



Conservation Krewe

NEWSLETTER  
Volume #3



## THE ITTSY BITTSY SPIDER

Spiders, friend or foe? Find out why we should care about these creepy crawly friends.

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## WELCOME

BOO!! This is a special Halloween addition of our newsletter we hope won't give you a fright but inspires you to be more EEK-o friendly this Halloween.



*Who did Frankenstein  
take to the dance?*

*His "ghoul" friend!*



## WHAT TO WEAR?

October is a great month to get creative. With Halloween looming around the corner it's time to start thinking about how you're going to top last year's costume.

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## EEK-O-FRIENDLY DECOR

It's that time of year again for ghouls, goblins, witches and ghosts; but before you go out and buy a bunch of pre-made decorations think about making them yourself.

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# Spider

*Hannah Efferson*

Spider; a word that makes so many of us cringe or instantly get a chill of fear down our backs. We hate the creepy legs, the stealth, the gleaming fangs. Spiders are used to inspire fear in horror movies, Halloween and monsters. Why the mass fear? There are about 45,000 identified species and only 30 can cause significant harm to humans. Two popular theories exist. One theory is the fear is an instinctive response from our ancestors in Africa where spiders have a painful bite and deadly venom. The more commonly accepted theory is that Arachnophobia is a cultural trait, mostly in European countries. Many cultures revere or even consider spiders a delicacy! There are three North American species that deserve some extra respect. A bite from a Brown Recluse can cause necrosis, the Southern Black Widow's venom contains a neurotoxin and the Hobo Spider's bite can also cause necrosis with an oozing wound. However, antivenom developed in the 1950's is highly effective making it very rare for people to get seriously harmed by spider bites now. Those who are most at risk are the elderly and small children, but even then, treatment is easy.



Spiders are naturally shy creatures and avoid confrontation if they can. They are also critical to protect. If you grow plants, you will want spiders around! They are the leading species in insect pest control and without proper conservation the agriculture industry could be in trouble. With insects unchecked, crops could be decimated which could result in food shortages. Just as we need bees to pollinate, we need spiders to control insects. Habitat loss, fragmentation of land and pesticides all pose a threat to spiders. We cannot allow our fear of spiders to inhibit their conservation.

Spider venom is another reason to preserve these animals. There are hundreds of compounds in venom that are showing groundbreaking medical use. Researchers are using spider venom to help treat muscle dystrophy, seizures, pain relief and have even used it to develop a glowing enzyme to make tumors show up brightly for early detection! Specific species are used for these studies, what if we lose a cure for epilepsy due to the loss of an unprotected endangered spider? Spiders are so useful, it's a shame so many fear them. Without them, we'd face starvation and setbacks in medical research. Perhaps it's time to start changing our culture's fear of spiders and take time to learn about them and how we can coexist happily.

*"It's  
Halloween,  
everyone's  
entitled to one  
good scare."*



# EEK-o Friendly Decorations

**Sarah Eden**

It's that time of year again for ghouls, goblins, witches and ghosts. Before you got out and buy a bunch of pre-made decorations that will not only cost you a fortune, but also harm the environment, think about making the decorations yourself with items you already have. Crafting and creating decorations are fun activities to do for with kids and even for those adults who are just big kids. Here are two easy decorations that anyone can make!

## Ghoulish Plastic Ghost

**Supplies:** white plastic shopping bag (Target, CVS, and Walgreens all use white bags), scissors, sharpie, twine, fishing line

**Directions:** take 2 white shopping bags, ball them up and stuff them into another bag. if you turn the main bag inside out it helps hide the logo. From here, tie the twine under the balled-up bags to create the head. Use a sharpie to draw on two eyes and a mouth. To hang, snip a hole in the top to thread the fishing line through and find a good tree to tie it up in. After the holidays these can be reused next year or recycled.

## Soup Can Lanterns

**Supplies:** aluminum can, chalk paint or acrylic, hammer, nail, tea light

**Directions:** paint the aluminum can your color of choice, or stick with Halloween colors black, orange, purple. Once dry use a hammer and nail to carefully poke holes in the can to make a pumpkin or write "trick or treat." place tea light inside. These can be displayed inside or outside.







# WHAT TO WEAR?

## Scary textile industry statistics inspire “green” Halloween costumes

*Melissa Morales*

October is a great month to get creative. With Halloween looming around the corner it's time to start thinking about how you're going to top last year's costume. Well here's something to consider. Why not challenge yourself this year? By making a unique costume instead of grabbing yet another mass produced one, you can be environmentally conscience and have a great time doing it. Here are 5 easy ways to be like the Hulk and go "green" this Halloween:



Have fun and get inspired.



Hit up some local thrift shops, a Goodwill, or a rummage sale. Not only can it be a fun way to spend a Saturday, but it can save you some dough \$\$\$.



Reuse a costume from a friend or a family member and make it your own.



Design your own costume by pulling out the sewing machine and brushing off the cobwebs. You can use newspaper to cut out your patterns and recycle them when done.



Really want to challenge yourself? Use unconventional items for your costume, such as cardboard, trash bags, plastic, or even metal. These are items that would otherwise end up in your trash or recycle bin.

So, what are the benefits to up-cycling this Halloween? By not purchasing a mass-produced costume you are saying "NO" to being a mindless consumer of fashion. A new term called "fast fashion" describes the modern textile industry. Many issues arise from this new trend to buy cheap and throw away when done. It is estimated that Americans throw away more than 68 lbs. of clothing and textiles per person per year. This accounts for about 4% of municipal solid waste. Most textile production is concentrated in places like China, Honduras, and Bangladesh. Laborers work for extremely low wages while exposed to poor working conditions. Our environment is suffering under this trend as well. The textile industry has become a major air polluter and is second next to oil and gas. Effluent from this industry pollutes rivers and other bodies of water making them toxic. The issue of water is a major concern, because it is a vital resource that is being largely consumed by this industry. For example, it takes around 5,283 gallons of water to produce 2.2 lbs. of cotton-enough to make one cotton t-shirt and one pair of jeans. These are just some scary statistics to keep in mind this holiday season.







# TRICK OR TREAT

Give me something good to eat

What are your favorite trick-or-treat goodies Snickers, M&M's or Smarties? Sadly, those giant bags of individually plastic wrapped candy aren't good for our environment or our kids. Choosing to hand out tasty, environmentally conscious candy will not only make you the favorite house on the block, but the environment will thank you for it too. Pick candy that comes wrapped in a cardboard box or even aluminum; like Milk Duds, Junior Mints, DOTs, NERDs or foil wrapped chocolates.

There are less sugary eek-o-friendly options as well! For kiddos with food allergies wooden pencils, erasers or temporary tattoos are a great option. Another non-candy option is handing out juice boxes or drinks in aluminum cans, both having recyclable containers. Minimizing your use of plastic is key in becoming more EEK-o friendly this Halloween season.

## EEK-O FRIENDLY LINKS

-  **Candy Wrapper Recycling**  
<https://zerowastebboxes.terracycle.com/products/candy-and-snack-wrappers-zero-waste-box?variant=837831909>
-  **Teal Pumpkin Project**  
<https://www.foodallergy.org/education-awareness/teal-pumpkin-project>
-  **DIY Decorations**  
<https://www.favecrafts.com/Halloween-Crafts/10-Eco-Friendly-Halloween-Crafts>
-  **Green Costumes**  
<http://www.projectgreenify.com/post/65435147368/10-eco-friendly-diy-halloween-costumes#.W8nNY2hKg2w>

## Conservation Krewe at the Shreveport Aquarium

