

# Make special memories at Columbus Botanical Garden!

Special to *SeniorNewsGeorgia*

It's the most wonderful time of the year at Columbus Botanical Garden! Experience Shine, A Celebration of Nature and Wonder, enjoy the beauty of early blooming camellias, take in the crisp, cool air as you stroll through the gardens, and participate in engaging holiday workshops for kids and adults. There's something magical for everyone this season at CBG!



## ~ Garden News ~



### Featured Garden: The Ginkgo Shade Garden

The Ginkgo Shade Garden is composed of a vibrant canopy of Ginkgo biloba, with an understory of Japanese Maples. Capping off the plant list is a variety of ornamental shrubs and woodland perennials native to southeast Asia, the home of so many of our southern horticultural species.

The Ginkgos are currently turning their beautiful deep yellow color so make sure to see them while you can!



### Early Blooming Camellias

As you stroll along the JoAnn Holt Walking Trail, you will find the "Camellia Bowl" surrounded by early blooming camellias! This type of early blooming camellia is called sasanquas. You will see a few more beginning to bloom as you enter the Sam M. Wellborn Camellia Garden. In January and February, the camellia garden will be FULL of unique and rare camellias, with hundreds of varieties to marvel at - a sight you do NOT want to miss.

Take a seat and enjoy the peaceful beauty along our walking trail.



### Lillie Belle Holiday Market

Our Lillie Belle Holiday Market will be open every night at Shine and from 9am-3pm on non-Shine days.

Nonmembers: Shop with Garden Admission

Members: FREE ENTRY & a 10% discount on all merchandise

Opening Night: MEMBER NIGHT, 12/4 (Members Only)

Opening Day: Thursday, December 5th, 9am-3pm

Watch out for our gift guide coming soon!



### DID YOU KNOW...

All produce grown at the Garden is donated to Feeding the Valley to provide fresh food to families in need throughout the Chattahoochee Valley and beyond.

So far this year, we have donated over 1,400 pounds of produce to Feeding the Valley!

Garden staff had the opportunity to serve at Feeding the Valley Food Bank last month, sorting various food into bins that will go into their mobile food pantry, which feeds thousands of people in underserved communities! We are proud to partner with Feeding the Valley in their mission to combat food insecurity in our area.

## Meet Carmen Overton, CBG's Director of Development!

Carmen has a 20-year career in non-profit work. Prior to becoming the Director of Development at CBG, she served as the Executive Director of Clement Arts, and the Director of Development and Marketing for The Columbus Museum and The Pastoral Institute. Carmen has ample experience promoting cultural arts throughout the region and organizing large and small

events to engage visitors. She was particularly drawn to the Garden because of its focus on beauty, inspiration, and wonder of the natural world. Carmen sees the Garden as an essential community resource that provides both respite from the worries of the world and a place to educate future stewards of our environment. Carmen has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Georgia in English and Anthropology and a Master's degree in education from Columbus State University with an add-on in Leadership and

Administration from the University of West Georgia. She is currently enjoying growing heirloom mums in her home garden.



## ~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~



Join us for our annual dazzling holiday light display, SHINE, a Celebration of Nature and Wonder!

**Enjoy photos with Santa, Walk of Stars, Photo Ops, Kids' Crafts, Holiday Market, Live Entertainment, Bioluminescence Area and more!**

**Festive concessions and S'mores kits** will be available for purchase, along with drinks from **Blitzen's Bottle Shop Bar**. Group rates nights and Member Discount nights are available.

We will also offer FREE entry for Military, First responders, and Educators on select nights.

**Purchase Tickets and Learn More!**

It's autumn! Visiting the Garden at this time of year reveals a unique and often overlooked experience. While many think of gardens in terms of spring blooms and summer vibrancy, autumn and winter unveil a quieter, more contemplative side of nature. As a new member of the Garden team – but a longtime visitor – I've found that being here daily has deepened my appreciation for the slow, graceful shift from summer to fall.

Each morning begins with a cool stillness that gradually warms into golden afternoons, offering a perfect time to wander through the landscape. Here, you might encounter a scarecrow one day, and the gentle promise of the first camellia buds the next. These mild days invite you to explore the serene pathways and observe nature's preparation for the restful months ahead.

Whether you're coming to feel the holiday magic of Shine, seeking a peaceful retreat, or simply craving a change of scenery, I hope you'll visit the Garden soon and savor everything this season has to offer.

**Carmen Overton, Director of Development**

### Garden Hours

Open Tuesday - Sunday, 9 am - 5 p.m., last entrance time at 4 p.m. (CLOSED Mondays)

### Shine Day Garden Hours

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., last entry at 12 p.m. to prepare for evenings of Shine (Shine is a ticketed event.)

### Garden Admission

\$12 adults // \$8 ages 2-17 // Free 0-1 Free entry for CBG Members

**Our mailing address is: Columbus Botanical Garden, 3603 Weems Road, Columbus, GA 31909-3701**