



4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 60532 • 630-968-0074 • mortonarb.org

Media Contact: Patti MacMillan, Public Relations Specialist
630-719-5768, pmacmillan@mortonarb.org

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER EVENTS AT THE MORTON ARBORETUM

Lisle, Ill. (September 3, 2015) – The Morton Arboretum welcomes winter with festive holiday events, family-friendly outings sure to become traditions, classes for nature lovers, and more. The Arboretum's one-of-a-kind lights experience, **Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum**, returns November 20 with new features as well as more lights and music. **Chamber Concert Series** is also back in November. After listening to beautiful classical music in the intimate Founder's Room at the Morton's Thornhill Estate, concertgoers have the opportunity to meet and mingle with the musicians themselves. In December, gather the family for the beloved **Breakfast with Santa**, offered several mornings throughout the month.

A complete list of November and December Arboretum events and details is below. For more information, visit mortonarb.org/events. All prices listed are for the general public and information is accurate as of the date of this release, but we encourage media to check the website as times and dates may change.

November-December Highlights

Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum

Friday, November 20, 2015-Sunday, January 2, 2016

\$17-\$20 for adults, \$11-\$13 for children: see website for details

Declared a "must-see destination" by the Chicago Tribune, **Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum** returns this November with more lights, sights and sounds that will transform a Chicago-area wintertime walk in the woods into a colorful, inspiring experience like no other. Brand new experiences in 2015 include dazzling lighting effects on Meadow Lake, and Ornament Hill, where a series of glowing orbs create a glittering vista. Visitors can also take in new effects— sing to the trees to activate LED lights that rain down from the trees like shiny strands of tinsel and watch as lights dance, synchronized to updated music from the world-renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

2015-2016 Chamber Concert Series

Sunday, November 1 and Sunday, December 6, 2:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

\$30 for individual concerts

\$140 for the five-concert series

Join us for a series of intimate classical concerts at the Arboretum's historic Thornhill Education Center. The series will begin November 1 with a performance by Ensemble Aubade. This Boston-based trio performs masterworks and rarely heard music for flute, viola and harp. December features the Mirari Brass Quintet, which brings their joyful brass repertoire as well as some seasonal selections. Following each performance, music lovers can gather for a reception to meet the artists and fellow audience members in the Founder's Room, the original home library of the Arboretum's founder, Joy Morton. The concert series continues January 10, February 7 and March 6.

Dog Admission Day

Saturday, November 7, 7 a.m.-sunset

Regular Arboretum admission applies, \$5 per dog

The Arboretum will open its doors to four-legged friends all day. Visitors are encouraged to explore the 16 miles of trails with their pups in tow.

Coffeetree Cocktails

Wednesday, November 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

\$25

Enjoy coffee-inspired cocktails while Joe Rothleutner, the Arboretum's tree breeder, presents his interesting work with the Kentucky coffeetree, a hardy tree native to the Midwest.

Holiday Favorites

Breakfast with Santa

Weekends in December, December 21, 22 and 23, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

\$35 for children (age 3-12), \$39 for adults

Join us for Breakfast with Santa in the scenic Ginkgo Restaurant and create a festive experience for your children or grandchildren. New this year, children will have the opportunity to write letters to Saint Nick while they wait for breakfast to be served. All children will have the chance to visit with Santa and will receive a candy cane and cookie.

Gingerbread Tea Party

Saturday, December 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$28

Enjoy a cup of tea and sweet treats as we celebrate the holidays with a mother/daughter tea party. Discover which parts of trees and plants make the best teas, make your own tea bag, and decorate a gingerbread cookie to take home. This is a perfect outing for grandmothers, mothers, and daughters to enjoy together.

Children's Garden Programs

Winter Play

Daily in November and December, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Join us in the Children's Garden for winter time fun. We'll set out activities to complement the day. Activities may include painting snow or building a fort. Whatever it may be, you'll find all the tools you need to have some frosty fun. This self-guided hands on discovery activity is available daily in the Children's Garden.

Gnome Hunt

Daily in November and December, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The animals may be hibernating, but we still have gnomes. Can you find all of the gnomes hiding in the Children's Garden?

Gnome Homes

Weekends, November through March, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$10

After taking a hike through the Children's Garden to hunt for all of the hiding gnomes, create a keepsake, light-up gnome home of your own. This unique winter experience is fun for a pair or the whole family. Tickets are available in the Visitor Center.

Totally Turkeys-3-5 years

Tuesday, November 3, Wednesday, November 11 or Thursday, November 12, 9:30-11 a.m.

\$25

Investigate the life of a wild turkey through stories, play and a hike in this hands-on sensory based fall program. We'll even touch real turkey feathers and make a cozy turkey nest to take home.

Totally Turkeys-18-35 months

Wednesday, November 4 or Tuesday, November 10, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

\$22

Investigate the life of a wild turkey through stories, play and a hike in this hands-on sensory-based fall program. We'll even touch real turkey feathers and make a cozy turkey nest to take home.

Family Programs and Classes

Arbor Reading Adventures

Wednesdays and Fridays, November through March, 11-11:45 a.m.

\$5 per child

Join us in the Sterling Morton Library for this popular and interactive story time! We'll read stories, make a craft and then head out on the grounds for an adventure walk. Themes change weekly. Arbor

Reading Adventures will not take place November 27 or December 25. The cost doesn't include admission to the Arboretum.

Guided Hikes

Nature at Night Hike

Thursday November 5, 6:30-8 p.m.

\$10

Discover what happens at the Arboretum at night when no one is around. During our hike, we will discuss night ecology, listen to a symphony of sounds, explore mysterious spaces, and hopefully view wildlife on the move. Learn more about our nocturnal animals and enjoy the magic of nature at night.

Fall Bird Walks

Saturdays, November 7 or December 5, 8-10:30 a.m.

\$10

Search the woods, fields, and edges of the Arboretum for fall birds. Join us every third Saturday to learn about fall migrants and year-round resident birds with an expert guide. Please be prepared to spend most of the class outdoors. No prior experience in birding is necessary. This class does not include admission to the Arboretum.

Learn About Nature

Intro to Landscape Design

Tuesdays, November 3-December 1, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

\$150

In this introductory landscape design class, you will take home a better understanding of the processes used to design a home landscape. Become familiar with how to measure and evaluate your property, learn design terminology, and discuss how the application of hardscape, plants, and various garden styles can shape your landscape. Class will not take place November 24.

Geocaching

Saturday, November 7, 1-3:30 p.m.

\$25

Join us on a real-world outdoor treasure hunt among the trees around Lake Marmo. Participants will locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using a GPS or smartphone. Use one of our hand-held GPS units to find hidden caches and learn about woodlands and wetlands during this guided adventure. Enjoy hot chocolate under the spruces for a sweet finish to the program.

Fall Pruning

Saturday, November 7, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or Thursday, November 12, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$44

Late autumn is one of the best times to prune young trees for healthy plant structure. The foliage has fallen, revealing the limbs and form of the plant. In this workshop, you will learn structural pruning techniques for specimen shrubs, small ornamental trees, and young trees with the goal of maintaining the plant's natural character and creating a strong branch structure that can help eliminate future problems.

History of Trees in America

Saturday, December 5, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25

Discover how wood has contributed to literature, art, and American poetry. Trees are an indispensable part of America; they were made into ships, railroads, rifles, wagons, and planes. Learn more about orange groves, the American chestnut tree, and the woods which Henry David Thoreau found respite. In this two-hour workshop, enjoy some lively discussion about the history and future of trees in our nation.

Botanical Art

Beginner's Watercolor Workshop: Getting Your Feet Wet with Watercolor

Saturday, November 7 and Sunday, November 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

\$44

Spend a morning learning the basics and of watercolor and create a watercolor painting of an autumn leaf. Attendees will end the class with a stroll through the Nature Artists' Guild Holiday Exhibit.

Holiday Swags

Saturday, November 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$35 for members, \$44 for nonmembers

Just in time for the holiday season, find out how you can incorporate evergreen branches and boughs into elegant holiday swags. Discover the methods used to create swags, learn insider tips and tricks.

Bent Willow Sculpture for the Quiet Season

Sunday, November 15, 10 a.m to noon and 1-4 p.m.

Prices range from \$49 to \$163 according to project

Create winter interest in the garden by creating willow sculpture with garden artist Bim Willow. You may choose from several projects when registering. These include an ornamental reindeer, tripod, trellis, plant stand and ladderback chair.

Mosaic Holiday Tree

Sunday, November 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$98

Create a festive holiday tree plaque that can be used as an indoor or outdoor decoration. Program participants are encouraged to bring any of their own additions in your favorite holiday colors. This class is suitable for beginners.

Arboretum Uncorked: Holiday Painting

Wednesday, November 18, 7-9 p.m.

\$44

Create a seasonal painting while you enjoy a glass of wine and goodies. Work step by step with a skilled instructor and leave with a visual memory of The Morton Arboretum to give or to keep.

Arboretum Uncorked: Holiday Hostess Gift

Wednesday, November 18, 7-9 p.m.

\$44

Create a small arrangement using a variety of greens and a festive container.

Wonderful Winter Containers

Saturdays, November 21 and December 5, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

\$44

Learn the principles of container design in this hands-on workshop. Want to add exciting containers to your deck, yard, or home? Creating beautiful containers is easy, when you have the right tips. Learn about great plants for winter containers, and demonstrate the principles of container design and correct potting strategies.

About The Morton Arboretum

Established in 1922, The Morton Arboretum is an internationally recognized outdoor tree museum and tree research center located in Lisle, Illinois. As the champion of trees, The Arboretum is committed to scientifically informed action, both locally and globally, and encouraging the planting and conservation of trees for a greener, healthier, more beautiful world. On 1,700 acres are 220,000 plant specimens representing 4,100 different kinds of plants, along with specialty gardens, educational exhibits, the award-winning Children's Garden, 16 miles of hiking trails and the Visitor Center, featuring The Arboretum Store and the Gingko Restaurant and Café. The Morton Arboretum is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, welcoming more than 932,000 visitors and serving 39,250 member households in 2014. Learn more at mortonarb.org.

Admission Rate

Nonmember admission rates to The Morton Arboretum are \$14 for adults ages 18-64 (\$9 on Wednesday), \$12 for seniors ages 65 and over (\$8 on Wednesday), \$9 for children ages 2-17 (\$6 on Wednesday) and free for children under age 2. Parking is free with admission. Members receive free general admission all year long.

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