

Show your *Chili Lovin'* Crow
Clark Garden's
Scarecrow Alley 2012

Thank you for helping the Clark Gardens Botanical Park present this wonderful fall event to the public. Your creativity and hard work will advertise your name and help make this year's fall festival the spiciest ever!

Contest Rules

1. **Our theme for 2012 is: Chili Lovin'.** All Scarecrows should try to incorporate something spicy (family friendly). Be creative, have fun and include this theme in whatever you are trying to promote. Examples: pepper jewelry, pepper head, Latino theme, chili theme, etc.
2. Entry Fee is **\$15** per 'crow' for individuals, schools, and non-profits. The fee for businesses is **\$25**.
3. **Entry Forms and fees must be received by August 20th.** Deadline must be met for the name plaque to be made in time for Fall Festival October 1.
4. Six foot tall PVC pipe forms (in the shape of a cross) are provided to build your scarecrow. These forms will be available at the admissions booth at Clark Gardens September 1-15th.
5. Pre-assigned spots will be arranged for Scarecrow Trail participants. Placements will be on a first come first serve basis, so get your forms in quickly!
6. The assigned site will include an already placed stake and name plate. If you prefer participants are allowed to make their scarecrow free standing (must be aware of inclement weather). Garden staff will be available to assist with the final installation.
7. Scarecrows must be finished by September 28 at 6pm. They will be left up for public viewing till November 2nd.

8. Judging will take place September 29th -October 5nd at Clark Garden's by a panel of judges.

Judges will choose their favorite scarecrows. Prizes will be given to First (\$100), second (\$50), and third (\$25). A 'People's Choice Award' will be judged by the public during fall festival and a trophy awarded to the public's favorite scarecrow. Winners will be announced at 5:00 pm during Fall Festival.

9. Scarecrows must be in good taste and family friendly. Scarecrows must be constructed to withstand weather conditions. Clark Gardens reserves the right to remove any scarecrow that does not meet these standards. No handouts, promotional materials or free giveaways can be associated with any entry. Additionally, we may remove a scarecrow at any time due to its condition from weather or other factors.
10. Clark Gardens is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. It is your responsibility to check on your scarecrow periodically and freshen it as needed (especially after inclement weather). Your entry will reflect your family, non-profit, school or business; thus you will want it to look great the whole month.
11. Displays must be taken down November 2, from 7:30am – 6pm. Please note that any scarecrow left in the garden after November 2th will be discarded.
12. Clark Gardens reserves the right to use photographs for future publicity.

**For More Information please contact (940) 682-4856 or email
ScarecrowAlley@clarkgardens.com
Clark Gardens Botanical Park
PO Box 276 Mineral Wells, TX 76068**

TIPS FOR MAKING THE SPICIEST SCARECROWS

- ❑ Scarecrows will be subject to the weather for one month, so they need to be **constructed with weather-resistant materials and scotch guarded.**
- ❑ Scarecrows must be either freestanding or built around the PVC form provided by the Garden. The PVC form is six feet high with two feet wide shoulders. The PVC pipe fits over a stake installed and provided by The Garden. PVC forms can be picked up in September in the Garden parking lot.
- ❑ Stuffing can be any weather resistant material. **No newspaper or water-soluble peanuts.** Newspaper stuffed inside plastic bags hold up for months.
- ❑ Facial expressions are the first thing a viewer will notice. Some options for the head could be an old milk jug, gourd, pot, pepper, ball, or fabric bag (with painted or sewed on face).
- ❑ Ideas for hair: yarn, broom, corn, shredded plastic, moss, raffia, or old mop head.
- ❑ Clothes are usually the easiest part and FREE - or nearly so. Check out thrift stores for colorful and cheap clothing and accessories. Nylons and polyesters, hold up better than cottons.
- ❑ These 'crows stay out in the Garden so make sure everything is secure. Sewing is best, but large safety pins or staples will work well. Clear tape will not hold up to weather, but colored electrical tape works well. Remember the wind will blow anything not secured well and can rip things pinned at corners.
- ❑ Do not use latex gloves, as they quickly disintegrate outdoors. Gloves can be used for hands and stuffed and then covered in electrical tape to help them hold up to weather.
- ❑ Spray Scotchgard inside and out of clothes to prevent mildew, and on all items.
- ❑ Larger crows can usually be accommodated, but please coordinate with us so that we can plan for the larger space needs. Scarecrows will not be placed on grass.
- ❑ Remember the details - a glittering pair of high-heeled shoes, for example, will make all the difference.

Thank you for helping Clark Gardens make Scarecrow Alley a success! Be creative, have fun, and make your crow's *Chili Lovin'* shine!