

For Immediate Release



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Holiday Wonders at the Garden Expands with Dazzling New Polar Passage and Whimsical Theme Nights

Memphis, TN, October 1, 2025 — Forget visions of sugarplums, this year, **Memphis Botanic Garden** is giving the Mid-South something even more magical to dream about. ***Holiday Wonders at the Garden***, presented by Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW), returns with 23 nights of twinkling lights, themed evenings, and merry memories for all ages. The seasonal light exhibition kicks off Friday, November 28, and continues select evenings through December 30, 2025.

This year's winter wonderland is bigger and brighter than ever, with the debut of Polar Passage, an immersive new experience set within The Woodland that whisks visitors through a glowing portal into a breathtaking holiday realm. Plus don't miss enhancements throughout including additional interactive play opportunities. Also new this year, a mobile web app with GPS map will premiere to enhance and extend the guest experience which includes an interactive event map, FAQs, details, and some fun surprises!

Enjoy dinner from local food trucks on-site, depending on the evening you can catch Say Cheese, Good Groceries Mobile Diner, Snowbirds Sweets & Treats, and Hot-n-Heavy Dogs, then warm up with hot chocolate, cider, or a signature holiday cocktail from one of the well-stocked bars.

"Holiday Wonders at the Garden" has become a treasured tradition for families, couples, and friends across the Mid-South," said **Gina Harris, Director of Audience Engagement**. "This year, we're thrilled to unveil the all-new Polar Passage, a magical journey that expands the wonder deeper into our Woodland. From cozy firepits and glowing trails to favorite traditions like Santa Sundays and Paw-liday Wonders, every visit is filled with the sparkle of the season. Whether you're toasting marshmallows, sipping cider, or

strolling hand-in-hand under the lights, it's pure holiday magic at the Garden."

Whimsical Theme Nights to Light Up the Season

- **Opening Night with Santa – November 28**
Kick off your holiday season with a sprinkle of magic! Santa makes his grand debut under the Northern Lights to welcome families into this year's glowing Garden wonderland.
- **Cozy Campfires – December 5**
Gather 'round the glowing firepits and warm up your winter night. Toast marshmallows (s'mores kits available for purchase) and sip something sweet as the Garden sparkles all around you.
- **Santa Sundays – December 7, 14, & 21**
The big guy himself is back! Meet Santa under the lights, share your wishlist, and make sure your name stays firmly on the "nice" list.
- **Paw-liday Wonders – December 11**
Furry friends deserve holiday magic too! Bring your pups for a tail-wagging stroll among the lights. Santa will even be checking his "nice list" twice for good boys and girls of the four-legged variety.
- **Snow Queens – December 15**
Don your sparkliest tiara or crown and twirl beneath the shimmering Magic Snowfall. Special guests Elsa and Anna will be on hand for frosty fun and photo-ready moments.
- **Jingle Jammies – December 16**
Pull on your coziest pajamas and wander the twinkling trails. Plus don't miss storytime sessions at 6 and 7 pm and an evening of holiday cheer, it's the ultimate family night before the big holiday rush.
- **Happy Hula-Days – December 17**
Swap snowflakes for palm trees at this tropical twist on holiday cheer! Sip a festive island-inspired drink, tour the Tropical Plant House, and enjoy surprises that will leave you saying "mele kalikimaka." A special thank you to 4FDesign for making Happy Hula-Days possible.
- **Let It Glow – December 18**
Shine brighter than the lights! Dress in glow sticks, light-up sweaters, or sparkling accessories and become part of the show. Enjoy an LED hoop show and let it glow!
- **Ugly Sweater Night – December 19**
It's National Ugly Sweater Day! Flaunt your most festive, tacky, or outrageous knit and light up the Garden with laughter and color.
- **Holiday After Glow – December 26–30**
The season doesn't stop after Christmas. Cozy up to glowing firepits, toast marshmallows, sip seasonal cocktails, and savor the sparkle as we countdown to the new year.

Proceeds directly support the Memphis Botanic Garden.

Holiday Wonders at the Garden is presented by MLGW with support from Legacy Sponsor Bank of America, Adams Keegan, WMC, 104.5 The River/99.7 The Wolf, WKNO, Thompson Machinery, Forever Ready, Crews Family Foundation, F4 Design, A-Z Office Resource/Yuletide Office Solutions, East Memphis Pet Hospital & Resort, and Hollywood Feed.

Event Details:

- ***Holiday Wonders at the Garden***
- November 28–29, December 5–7, 11–23, & 26–30, 2025 | 5–8:30 pm (last entry 7:30 pm)
- Tickets on sale November 7, 2025 at 10 am CT at membg.org/wonders
 - Advance: \$15 MBG Members (limit 6 per membership) | \$17 Non-Members
 - Same Day: \$20
 - Children under 2: Free
- Timed Entry: Advance registration strongly recommended. Entry times will sell out. Once inside, families are welcome to stay until closing.
- Tickets on sale now.

Holiday Wonders at the Garden isn't just an event; it's Memphis' holiday tradition. With sparkling lights, whimsical nights, and memories waiting around every corner, it's the perfect outing for a romantic date night, a festive gathering with friends, or a magical evening for the whole family.

For more information visit membg.org/wonders

About Memphis Botanic Garden

The Memphis Botanic Garden is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to being an exemplary center for horticulture and environmental enrichment. Serving over 40,000 school-aged children annually, and hosting 260,000 visitors each year, Memphis Botanic Garden strives to enhance lives by connecting people with nature, increasing awareness and appreciation of our environment.

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