



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2019

CONTACT:

Katherine MacGilvray, Marketing Manager

kmacgilvray@hsvbg.com

256.830.4447 ext. 234

Galaxy of Lights Opens Next Week at Huntsville Botanical Garden

HUNTSVILLE, AL— Next week the Huntsville Botanical Garden will begin welcoming the tens of thousands of visitors who walk and drive through Galaxy of Lights each year. The event is entirely a volunteer-run operation that began in 1996 with 25 light displays and has expanded to almost 200 displays featuring everything from traditional holiday vignettes to dinosaurs, nursery rhyme characters, and, of course, botanical scenes.



Design of the new Christmas Eve House display

As in years past, the Galaxy of Lights crew will be unveiling a new display for 2019: the Christmas Eve House. Inspired by another beloved Huntsville tradition, the Christmas Eve House honors the legacy of Dr. John “Higg” Higginbotham who for over 30 years transformed his home into a holiday wonderland and welcomed visitors from around the area. “No Christmas season was complete without a visit to his home to see the lights, feed the reindeer, and listen to Christmas music,” recalls Dr. John Johnson, a friend and former colleague of the retired orthopedic surgeon. Higginbotham passed away in March of this year.

The Galaxy of Lights volunteers, with the help of Higginbotham’s family, friends, and colleagues, have been working for months on the display, from a design drawn out by Galaxy Crew Chief Bob Hovde to building and installing the impressive 16’ x 26’ piece.

“We feel that Higg would be happy to continue his legacy of making children smile at the Galaxy of Lights. Bringing together [his] love of Christmas and lights to the Huntsville Botanical Garden will be a lasting tribute to a dear friend, gifted physician, and community leader,” says Johnson.

Galaxy of Lights Walking Nights will take place November 15-18 and November 21-26 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. (last admission). Guests who attend Walking Nights can visit with Santa, walk through snow falling in the twinkling icicle forest, and enjoy hot chocolate or spirited beverages along the way. They’re also an excellent opportunity to experience these enchanting displays up close. Admission for Garden members is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children; non-member admission is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Children 2 and under are free.



On November 18 and 25 visitors are welcome to bring their canine companions to walk the Galaxy of Lights Trail. Admission is \$3 per dog.

Driving Nights will take place November 29 – January 4 from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. (last admission). Please note that Galaxy will be closed December 2 and 3 for the Galaxy 5k and 3k. Admission for passenger cars (up to 10 people) is \$25 at the gate or \$20 when purchased in advance either online or at the Garden’s guest center. On Monday nights a \$5 military discount will be given at the gate with military I.D.

“We love inviting the community to connect with the Garden during the holiday season,” says Melissa Riley, Vice President of Guest Experience at Huntsville Botanical Garden. “Galaxy of Lights is one of our biggest fundraising events – each ticket purchased supports the Garden’s mission to inspire our community to sow, grow, and discover.”

For more information on Galaxy of Lights and to purchase tickets, visit hsvbg.org/galaxy.

About the Huntsville Botanical Garden

The 112-acre Huntsville Botanical Garden, located at 4747 Bob Wallace Avenue in Huntsville, AL, is open year-round and boasts the nation’s largest open-air butterfly house, a picturesque aquatic garden, a wooded nature trail that includes the nation’s largest accredited trillium collection, and a variety of specialty gardens and native plant selections. The Garden is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that strives to be a source for plant science, conservation, and education. For more information, visit www.hsvbg.org.