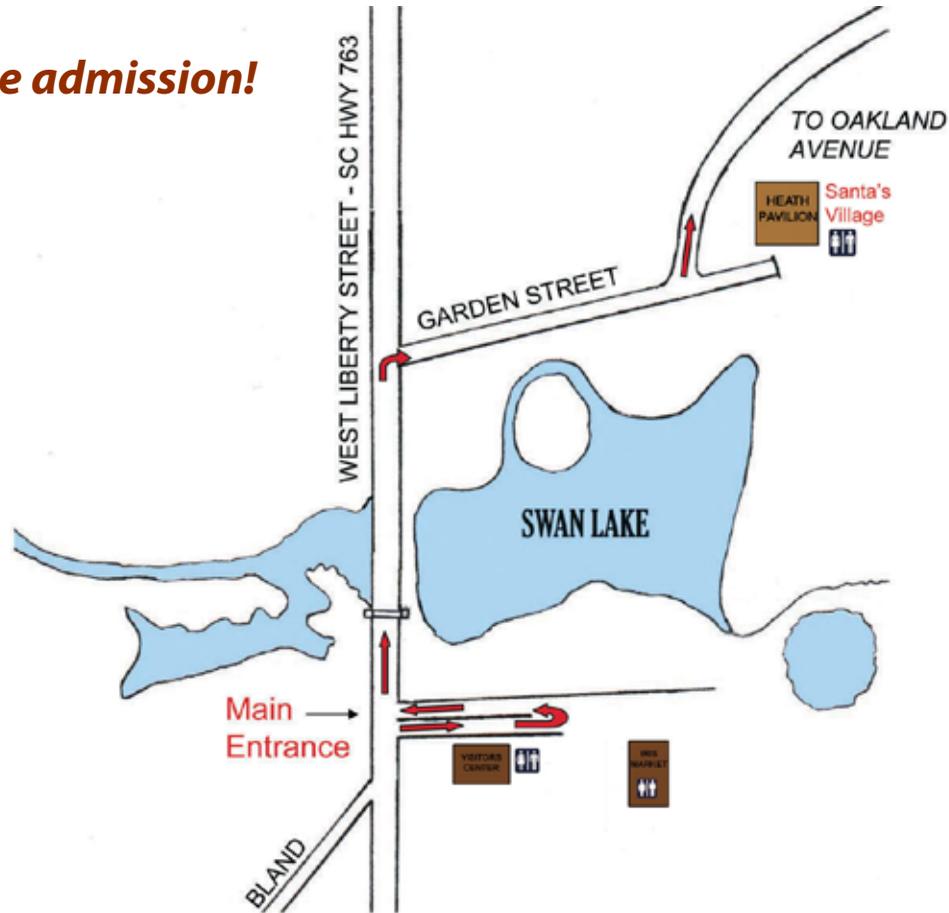


Drive in to a holiday dream world...

Swan Lake Iris Gardens is transformed into a holiday wonderland! Children and "children at heart" will marvel at the spectacular display of lighted imagery as the lake and gardens twinkle with the magnificent glitter of more than one million lights. The drive-through display is open every night in December, while Friday and Saturday nights from December 3-17 also feature "Santa's Village," with visits from Santa for children, refreshments for sale and live entertainment from 6 to 8 p.m. *New for 2011, enjoy the "Dance of the Northern Lights," featuring synchronized lights and music.* Light display is open nightly through December 31 from dusk until 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Free admission!



For more information on the Fantasy of Lights, please contact us at **1-800-688-4748**, e-mail tourism@sumter-sc.com or visit us on the Web at www.sumtertourism.com.



Joel Roberts Poinsett 1779-1851



The Sumter Poinsettia Festival is named in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico. An avid botanist, Poinsett imported the plant that has become a symbol of the holiday season. His burial site is at the historic Church of the Holy Cross in Stateburg, South Carolina.

Stage performances...home tours...drive-through nativity...the Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights...join the celebration as Sumter welcomes the season with the sights, sounds and tastes of the holidays!

A short drive from Interstates 95, 77 and 20, and within easy driving distance of South Carolina's major cities, experience the beauty and wonder of the holidays at the **Sumter Poinsettia Festival**.



Swan Lake Visitors Center
(803) 436-2640
Toll-Free 1-800-688-4748
822 West Liberty Street
Sumter, SC 29150



Sumter Poinsettia Festival 2011

December 1 Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights Opening Ceremony

Holiday cheer arrives in Sumter with the opening of the annual Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights. For the entire month, the gardens come alive with a display of twinkling holiday imagery created by more than one million lights. The Pilot Club's floating Christmas tree is an annual favorite, along with Santa, angels and characters of song and story. One of South Carolina's largest Christmas light displays! Opening ceremonies, 6 p.m. Light display open nightly through December 31 Sunday-Thursday from dusk until 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday until 10 p.m. FREE.

10th Annual Festival of Trees

The Tuomey Foundation's annual Festival of Trees celebration is sponsored by the families and friends of Tuomey Healthcare System's Hospice Services. The 20-foot Circle of Lights Tree, now in its 12th year, is in their honor. 5:30 p.m. **The Festival of Trees will continue through January 4.** 129 N. Washington St. Open to the public; free admission. For more information, please call (803) 774-9014.

“Twas the Night before Christmas”

Presented by the Columbia City Ballet at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St. December 1 at 9:30 a.m. and December 2 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Advance tickets \$5 each. (803) 799-7605.

December 2 Sumter County Christmas Tree Lighting

Join the citizens of Sumter on the courthouse lawn as Sumter County's spectacular community Christmas tree blazes into life. Live entertainment. 4:30 p.m., immediately followed by “A Walk with St. Nick.” 141 N. Main St. FREE.

A Walk with St. Nick

The Sumter County Recreation Department hosts the annual stroll with Saint Nicholas, followed by refreshments and storytelling. For children of all ages! 6 p.m. FREE. For more information, please call (803) 436-2248.

“The Dance of the Northern Lights”

Sunday through Thursday nights until December 29, enjoy the newest addition to Swan Lake's annual holiday light show. Garden Street. FREE admission.

“It's a Wonderful Life”

The Sumter Opera House's “Classics II” series ends the 2011 season with this beloved holiday favorite. 7:30 p.m. Admission \$2.50 per person; tickets available at the door. 21 N. Main St.

The Singing Christmas Tree

First Baptist Church presents some of the community's most talented singers in this dramatic re-telling of the Christmas story. Performances through December 4. 7:30 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 4:30 p.m. 107 E. Liberty St. For more information, please call (803) 773-3732.

December 3 “Santa's Village”

The Heath Pavilion (at the end of Garden Street) opens up on weekends for visits from Santa, refreshments for sale and live entertainment from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights through December 17. “Santa's Express” drop-off for letters to Santa open daily! FREE.

“The Nutcracker”

Patriot Hall hosts the beloved story of Clara and the Prince, performed by the Columbia City Ballet. 135 Haynsworth St. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and military, \$12 for children 12 and under. (803) 799-7605.

Holiday House Tea & Tour

A Sumter tradition for more than 60 years! Hosted by the Sumter Council of Garden Clubs. Tea served from 3-5 p.m.; tours from 1-7 p.m. Alice Boyle Garden Center, 842 W. Liberty St. \$10. For more information: (803) 469-8143.

Breakfast with Santa

Share “the most important meal of the day” with Santa Claus at this favorite annual event! All ages welcome. Sumter County Recreation Dept., 155 Haynsworth St. 10 a.m.-Noon. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 children under 12. For more information: (803) 436-2248.

Silver Bells Arts & Crafts Show

Presented by the Sumter Crafters. Gamecock Shrine Club, 1865 Hwy. 15 S. **9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday; 1-5 p.m. on Sunday.** FREE admission. (803) 983-3200.

December 4 Morris College Chorale Christmas Concert

This annual celebration in song is open to the public. Neal-Jones Auditorium, 100 W. College St. 6 p.m. FREE. (803) 934-3200.

Evening Optimist Club Christmas Parade

The theme is “Christmas Memories” as holiday cheer parades down Sumter's Main Street in an array of song, dance, floats, beauty queens, marching bands and more! Lineup at 1 p.m.; parade starts at 2 p.m. FREE. (803) 983-3916.

Festival of Choirs

Join more than a dozen talented vocal ensembles from throughout the community at Trinity United Methodist Church for an unforgettable evening of carols, anthems and more! 226 W. Liberty St. 4 p.m. FREE. (803) 778-6417.

December 6 St. Anne Christmas Concert

Presented by St. Anne's Catholic School at the Sumter Opera House. 21 N. Main St. FREE. (803) 775-3632.

**December 7
USAF Heritage Band Christmas Concert**
Presented by the Sumter-Shaw Community Concert Association. Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St. NO CHARGE, BUT TICKETS ARE REQUIRED. 7:30 p.m. (803) 499-4032.

Wreath Making Workshop
Part of the Sumter County Museum's “Lunch and Learn” series. \$25 for members, \$30 for nonmembers. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration required. (803) 775-0908.

**December 8
“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”**
Back by popular demand! The “most awful kids in history” learn the true meaning of Christmas. An American classic! **Performances December 8-11 and 15-18.** Admission \$12 adults; season tickets available. 14 Mood Ave. Student, senior and military discounts available. (803) 775-2150.

**December 9
The Living Christmas Story**
A trip back in time as Trinity United Methodist Church recreates 1st-century Bethlehem on the night Jesus Christ was born. **Drive-through Friday and Saturday from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sunday from 6-8 p.m.** Through December 11.

FREE. 226 W. Liberty St. For more information: (803) 773-9393.

December 10 “The Two Claras”

Presented by the Columbia City Jazz Dance Company, a contemporary twist on “The Nutcracker.” Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St. Time and ticket prices TBA; call (803) 252-0252 for more information.

Carolina Backcountry Christmas
Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...the sound of music in the air... spiced cider and loads of delicious goodies are all the ingredients for an old-fashioned Christmas! Sumter County Museum, 122 N. Washington St.. 2-4 p.m. FREE. For more information: (803) 775-0908.

**December 11
Sumter Civic Chorale Christmas Concert**
The Sumter Civic Chorale brings in the holiday season with its annual program of Christmas favorites at Patriot Hall. 135 Haynsworth St. 4 p.m. FREE. (803) 436-2260.

Sumter-Shaw Community Concert Band
The Sumter Opera House hosts the Sumter-Shaw Community Concert Band's holiday concert, featuring a mix of popular and traditional Christmas favorites. 21 N. Main St. 7:30 p.m. FREE. For more information, call (803) 436-2640.

**December 16
“Jingle with the Arts”**
The annual holiday performance by the Freed School of Performing Arts takes place at Patriot Hall. 7 p.m. Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 at the door, call (803) 436-2260. **Matinee and evening performances December 17.**

“The Living Nativity”
Grace Baptist Church presents “The Living Nativity” Friday and Saturday, **December 16-17.** Presentations are scheduled for 6:30, 7:15, and 8 p.m. In case of inclement weather the presentations will be held in the church gym. For more information please contact the church office at 778-6417.

For more information on Poinsettia Festival events, please call the Swan Lake Visitors Center at **1-800-688-4748. All dates and events subject to change or cancellation.**