express their creativity. A variety of specimens from the cucurbit family of pumpkins and gourds are on displays for visitors to observe up close. Teen Explainers at activity carts welcome guests to peek inside a pumpkin and learn more about this quintessential fall fruit. Curious readers can peruse an autumn tale from the book box or have a book read to them during story time at 2:30 p.m. on weekends. Pot up a festive fall plant to take home and create a mini self portrait tapestry inspired by the work of visual artist Ebony G. Patterson.

Dig! Plant! Grow!

Tuesdays–Saturdays, 1:30–5:30 p.m.

Sundays and Monday Holidays, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Edible Academy

Visitors are invited to roll up their sleeves and help tend the gardens in the Dig! Plant! Grow! program at the Edible Academy. Each program offers new themes to explore through soil digging, seed sowing, and watering stations, as well as an Investigation Station and Exploration Booklet, a take-home activity, and seasonal cooking demonstrations.

The Three Sisters

Tuesday, September 12–Friday, October 6, 2023

Learn about corn, squash and beans—the Three Sisters—and the “fourth sister,” sunflowers, in our own garden and in Native American traditions. Visitors will take home their own “Three Sisters” inspired seed craft.

Goodnight, Garden

Tuesday, October 10–Friday, October 29, 2023

See how the Edible Academy prepares the garden for the winter season ahead, and discover seed-saving traditions that prepare for the growing season the following year by making a seed packet to take home.

Fall Foliage

Thain Family Forest

Explore the largest remaining expanse of New York's original wooded landscape as the Thain Family Forest's seasonal transformation takes hold. Stay tuned for the Fall Color Cam to follow the changing leaves.

Fall Foliage Stand-Outs

Self-Guided Digital Tour

In autumn, The New York Botanical Garden is filled with colorful leaves, from yellows to oranges to burning reds. In this self-guided tour using the Bloomberg Connects app, discover the trees with the most brilliantly-colored foliage around the Botanical Garden, and learn why some trees produce more saturated fall color than others.

“Pumpkin Patch” at NYBG Shop

Saturday, September 16, through Tuesday, October 29, 2023

NYBG Shop Lawn

Saturday, September 16, through Sunday, November 12, 2023

Outdoor Plant Shop

This year on the NYBG Shop Lawn through October 29, visitors can come to NYBG's “pumpkin patch” to pick and purchase their own pumpkin to take home. Pumpkins are also available for purchase in the Outdoor Plant Shop throughout *NYBG Fall-O-Ween*. Be inspired after a visit to the Garden with carving tips from master carver Adam Berton and Halloween and harvest décor from the Shop. See all types of cucurbits on the Pumpkin Wall display and choose the right pumpkin or gourd from the “Pumpkin Patch” and Outdoor Plant Shop to purchase the perfect one for any fall recipe or home decoration.

Beer Garden

Leon Levy Visitor Center

Craft beers are available to purchase in the Leon Levy Visitor Center. Grab-and-go meals, snacks, and drinks can also be purchased at the Pine Tree Café in the same NYBG location.

African American Garden: The Caribbean Experience

Through Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Edible Academy Barnsley Beds

Curated by Jessica B. Harris, Ph.D., America's leading scholar of the foods of the African Diaspora, the newly reimagined *African American Garden: The Caribbean Experience* highlights the plants and gardening histories that are essential contributions to Afro-Caribbean foodways, including those that have been brought to the United States by Caribbean immigrants. Now in its second year, the *African American Garden* at NYBG's Edible Academy is a three-year collaboration between scholars and local artists to celebrate the history of the African Diaspora in the Americas through the lens of plants and food, presented in the Barnsley Beds, a sequence of eight vegetable garden beds arranged in a semi-circle.

DuPont Gardens of the Brandywine Valley: Photographs by Larry Lederman

Saturday, September 2– Sunday, December 3, 2023

Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery

View more than a dozen of NYBG Board of Advisors member Larry Lederman's photographic prints of gardens across the Brandywine Valley, including Longwood Gardens; Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library; and Hagley Museum and Library.

DuPont Gardens of the Brandywine Valley: Talk and Book Signing

Thursday, October 19, 2023; 4–5:30 p.m.

Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall

Registration required; Members: \$35, Non-Members \$39

<https://www.nybg.org/event/du-pont-gardens-of-the-brandywine-valley/>

Over multiple generations, the du Pont family has created magnificent landscapes and gardens that complement the verdant lands of the Brandywine Valley, where five of their estates—Hagley Museum and Library; Nemours Estate; Mt. Cuba Center; Winterthur Museum, Garden, & Library; and Longwood Gardens—are each a showplace of formal plantings juxtaposed with carefully nurtured natural woodland. Through vivid photography and eloquent prose, the beauty and spirit of each estate is exquisitely captured in one beautiful new book, *Du Pont Gardens of the Brandywine Valley* (Monacelli, September 2023). Join renowned botanical photographer Larry Lederman; garden historian, writer, and NYBG instructor Marta McDowell; and Executive Director of Mt. Cuba Center Jeff Downing for a lively discussion about this impressive publication and the landscape legacy of the du Pont family. This conversation will be moderated by Todd Forrest, NYBG's Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections. A book signing follows.

For more information about *NYBG Fall-O-Ween* and to purchase tickets, visit our website at <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/>.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit [nybg.org](https://www.nybg.org)

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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