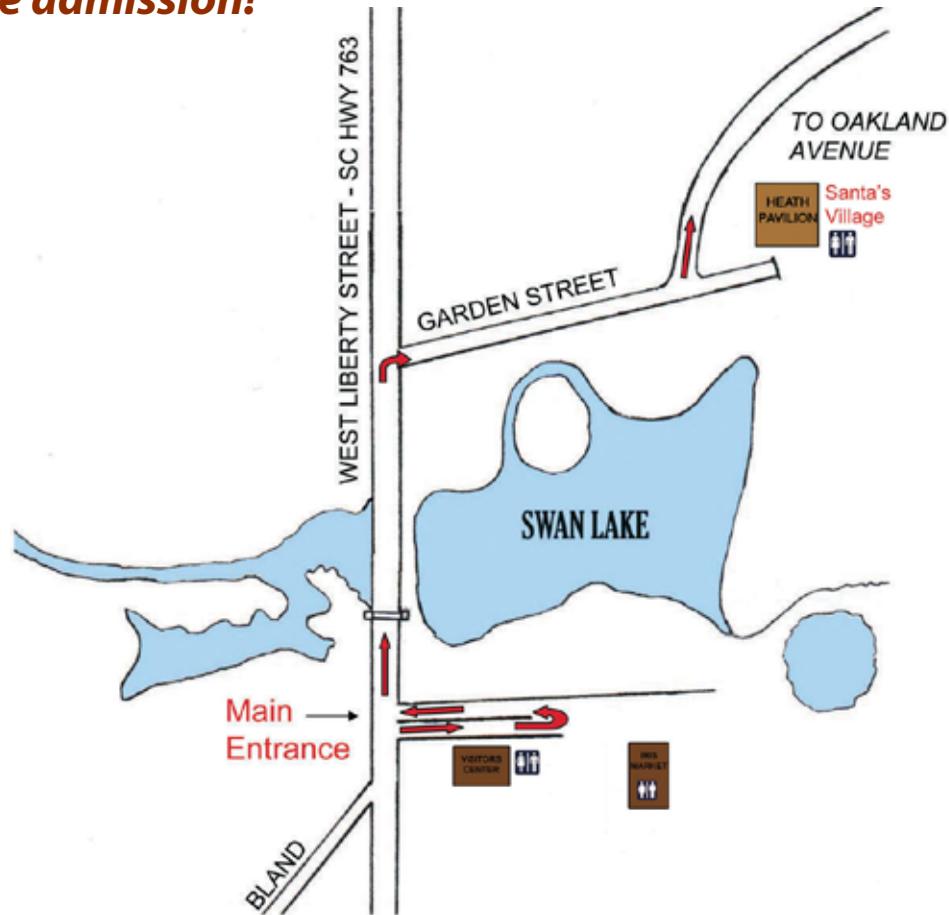


Drive through a holiday dream world...

Swan Lake Iris Gardens is transformed into a holiday wonderland! Children and "children at heart" will marvel at the spectacular display of lighted imagery as the lake and gardens twinkle with the magnificent glitter of more than one million lights. The light display is open nightly through December 31 from dusk until 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. On Friday and Saturday nights from December 7-22, "Santa's Village" features visits with Santa for children, refreshments for sale and live entertainment from 6 to 8 p.m. Enjoy the "Dance of the Northern Lights, featuring synchronized lights and music.

Free admission!



For more information on the Fantasy of Lights, please call at **1-800-688-4748**, e-mail tourism@sumter-sc.com or visit us at www.sumtertourism.com.



**Joel
Roberts
Poinsett
(1779-1851)**



The Sumter Poinsettia Festival is named in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico. An avid botanist, Poinsett imported the plant that has become a symbol of the holiday season. His burial site is at the historic Church of the Holy Cross in Stateburg, South Carolina.

Stage performances...home tours...drive-through nativity...the Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights...join the celebration as Sumter welcomes the season with the sights, sounds and tastes of the holidays!

A short drive from Interstates 95, 77 and 20, and within easy driving distance of South Carolina's major cities, experience the beauty and wonder of the holidays at the **Sumter Poinsettia Festival**.



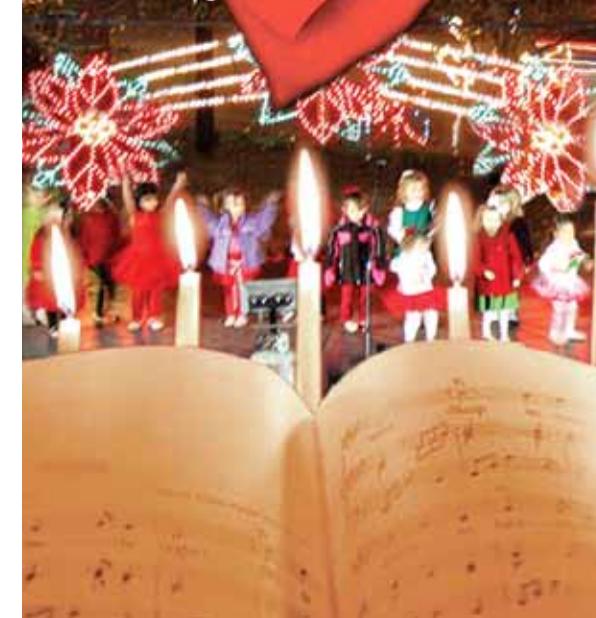
**Swan Lake
Visitors Center**
(803) 436-2640
Toll-Free 1-800-688-4748
822 West Liberty Street
Sumter, SC 29150

Sumter, South Carolina

Sumter Poinsettia Festival

December 1-14, 2012

*Includes Preliminary Events for
November 30, 2012.*



Sumter Poinsettia Festival 2012

PRELIMINARY EVENTS

November 30

Sumter County Christmas Tree Lighting

Join the citizens of Sumter on the Courthouse lawn as Sumter County's spectacular community Christmas tree blazes into life. Live entertainment. 4:30 p.m., immediately followed by "A Walk with St. Nick." 141 N. Main St. FREE.

A Walk with St. Nick

The Sumter County Recreation Department hosts the annual stroll with Saint Nicholas, followed by refreshments and storytelling around a bonfire at the Sumter County Museum. For children of all ages! 5:30 p.m. FREE. (803) 436-2248.

SUMTER POINSETTIA FESTIVAL

December 1

Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights Opening Ceremony

Holiday cheer arrives in Sumter with the opening of the annual Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights. For the entire month, the gardens come alive with a display of twinkling holiday imagery created by more than one million lights. The Pilot Club's floating Christmas tree is an annual favorite, along with Santa, angels and characters of song and story. One of South Carolina's largest Christmas light displays! Opening ceremonies, 6 p.m. **Light display open nightly through December 31.** Sunday-Thursday from dusk until 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday until 10 p.m. Featuring "The Dance of the Northern Lights" musical light show, Sunday through Thursday until December 27 at the Heath Pavilion on Garden Street. FREE. (803) 436-2640 or toll-free, 1-800-688-4748.

Breakfast with Santa

Share "the most important meal of the day" with Santa Claus at this favorite annual event! All ages welcome. Sumter County Recreation Department, 155 Haynsworth St. 10 a.m.-Noon. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 for children under 12. (803) 436-2248.

Jingle Market Craft Show

First annual "Gift Mart" and craft show, featuring handcrafted gifts and more! Free admission. Sumter Elks Lodge #855, 1100 W. Liberty Street. (803) 983-2447 or (803) 773-0792.

The Singing Christmas Tree

First Baptist Church presents some of the community's most talented singers in this dramatic re-telling of the Christmas story. **Opens November 30 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performances at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. on December 1 and 2.** 107 E. Liberty St. **Free admission; tickets required.** (803) 773-3732.

"The Nutcracker"

Patriot Hall hosts the beloved story of Clara and the Prince, performed by the Columbia City Ballet. 135 Haynsworth St. 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and military, \$12 for children 12 and under. (803) 799-7605.

December 2

Evening Optimist Club Christmas Parade

Holiday cheer parades down Sumter's Main Street in an array of song, dance, floats, beauty queens, marching bands and more! Lineup at 1 p.m.; parade starts at 2 p.m. FREE. (803) 983-3916.

Morris College Chorale Christmas Concert

This annual celebration in song is open to the public. Neal-Jones Auditorium, 100 W. College St. 6 p.m. FREE. (803) 934-3200.

December 6

11th Annual Festival of Trees

Watch Tuomey turn into a winter wonderland, with beautiful trees placed throughout the hospital campus. The Tuomey Foundation's annual Festival of Trees celebration benefits Tuomey Hospice Services. Open to the public; free admission. 129 N. Washington St. (803) 774-9014. **Through January 4.**

13th Annual Circle of Lights

Join Tuomey Hospice Services in honoring friends, family members and loved ones at the dedication of the 20-foot Circle of Lights Tree, 5:30 p.m. 129 N. Washington St. Open to the public; free admission. (803) 774-9014.

"A Christmas Carol"

The Sumter Little Theatre presents this highly inventive adaptation, paring down the classic story to its essential elements. As a company of traveling players enact Dickens' Christmas story, the on-stage trunk of supplies opens, actors and clowns spill out and roll on. The gruff stage manager and prop boy check the show's shabby props, but the troupe improvises a magical world of make-believe, making their way through the tale, with fog, snow, fire, ghosts, and imagination. **Performances December 6-9 and 13-16.** Admission \$15 adults; season tickets available. 14 Mood Ave. **Student, senior and military discounts available. Reservations strongly recommended.** (803) 775-2150.

Sumter-Shaw Community Concert Band

Patriot Hall hosts the Sumter-Shaw Community Concert Band's holiday concert, featuring a mix of popular and traditional Christmas favorites. 135 Haynsworth St. 7:30 p.m. FREE. (803) 436-2640.

December 7

"Santa's Village"

The Heath Pavilion (at the end of Garden Street) opens up on weekends for visits from jolly ole Saint Nick, refreshments for sale and live entertainment from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights through December 22. Swan Lake Iris Gardens is located at 822 W. Liberty St. "Santa's Express" drop-off for letters to Santa. FREE. (803) 436-2640 or toll-free, 1-800-688-4748.

The Living Christmas Story

A trip back in time as Trinity United Methodist Church recreates 1st-century Bethlehem on the night Jesus Christ was born. **Drive-through December 7-9 and 11-13, 6-9 p.m.** FREE. (803) 773-9393.

December 8

Carolina Backcountry Christmas

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...the sound of music in the air... spiced cider and delicious treats! Sumter County Museum, 122 N. Washington St. 2-4 p.m. FREE. (803) 775-0908.

63rd Annual Holiday House Tea & Tour

A Sumter tradition, hosted by the Sumter Council of Garden Clubs. Tea served from 3-5 p.m.; tours from **12-6 p.m.** Alice Boyle Garden Center, 842 W. Liberty St. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door, and at each home on the tour. (803) 905-4375.

December 9

Sumter Civic Chorale Christmas Concert

The Sumter Civic Chorale brings in the holiday season with its annual program of Christmas favorites at Patriot Hall. 135 Haynsworth St. 3 p.m. FREE. (803) 436-2260.

December 13

Old-Fashioned Christmas

It's back! Celebrate Christmas on Main Street with festive food and drinks, live entertainment and more as the city travels back to old Sumterville with this costume-themed event. FREE. (803) 436-2640.

December 14

"A Christmas Carol"

The 1951 film adaptation starring Alastair Sim is widely considered to be the definitive version of Charles Dickens' classic novel. Embittered miser Ebenezer Scrooge is taken on a tour of his own life by the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future, and in the process learns what made him the way he is, and how to find redemption. Presented by the Sumter Opera House as part of the "Downtown Friday Nights" series. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; film begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$2.50 and available at the door. 21 N. Main St. (803) 436-2640.

"Jingle with the Arts"

The annual holiday performance by the Freed School of Performing Arts takes place at Patriot Hall. 7 p.m. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. **Matinee and evening performances December 15.** (803) 436-2260.