

Holiday Lights in the Garden

More than 76,000 visitors enjoyed the 2013 Holiday Lights in the Gardens event held at the Florida Botanical Gardens from November 29 through January 1. Visitors hailed from the Tampa Bay area, Florida and the United States, as well as Canada, Sweden, Eastern and Western Europe, Asia and Australia.

The event raised \$90,000 to go directly into garden projects and efforts.

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation sponsors the annual event to provide a family friendly, inexpensive community gathering to celebrate the holidays while highlighting the gardens for residents and visitors.

With more than 750,000 twinkling LED lights—the largest display to date—illuminating 30 acres of plantings, pathways and waterways, the Holiday Lights in the Gardens event has become a tradition. The Foundation continues to be grateful for the 486 volunteers who not only helped the foundation manage the event, but also provided the Holiday Lights with entertainment each night.

An additional purpose of the Holiday Lights in the Gardens is to raise funds to support the Florida Botanical Gardens.

Thanks to generous sponsors and abundant donations from the public, monies raised by the event will further Foundation plans to develop and support an array of projects that include expansion and renovation of the west gardens surrounding the Pinellas County Extension building, enhancement and expansion of the children's trail, installation of boardwalks through the wetlands, development of a GIS system to identify and record plants and memorials, artistic additions to the gardens and another magical Holiday Lights in the Gardens event next year.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo and is open from 7 a.m. until dusk every day. Admission is free.

Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Attendees:

Terry Berube, Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation President

Richard Berube

Emma Eshbaugh

Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti

Barbara Goss

Ray Marshall

Lynn Bosco