



Christmas Tree Lane at Longwood Gardens features over 70 trees decorated with thousands of miniature lights. It can be viewed Dec. 16 through Jan. 1, 5 to 9 p.m.

## Longwood's Christmas Garden to be in full bloom

KENNETT SQUARE - Longwood Gardens, near here is celebrating the holiday season with one of the largest and most festive displays of Christmas decorations ever. Dozens of decorated trees, thousands of poinsettias, and tens of thousands of miniature lights fill the gardens both indoors and out with holiday sparkle.

From December 16 through January 1, the daily conservatory visiting hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., are extended from 5 p.m. until 9

p.m. During these evenings the lighted Christmas Tree Lane and the illuminated conservatories will enchant young and old alike.

Christmas Tree Lane is Longwood's gift to the community. Seventy-six trees, from bare deciduous trees to towering evergreens, are draped with 40,000 clear and colored lights. Longwood employees work for weeks to create the glistening forest which can be viewed by anyone who drives through the main parking lot.

Visitors who purchase a daily admission ticket enter the conservatories where Longwood's Christmas garden is in full bloom. Inside the heated, glass-enclosed structure nearly three thousand poinsettias surround green lawns like red velvet borders.

Longwood's poinsettias also come in pink, cream, and speckled hues. All are grown in a variety of sizes and forms. Most plants are between one and four feet tall, permitting graceful variation in the flower

border heights. There are seven-foot-tall poinsettia trees and poinsettia hanging baskets three feet wide. The baskets are suspended high above the greenhouse pools like great ruby baubles.

Many of the flowers blooming indoors recall the horticultural traditions of an Old World Christmas. Hundreds of paper-white narcissus, lilies-of-the-valley, Roman hyacinths, Wedgwood iris, and cyclamen - all preferred by Europeans over poinsettias -

add early Spring perfume to the air.

One of the brightest spots in the conservatories is the newly-installed Azalea House winter display. Lighted trees and topiary welcome visitors as they approach the entrance. Inside, American hollies

form a verdant backdrop for three graceful pools gently overflowing one into the other. Red and Yellow Jerusalem-cherries, snow white cyclamen, and coral red Siberian dogwood add exquisite touches of Christmas color.

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