

BELMONT, N.C. — Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden's annual *Holidays at the Garden*, opening to the public on Nov. 23, is going to be bigger and better than ever before. Visitors will experience an all-new musically-orchestrated topiary display, wander through the new illuminated Piedmont Prairie Garden, explore the extended lights of fire and ice plus all new lanterns in the perennial gardens, and much more.

Visitors will enjoy annual traditions including the 15-foot towering orchid tree, live music (daily 6 to 8 p.m.), holiday shopping in *The Garden Store*, crackling fires to warm cold hands or roast a marshmallow, the Children's Discovery Trail of activities, warm beverages and more. Food service will be available every night in addition to beverages including coffee, hot chocolate, cider, beer, wine and other spirits.

Model train displays built by the Metrolina Model Railroaders can be found throughout the Garden in addition to an expanded display of quaint buildings from Department 56's Dickens' Village Series®. Santa Claus will also be available Tuesday through Thursday from Nov. 27 to Dec. 20 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. for personal photos (no fee). Mrs. Claus will visit the Garden Friday through Sunday evenings from Nov. 23 to Dec. 23 in addition to Christmas Eve from 6 to 8 p.m.

"*Holidays at the Garden* has been an annual tradition for 14 years and has delighted families with lights and holiday features," said Patrick Larkin, the Garden's Executive Director. "This year visitors will be amazed by the addition of hundreds and thousands of twinkling lights through new garden spaces. Musically orchestrated 12-foot topiaries will greet guests as they walk into the Garden, 8-foot lanterns will cast designs throughout Ribbon Garden, and thousands of lights will sweep through the new Piedmont Prairie Garden offering a unique and spectacular holiday experience for all."

A special thank you to sponsors including David Belk Cannon Foundation, Gaston Travel & Tourism, Duke Energy, South State Bank, Pepsteel, Charlotte Regional Partnership and Beasley Broadcasting Group's K104.7.

Holidays at the Garden will be open Nov. 23, 2018 through Jan. 6, 2019 from 5 to 9 p.m. each evening, although the Garden will be closed Christmas Day. *Holidays at the Garden* admission is discounted for tickets purchased online in advance and prices increase at the door. Admission purchased online in advance for Monday through Thursday is \$12.95 per adult, \$11.95 per senior 60+, \$7.95 per child 2-12 and free for children under age two. Admission purchased online in advance for Friday through Sunday is \$14.95 per adult, \$13.95 per senior 60+, \$8.95 per child 2-12 and free for children under age two. Garden members receive a 30% discount and also receive 30% off the purchase of up to four guest passes. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance at www.DSBG.org.

About Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden:

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, the Carolinas' Garden for All Seasons, provides guests a chance to reconnect with nature. Located within 380 acres on the banks of Lake Wylie, spectacular gardens, sparkling fountains, a children's garden, a conservatory dedicated to the display of tropical plants and orchids, a visitor pavilion, gift shop and nature trails await the visitor. HGTV named it one of the nation's "20 Great Gardens" and Southern Living called it one of the South's Best Botanical Gardens. Committed to horticultural excellence, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden is a must-see for all ages.

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