



HOLIDAYS AT LONGWOOD GARDENS

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Study Leader: **Karl Gercens'** passion for horticulture started at an early age while growing-up on a 10,000-acre cotton plantation in Mississippi. Karl's experimentation with different plant types and growing methods in that region sparked an interest in new and dynamic exploration for cultivation which ultimately led to his B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture at Mississippi State University. Karl's resume includes professional, hands-on skills from world class organizations such as Longwood Gardens, The Filoli Estate, and Walt Disney World. His years of horticultural tenure include innovative design-work combined with time-honored approaches for serious gardening.

Smithsonian Rep: Charles McQueen
Tour Cell Phone: (301) 605-2353

8:00 a.m. Departure from the **Mayflower Hotel**, with a pickup at the I-495, Exit 27 carpool lot at approx. 8:30 a.m.

Brief stop to pick up the study leader; Whisper devices will be distributed and tested on the bus to be used for the Conservatory tour at Longwood Gardens

10:45 a.m. Arrival at **Longwood Gardens**

11:00 a.m. Conservatory tour with Karl Gercens

12:30 p.m. **Lunch in the Café**

Menu: Choice of entrée using a \$25 voucher

1:45 p.m. Conservatory tour continued; meeting location will be announced

2:45 p.m. **Free time** to explore the gardens, holiday displays, shop, or relax

3:30 p.m. Holiday Lights turn on; best viewing approximately 4:00-4:30 p.m.

4:45 p.m. Depart Longwood Gardens

A brief stop will be made for guests to purchase a meal or snack

7:30 p.m. Approximate drop off at the I-495, Exit 27 carpool lot

8:00 p.m. Arrival at the **Mayflower Hotel**

If you enjoyed today's program, we hope you'll consider making a donation to Smithsonian Associates. Your contribution will help ensure that we are able to continue offering the outstanding programming you've come to expect from Smithsonian Associates. For more information go online to SmithsonianAssociates.org/levels or call 202.633.8663.

NOTE: If you have Special Requirements (e.g. dietary or mobility), please notify the tour office at associates-studytours@si.edu when registering for a future tour.