



Fall 2011

Volume 20, Number 20

# WAGNER FARM ARBORETUM news



## BRITE NITES-HALLOWEEN EVENT

By Carol Senff



While the Community Garden and Giving Gardens have been overflowing with vegetables, flowers, and fruit, some of us have been paying close attention to pumpkins. Pumpkins, pumpkins everywhere! At least that is what the Arboretum will look like in October when we offer our second **BRITE NITES**/Haunted House Showcase. **BRITE NITES** will consist of hundreds of creatively carved and lighted pumpkins displayed in the fields and gardens of the Arboretum. In addition, we will also offer a Haunted Showcase created by Bill Ward, a talented actor and set designer. **BRITE NITES** will take place on the evenings of **October 21-23 and 28-30 from 7:00 to 9:00**. Tickets may be purchased at [www.wfafnj.org](http://www.wfafnj.org). This second year of our fall fund raiser will provide an opportunity for all in Warren and nearby communities to enjoy celebrating the beauty of fall and the Halloween season.

If you're interested in participating in our pumpkin carving contest with your own creatively carved pumpkins, here are some tips on how to make the process easy:

- ~Keep your pumpkin outside or in a cool place until you're ready to carve.
- ~Cut open the top or bottom in a circle at least big enough to put your fist through. Scoop out the seeds and guts (pumpkin brains!) with an ice cream scooper or spoon included.
- ~Clean the inside wall so that it's about 1 inch thick. This will make it easier for carving.
- ~Select your pumpkin pattern based on the shape of your pumpkin, and pin or tape it directly over the part you plan to carve.
- ~Trace the pattern with an awl, nail, small knife, or anything that will make a pin hole.
- ~Slowly and carefully begin to cut the outline of the pattern. Hold the carving tool as you would hold a pencil. Cut the smaller and/ or center pieces first and work your way out. Remove sections with your fingers, not the carving tool.
- ~If you have trouble seeing the poked out pattern while carving, rub a little flour, cornstarch, or baby powder into the dots so they turn white.
- ~After carving is complete, coat the cut edges of the pumpkin with a layer of petroleum jelly. This helps to seal in moisture and prolong life. Store in a cool place until ready for display.

\*Excerpts taken from [www.zombiepumpkins.com](http://www.zombiepumpkins.com); [www.pumpkinlady.com](http://www.pumpkinlady.com); [www.pumpkinnook.com](http://www.pumpkinnook.com)

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# WAGNER FARM ARBORETUM'S 2nd Annual FALL FUNDRAISING EVENT

# BRITE NOTES

October 21-23 & 28-30

7:00 - 9:00 pm (last entry)

- Pumpkin Path with 1,000 creatively carved and lighted pumpkins
- Amazing Haunted House Showcase
- Black Hat Café - spooky snacks and treats

For details and ticket purchase: [www.wfafnj.org](http://www.wfafnj.org)

Enter our  
Pumpkin  
Carving  
Contest



197 Mountain Ave., Warren

## *BRITE NITES-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*

By: Carol Senff

Everyone at the Arboretum is busy preparing for another exciting fall fund raiser, **BRITE NITES. BRITE NITES** will be held at the Arboretum on October 19-23 and 28-30 (7:00 to 9:00). Join in the fun, volunteer with us during any of those evenings; we need help with the following:

~Gate crowd control ~Ticket Sales ~Pumpkin Path Guides ~Haunted House Showcase Crowd Control  
~Haunted House Showcase dress up/ role playing ~Parking ~Food Sales ~Tattoos ~Clean Up

If you are interested in volunteering during **BRITE NITES**, please contact [volunteer@wfafnj.org](mailto:volunteer@wfafnj.org).

If you would like to carve and donate a pumpkin, enter our pumpkin carving contest. Children are asked to submit fresh pumpkins; adults may carve either fresh or artificial pumpkins. See our web site for contest rules and details.

On October 8 we will have a group work day to prepare pumpkin paths and set up displays. If you are interested in helping, contact Carol Senff at [csenff@wfafnj.org](mailto:csenff@wfafnj.org).

In addition, we are also requesting donated **baked goods** for the **Black Hat Cafe**. Donations will be accepted any or all of the 8 nights of the Brite Nites event. Please contact Ila Gillenwater at [irgillenwater@hotmail.com](mailto:irgillenwater@hotmail.com) or 908-868-1984 with what you would like to donate and when you would like to drop it off. Items can be bought or homemade.



## *BRITE NITE'S PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST*

~Contest open to 3 Age Categories:

Children: Age 12 and Under / Age 13-17 and Adults 18 and up

~No Registration or Entry Fees Required~

Drop off Children Entries at the Arboretum on:

October 16- 3:00 to 5:00PM or

Oct. 17-4:00 to 6:00PM or Oct. 18-4:00 to 6:00 PM

Drop Off Adult Entries at the Arboretum on:

October 23-10:00 to Noon or

Oct. 25-4:00 to 6:00 PM

Wagner Farm Arboretum 197 Mountain Avenue in Warren

For rules and additional Information go to: [www.wfafnj.org](http://www.wfafnj.org) or [shasselman@hotmail.com](mailto:shasselman@hotmail.com).

# THE MAN BEHIND THE MADNESS

By Andrew Elwell

Wandering through the grounds of the Wagner Farm Arboretum at this year's **BRITE NITES**, attendees may come across some elaborate and spooky scenes from some of their favorite classic Halloween movies at the haunted house.

The man behind the madness of this year's haunted house is Bill Ward, a resident of Basking Ridge, NJ with extensive experience in theater, television and film. He has spent more than 40 years working as a director, actor and musician around the world. He has performed with Dexys Midnight Runners, Culture Club and other well known acts, was in What Happens in Vegas and just recently finished shooting episodes of the HBO series Boardwalk Empire.

Ward has always had a love for performing and working in the arts, so when a friend told him that Wagner Farm Arboretum was looking for someone to work on a haunted house at **BRITE NITES**, he jumped at the opportunity. Now, in between frequent back and forth trips to New York City where he is working as a technical director on a new off-Broadway production, Ward is leading volunteers as they work to create a haunted house that pays tribute to classic horror movies.

"Being a theater and a movie guy, I'm inspired by Shakespearean drama. I'm inspired by the film noir horror films of the 1930's," Ward said. "That's what so much of Halloween is based on today."

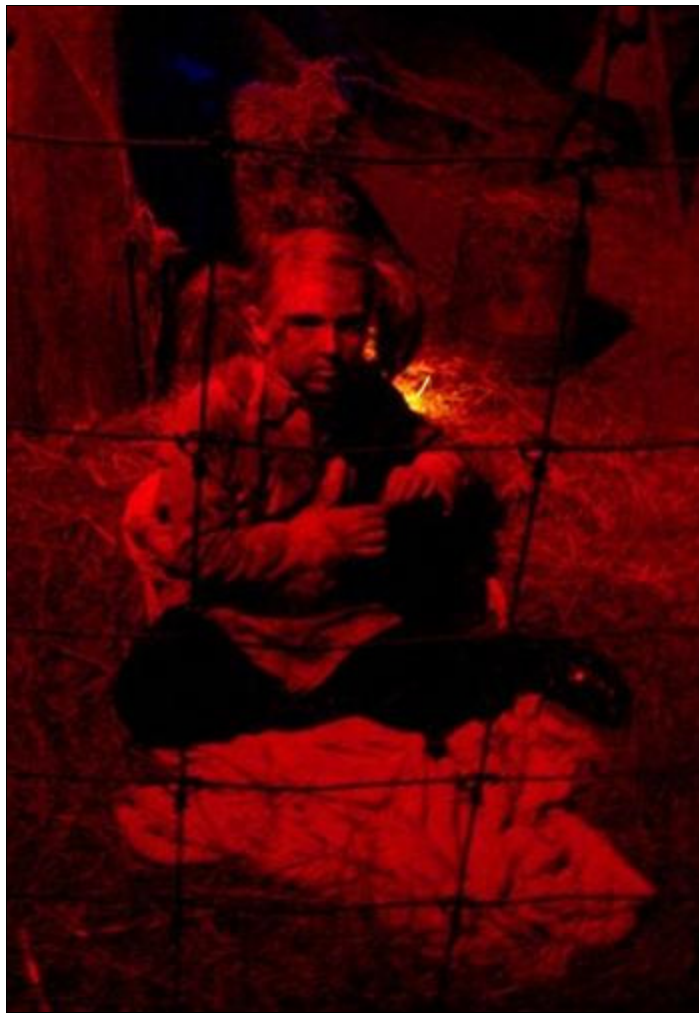
Ward says he has always been a fan of Halloween, and with his background in the arts, he hopes to create a fun-filled and spooky haunted house that the whole family can enjoy.

"I love any event such as directing a theater event or a musical event," he said. "It makes life a happier place when one can enjoy theater and music."

That love will be on display at this year's **BRITE NITES**. Not your typical haunted house, Ward's plans include theatrical and musical elements. Those who gather enough courage can expect to see scenes from Silence of the Lambs, Psycho and, a personal favorite of Ward's, Bride of Frankenstein.

As attendees progress through the house, Ward anticipates that it will get scarier. However, people will be able to leave the house at any time in order to avoid some of the scarier elements.

For Ward, the chance to work with Wagner Farm Arboretum opened his eyes to the work of the



Arboretum and its dedicated volunteers. He has since been able to enjoy some of the programs and events the Arboretum offers. He now appreciates the hard work and collaboration exhibited by the community.

"Working for the Arboretum is a lot different than working in the professional world, because people who work at the Arboretum do it out of love," he said.

According to Ward, it's the people who work at the Arboretum who help make **BRITE NITES** different than other area Halloween events.

"With an event like **BRITE NITES**, it is for the love of Halloween, for the love of the community, for the good of the Arboretum and to have a safe place for families to come and enjoy the holiday," he said. "That's what makes it so special."



# BRITE NITES 2010

## Wet Ground? Learn How to Save Your Trees



### Written by: Jeff Calvert Arborist

We recently got a visit from a Hurricane named Irene in which many trees failed. In fact I'm sure anyone reading this either lost a tree or limb or knew of a someone that lost part or all of a tree.

Unfortunately an already saturated ground combined with Hurricane rains and extremely high wind gusts are a recipe

for trees in full bloom to fail in some capacity. It's a shame that we can't do much to salvage trees that completely uproot in these severe weather conditions, although you can take preventative measures to help ensure your trees are supported in some way.

If you own a tree that has more than one lead or has a valuable limb or lead that is carrying a lot of weight or hangs over your home

or car take the next couple months to consider reaching out to an Arborist for tips on installing cable braces to add stability to potentially future limb and tree failure. I strongly believe that cables should be installed in the dormant season when a tree has lost its yearly foliage. When a tree is in full leaf imagine how many extra pounds the limbs carry. If you cable during a time the tree is in full leaf you are still doing

your property a quality service although when trees are dormant they relax in the most leaf you are still doing your property a quality service although when unnatural position. Many people wait until it is too late.

If you want to keep your shade trees under them safe always be inspecting, always be looking and always be ahead of the next aggressive storm which is on its way.

## Wagner Farm Art Exhibit A tribute to the Barn!



### By Beth Murphy

Wagner Farm Arboretum's art exhibit, "A Place to Grow" featured over two dozen works depicting artists' impression of the Arboretum. Adults and children submitted watercolor, oil, pastel, ceramic, photography and sketches of the Arboretum grounds, barns and silos.

Carol Livingston, an accomplished artist and award winning pastel and oil painter who is a member of Studio 7 in Bernardsville, determined the Best of Show

winners. *Best of Show* for adults went to Kristina Lloyd for her acrylic and tempera painting, "Beautiful Tree." Ms. Lloyd is Co-Leader of Myhelan Artists' Network, member of ART-see, and Volunteer Gallery Coordinator of Farmstead Arts. Kristina loves to paint with vibrant and iridescent colors, photograph bold graphic forms, and use whimsical themes with extraordinary details. When creating beaded jewelry she uses rare semi-precious gemstones as a palette for

her artistically inspired wearable art. Kristina has exhibited her artwork in solo and group shows in New Jersey and Washington, DC. She received a BFA from the Corcoran College of Art & Design in Washington, DC. Kristina currently lives in Basking Ridge with her husband, Greg, and their two children, Ryan and Brendan.

*Best of Show* for children went to Brigid Meisenbacher, age 11, for her watercolor titled, "A Farm in Time." Brigid lives in Warren and is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at St.

Ann School in Raritan, NJ. In addition to the Best of Show awards, Hank Stairs of Basking Ridge was awarded an *Outstanding* for his acrylic, "Wagner Farm at Sunrise." Ms. Livingston shared that the judging was both satisfying and challenging given the high quality of the work in the show.

The Friday evenings reception was well attended by artists, their family and friends, Warren residents and WFA members. All artists voiced enjoying both the process and outcome of participating in the event.



## Wagner Farm Arboretum Volunteer Opportunities

If you'd like to get involved we have many volunteer opportunities available. Meet new people and have a direct impact in creating a beautiful natural environment for all generations to enjoy. Whether you'd like to pick up a shovel and dig or use your expertise in another area there is a position for you!

**Buildings and Grounds, Community Garden, Giving Gardeners' Project, Education and Community Programs, Fundraising, Grants, Membership and Volunteers, Public Relations**

**Please visit us at our Website:**

### Officers and Trustees:

Suzanne M. Smith, President  
Carol Senff, Vice President  
Karen Manner, Secretary  
William Apgar, Treasurer  
Julie Gnoy, Trustee  
Holly Hall, Trustee  
Jonathan Jeans, Trustee  
Meera Rao, Trustee  
Barbara Sullivan, Trustee

## About the Arboretum:

The mission of the Arboretum is to provide environmental and horticultural education of children and adults through the development of plant life in a beautiful, natural setting. All of the programs offered throughout the year as well as the maintenance of the gardens would not be possible without a volunteer staff that is dedicated to the continuing growth of the Arboretum. As we continue to grow, we create new and innovative fundraisers to support our goal for additional gardens and educational programs and facilities.

## Dear Members and Friends

It's hard to believe that we started out with a wet spring; endured a hot dry summer and now we are experiencing a very wet fall to include a hurricane and remnants of a tropical storm. In spite of all of that many of us had productive gardens although they ended sooner than we expected. We usually get about 20 watermelons from our plot; however, we only had about 12 this year, but boy were they good. In spite of the weather the Giving Garden has grown about 10K pounds of produce this year. My husband

and I are already looking forward to gardening in 2012.

Our "Call for Artists-A Place to Grow," which invited artists to submit their interpretation of the barns and silos at the Arboretum was a great event. The reception was a lot of fun and the artwork was very good. Some pieces were sold and the arboretum received a percentage of the proceeds.

The status of the barn is still pending although the arboretum's landscape designer is going ahead with our new master plan. The master plan will incorporate a new building, native gar-

den, traffic flow, parking and a large event area.

We are going full speed ahead getting ready for our second annual Brite Nites. The pumpkin path has many new features and will include 1000 pumpkins. The Haunted Showcase will be new and provide plenty of spooky and scary things for those who dare! We are having a pumpkin carving contest with prizes for adults and children. All of this takes volunteers and we are looking for lots of volunteers to work in the café, be a path guide, parking attendant or being a zombie. More details in other articles in this

newsletter. We will again be selling tickets on line starting on October 1. Please go the [www.wfafnj.org](http://www.wfafnj.org) for tickets.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Wagner Farm Arboretum.

I look forward to seeing you at Brite Nites.



Suzanne Smith  
President,  
Wagner Farm  
Arboretum