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MOONLIGHT IN THE GARDEN

See the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University after dark.



Shadow dancers on the South Terrace of the Ruby C McSwain Education Center

WHAT: *Moonlight in the Garden* at JC Raulston Arboretum returns this November for seven nights. Magical lighting display, live music, food trucks, marshmallows and fire pits—they're all back. The Arboretum will open its gates for a limited time in November for a beautiful evening stroll. This magical display of light is custom designed and installed by John Garner and his team at Southern Lights of Raleigh and a dedicated group of Arboretum volunteers.

This isn't a typical lighting event. "*Moonlight in the Garden* is a time to bundle up, welcome the fall season, revel in the exhibition where garden design meets lighting artistry, dine at the best food trucks, enjoy the live music, sip on hot apple cider, and roast marshmallows over the fire pits." said Mark Weathington, Director of JC

Raulston Arboretum. “*Moonlight in the Garden* is a chance for us to light up the garden and share what a magical place the Arboretum can be at night.”



Guests enjoying the colorful banana plants on the Asian Valley Walk.

Moonlight in the Garden is meticulously designed to showcase the JC Raulston Arboretum’s internationally acclaimed garden in all its splendor. The collection is spectacular by day, but takes on a new life under the cover of darkness artfully lit on a crisp November evening. It is a magical experience not to be missed.

New to the *Moonlight* exhibition this year is “Post Modern Patterns.” Thirty talented artists and students from 9 elementary schools give their modern take on the fanciful Mexican folk-art form of *Alebrijes*. The lighting adds another dimension to the already colorful creations of this ephemeral art exhibit.

Moonlight in the Garden will inspire every homeowner with ways to extend their outdoor living style into the evening as lives get busier and the autumn days get shorter. Two-thirds of the Arboretum will be on display, each garden offering varying lighting techniques. From experiments with color and light temperatures to those playing with motion and light—each is designed to expand the appreciation and imagination of a nighttime garden. John Garner and his highly trained staff from Southern Lights of Raleigh will be on site to answer any questions.

This is a family-friendly event. “Children love being in the garden; they respond well to beauty and appreciate and enjoy something that looks and feels magical,” said Weathington. “Anything you do that gets children out and looking at plants, gardens, and natural areas is important. It’s a powerful way to instill an appreciation for the environment around them.”



Roasting Marshmallows—A favorite Moonlight in the Garden experience.

"*Moonlight in the Garden* started as an event to create awareness for the Arboretum. To our delight it has found its way onto the list of family traditions for many in our state and is our largest fundraising event ever. Many families who find us through *Moonlight* return to enjoy the Arboretum throughout the year and that's why we're here. It doesn't get better than that." added Arlene Calhoun, Associate Director.

Live entertainment and food trucks are available each evening to provide tasty savory and sweet delights for an al fresco dinner in the garden. Hot cider, marshmallows and fire pits add to the ambience of a crisp autumn evening in the garden.

WHEN: Preview Night, Friday, November 3, 2023, 7 PM – 9:30 PM
Event Nights: November 9-11 and November 16-18, 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM

WHERE: JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University, 4415 Beryl Road, Raleigh , NC

TICKETS: Advance sales on sale now
Ticket Prices: Adult: \$20 Member/\$30 Nonmember; Children: \$5
Expecting another sold out event.
Online at jcra.ncsu.edu/moonlight/
Arboretum front desk, Ruby C. McSwain Education Center

Preview Night: Adults \$95 Advance Sale Only (no tickets sold at gate)
Advance ticket required. Catered evening with beer and wine served.

Gate Ticket Prices: Adult: \$40; Children: \$5

Tickets will be available at the gate during if not sold out.

(Last tickets sold 8:30 PM each evening.)

INFO: For additional information or to buy tickets, please call 919-515-3132 or visit jcra.ncsu.edu/moonlight/

World renowned for its plant collection, the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University in Raleigh is one of the most beautiful teaching gardens. Free and open to the public every day of the year, the Arboretum's diverse collection has over 8,000 different kinds of plants on 10.5 acres. Located near the heart of the Research Triangle, it is a non-profit organization depends on contributions from individuals and business; and proceeds from facility rentals and programs to fund its mission of connecting people with plants, education and research.

Proceeds from the Moonlight in the Garden will benefit daily operations of the JC Raulston Arboretum. Funds supporting Moonlight in the Garden and the JC Raulston Arboretum are collected and managed by the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit (tax ID 56-6049304).

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[Photos available at jcra.ncsu.edu/pressroom/](http://jcra.ncsu.edu/pressroom/)

Event: jcra.ncsu.edu/moonlight/