



# BOK TOWER GARDENS

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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**CONTACT:** Erica Smith

Director of Marketing

(863) 734-1210

[esmith@boktower.org](mailto:esmith@boktower.org)



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## **23rd Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate is “Merry & Bright” at Bok Tower Gardens November 24 to January 7**

**LAKE WALES, FL** — Christmas at Bok Tower Gardens is an annual celebration for all ages and one of the best times of year to visit. Events and festivities take place daily November 24 through January 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors will enjoy ever-popular Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate, poinsettia, bromeliad and amaryllis displays, live music on the 205-foot Singing Tower carillon, Sunset & Symphony Holiday Concert with the full Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (Dec. 2), winter walking tours, and a variety of educational programs. Admission

for the Gardens and Pinewood Estate Holiday Home Tour (Combo Admission) is \$24 adults and \$12 child (5-12). Kids under 5 are free.

### ***Home for the Holidays***

Touring the 20-room, 1932 Mediterranean-style Pinewood Estate is like taking a step back in time for a glimpse of how families might have celebrated the holidays during a bygone era. The estate's decorations change each Christmas, and no two years are ever the same. For the 2017-18 edition, the Holiday Home Tour takes a musical turn celebrating Charles Austin Buck's passion for music and the legendary American music of the 1930's.

The year is 1936 and Mr. Buck is bringing his children and grandchildren to Pinewood Estate for the holidays. Caught in the fever of the Jazz Age, the family is excited to share their fully decorated home for the season. Experience the sounds of Louie Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and more as Pinewood Estate is "Merry & Bright" for the holidays! Pinewood Estate will feature live jazz performances on select weekends during the holidays.

### ***Adding Sparkle to a National Historic Landmark***

Inspired by the history and beauty of Pinewood Estate, members of The Amaryllis Club are decorating the entire estate and the entry gates. A volunteer patron group, their mission is to promote and preserve the heritage and vintage style of this historic home, and to take on other special projects on behalf of the Gardens.

"The Amaryllis Club is so pleased to join other designers in celebrating the 23rd annual Holiday Home Tour," said Cindy Alexander, one of the club's organizers. "Our members are excited to support the Gardens in a way that focuses on preparing a very special home for the holidays."

Patti Bostick, lead designer for The Amaryllis Club's decorating team, said the Club's main intent was to maintain the integrity of the house in their designs and to make sure the decorations emphasize the home's architecture, beauty and style.

“It’s an honor and a privilege for us to be decorating this one-of-a-kind home,” Bostick said. “Our entire team has worked on this project since spring, and we’re excited that visitors will be able to experience how Mr. Buck and his family would have enjoyed Christmas together during the 1930’s,” she said. “The house speaks to you; you can feel its history. It’s an amazing place, and we love it.”

With as much work that goes into every detail of the décor, the Holiday Home Tour would not be possible without the dedicated help from dozens of people who began preparing several months in advance.

### ***A Holiday Hunt for the Whole Family***

Children are encouraged to tour the historic estate and participate in a fun hunt for a family of Pinewood Christmas Squirrels who are hiding throughout the Estate. Before or after the tour, families can also enjoy the all-new Hammock Hollow Children’s Garden with nearly three acres of nature inspired play areas and gardens.

For convenient snacks and drinks, visitors can enjoy Pinewood Place located adjacent to the Estate and open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily through January 7, 2018. Following the Christmas season, Pinewood Estate will reopen to daily tours later in January.

### ***Ring in the Holidays with Sunset & Symphony***

In addition to the Holiday Home Tour, Bok Tower Gardens also presents its annual Sunset & Symphony Holiday Concert with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (OPO) Saturday, December 2 at 6 p.m. The OPO and Singing Tower carillon perform holiday classics while visitors enjoy picnicking and festival-style seating on the Gardens’ Great Lawn. Advance tickets are \$25/adult and \$10/child ages 5-12. Day of tickets are \$30/adult and \$10/child ages 5-12. Under 5 are free. Admission to the Gardens after 3pm on December 2 will include a concert ticket.

Christmas at Bok Tower Gardens is sponsored in part by Visit Central Florida, Citizens Bank & Trust and by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Additional sponsors include Winter Haven Honda, Ledger

Media Group, Max 98.3, Sun Media Group, Today & Tonight Magazine, WEDU, WUSF, and 97.5 WPCV.

## **Christmas at Bok Tower Gardens Schedule of Events**

Purchase tickets for events online at [www.boktowergardens.org](http://www.boktowergardens.org) or by calling 863-712-1222

### **Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate**

Nov. 24 to Jan. 7

The 23rd Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate, "Merry & Bright" is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is \$24/adults; \$12/children ages 5-12. Members: \$9/adults; \$7/children ages 5-12. All prices include general Gardens admission. Children under 5 free.

### **Holiday Home Tour Live Jazz at Pinewood Estate**

All concerts are included in general admission and begin at 12:30 p.m.  
Nov 25: Omari Dillard, Dec. 9: Swing Boutique, Dec. 16: KC&CO, Dec. 23: Victoria De Lissovoy, Dec. 30: Those Guys, Jan 6: John Skillman and the New Orleans Night Hawks

### **Christmas Carillon Concerts LIVE!**

Nov. 24 to Jan. 7

Geert D'hollander performs Christmas music from around the world at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. every Thursday through Sunday on the 60-bell Singing Tower carillon. All 30-minute carillon concerts included with Gardens admission.

### **Winter Walking Tours**

Nov. 24 to Jan. 7

Gardens' volunteers lead an hour-long winter walking tour, sharing information about the flora and fauna and guiding visitors through the Gardens from the Visitor Center to the Singing Tower. Tours are Mondays through Saturdays at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. only. Included with Gardens admission.

### **Gingerbread Houses with Mrs. Claus**

Nov. 26 and Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (two sessions available)

Join us for fun for the whole family and decorate your own gingerbread house and take a tour of the Holiday Home Tour. Each participant will receive their own gingerbread house to decorate and storybook to take home, which will be read by visiting Mrs. Claus. \$45 per child, includes admission to Holiday Home Tour, gingerbread house and storybook (price includes admission for one chaperone). Regular admission applies to additional chaperones and guests.

### **Sunset & Symphony Holiday Concert with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra**

Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.

Enjoy the sounds of the season as the full Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and Singing Tower carillon perform in one of Central Florida's favorite holiday concerts. Visitors are encouraged to prepare themed picnics and arrive early to participate in the instrument petting zoo beginning at 4:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25/adults; \$10/children ages 5-12. Children under 5 free.

### **Holiday Home Workshop "Living Holiday Tree"**

Dec. 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spend the morning with Project Blooming founder, Linda Worle creating a beautiful living Christmas tree. It's easy to mix succulents in an array of types and colors that will last year-round. Workshop includes instruction, basic framework materials, and plants. Separate fee applies.

### **Lunch & Learn: Holiday Home Décor with Plants**

Dec. 13 at 12 p.m.

Horticulture experts will teach you how to incorporate your plants into your holiday décor as well as what plants will add a festive flair to your yard during the holiday season. Included with Gardens admission.

### **Bok After Dark "CELESTIAL GREETINGS"**

Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

Join Geert D'hollander as he performs his all-new Christmas CD live. Enjoy the peak of the Geminids, which considered one of the most

prolific meteor showers of the year. Geert will be available to sign CDs after the performance. Included in general admission.

### **Three Authors and A Fishmonger**

Dec. 17 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Florida authors Heather McPherson, Pam Brandon and Katie Farmand, will cook, entertain with stories, and serve small bites from recipes selected from their fresh-from-Florida seafood cookbook “Good Catch.” Each guest will receive a signed copy of the book (\$29.95 value), and the authors will be on hand to personalize copies – with additional copies for sale at a discount for holiday gifts. Separate fee applies.

### **Carillon & Chorale Concert**

Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.

Enjoy an hour-long carillon concert with a live choir from Harrison School of the Arts. Concert is included in general admission.

### **Sweeten Your Holidays**

Dec. 22 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Learn about the harvesting of sugar cane and how to decorate sugar cookies for the holidays. Separate fee applies.

### **Christmas Day at Bok Tower Gardens**

Dec. 25

Celebrate Christmas Day and enjoy the sounds of the season with live carillon concerts at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Holiday Home Tour open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Café and gift shop open 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. PLEASE NOTE: Regular Gardens admission and Holiday Home Tour rates apply to Christmas Day.