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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Opens New Fall Exhibition

Columbus, OH—Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' take on the Halloween season opens October 3, 2015, with a new horticulture exhibition and accompanying display of pumpkin sculptures by Villafane Studios.

SCARY PLANTS

October 3–November 15, 2015.

Imaginative, immersive horticulture displays designed by Conservatory staff transform the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse with Halloween-inspired themes, such as an abandoned greenhouse, an old cemetery, and enchanted forest. Unusual plants featured in the exhibition include carnivorous species like the Venus fly trap, and the Sensitive Plant, which recoils when touched.

IN THE GALLERY

One-of-a-kind pumpkin carvings of humorous, weird and wild characters, created by artists from the internationally exhibited Villafane Studios, are on display in the Cardinal Health Gallery.

The 12 pumpkin carvings are placed in brine-filled tanks to preserve them for display through November 15. Four vignettes of non-carved pumpkin characters accompany the carvings.

Conservatory visitors can watch the exhibit come to life as Ray Villafane and artists from Villafane Studios create their artwork on site, October 3 & 4, 10am–5pm, free with admission.

About Villafane Studios

Ray Villafane, an Arizona-based artist, specializes in highly intricate, 3-D style pumpkin sculptures. Villafane is a regular competitor on the Food Network and was a recent finalist on *Halloween Wars*. Ray and his hand-chosen team of artists compose Villafane Studios. Learn more at <http://villafanestudios.com/>

About Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers botanical collections, art and nature-based exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. Situated in an 88-acre urban park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House and 83,000 square feet of glasshouses, classrooms, and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns a signature collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly. *Light Raiment II*, a permanent installation by internationally recognized light artist James Turrell, illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.

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