



November 26, 2018

For immediate distribution

**Contact:**        **Danita Gibson Lloyd**  
Development & Marketing Director  
Columbus Botanical Garden  
706.327.8400 ext. 3 office/706.593.7614 cell  
[dlloyd@columbusbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:dlloyd@columbusbotanicalgarden.org)

**Columbus Botanical Garden to Host Annual Holiday Celebration *Christmas in the Garden***  
*Celebration Includes Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Singing, Sleigh Bells, Mistletoe and Lighting of the Great Tree*

**Columbus, Ga., November 26, 2018** - The Columbus Botanical Garden (CBG) proudly presents its ***Annual Christmas in the Garden*** celebration on Sunday, December 2, 2018, from 2 to 7 p.m. at 3603 Weems Rd. Although admission to Christmas in the Garden is free, a donation of \$5 is suggested. Christmas in the Garden is a community-wide celebration of the season and is a great outing for the entire family. This year's event includes an exciting new highlight – ***The Lighting of the Great Tree*** - at dusk in Our Mothers' Rose Garden.

Executive Director Stefan Bloodworth said, "Tis the season at the Columbus Botanical Garden, and I'd like to personally invite you and your family to our Christmas in the Garden event. Join us for pictures with Santa, musical interludes provided by Columbus choral groups, a Christmas market and art sale along with crafts for the kids. Finish the day with a luminary walk and experience *Camellias by Candlelight* beneath the pines. I hope to see you Sunday!"

Christmas in the Garden highlights include: Christmas Market, Art Exhibit & Sale by the Gallery on 10<sup>th</sup>, light refreshments with hot apple cider and arts & crafts for kids. In addition, several vendors will be on hand selling, among other things, tins of home-made cookies and wreaths of fresh greenery. Featured choirs include Brookstone Children's Choir, Blanchard Elementary Children's Choir, Friendship Baptist Church and soloist Jamysa "Hummingbird" Lytes. Local author Bob Ottman will narrate the much-beloved *A Christmas Story*, and Santa will stop by and sit upon a 140-year old snow sleigh where he'll invite children to share their Christmas lists making the perfect photo opportunity. Another photo opportunity awaits guests as they pose with a classic 1959 red Jaguar.

At sundown, *The Lighting of the Great Tree* will take place in Our Mothers' Rose Garden. After the lighting, Garden guests are invited to stroll the "Camellias by Candlelight" Luminary Trail featuring 800 luminaries illuminating their path in the Sam Wellborn Camellia Garden. Guests can enjoy hot apple cider at the end of their walk. Meanwhile in the Gin House, children can participate in arts and crafts, making Christmas trees and bracelets and writing letters to Santa. During the event, CBG Volunteers will sell raffle tickets for a variety of prizes ranging from gift cards to restaurants, stores, adventures as well as Garden memberships ([www.columbusbotanicalgarden.org/become-a-member/](http://www.columbusbotanicalgarden.org/become-a-member/)). Proceeds from Christmas in the Garden will support the daily operation of the Columbus Botanical Garden.

**The Christmas in the Garden itinerary:**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 2 PM    | Brookstone Children's Choir  |
| 3 PM    | Friendship Baptist Church Choir  |
| 4 PM    | Blanchard Elementary Children's Choir  |
| 5 PM    | Christmas Story told by Local Author Bob Ottoman   |
| 5:30 PM | <i>Lighting of the Great Tree</i> featuring soloist Jamysa "Hummingbird" Lytes<br>Garden Raffle Winners Announced & <i>Camellias by Candlelight</i> Luminary Trail opens |



## Columbus Botanical Garden

### *PRESS RELEASE*

#### **About Columbus Botanical Garden**

Nestled in North Columbus amid shopping and eateries, Columbus Botanical Garden operates as a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to develop gardens, protect woodland, and provide educational programs that stimulate the imagination and deepen our understanding and appreciation of nature. This preserved jewel of pine and hardwood forest is a remnant reminder of the native Central Georgia landscape that is becoming more scarce as the region continues to develop. Since its founding in 1999 with a gift of acreage and buildings from the children and families of Lillie Belle Kimbrough Adams and later approved by the Columbus City Council, Columbus Botanical Garden (CBG) has been the steward of a 23-acre rolling property located about 6 miles northeast of downtown Columbus. With its recent expansion to 36 acres, CBG now encompasses four developed acres, with exciting plans for tremendous development over the next three years as a result of its current \$10 million *Growing Towards Greatness* Campaign.

For more information on how you can participate in programming, volunteer or donate, please visit [www.columbusbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.columbusbotanicalgarden.org), follow us on Instagram @Columbus\_Botanical\_Garden, like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/columbusbotanicalgarden](http://www.facebook.com/columbusbotanicalgarden), contact our offices at 706.327.8400, email us at [contactus@columbusbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:contactus@columbusbotanicalgarden.org) or visit our offices at 3603 Weems Road, Columbus, Ga. 31909.

####