

Creating the Exhibition Hall Display



A year's worth of careful planning and teamwork led to the creation of our largest ever living tree, standing 30 feet tall and filled with over 1300 plants.

The logistics of creating this display were complex in construction, irrigation and plant selection.





It was constructed in pieces by our carpenters and metal shop, and reassembled in place in the Exhibition Hall.





The structure was too large to be safely made from wood alone. The top third, which was adapted from previous displays, is metal and hangs from the ceiling.



The lower part of the structure is nearly 20 feet wide.
It is made of wood for ease of logistics and flexibility.



A complex planting and irrigation plan was followed



Looking down into the form



The top and bottom sections in different stages of completion.




Our gardeners developed this living tree design technique to creatively showcase potted materials in tree form.

1300 individual pots of red poinsettias, white scarlet-plume, Canary Island ivy, white moth orchids are carefully placed on the custom-made frames and watered via irrigation tubing.



The plants are watered with a custom engineered automated irrigation system never before used at Longwood. Almost a mile of tubing travels all the way up the inside of the structure and then spirals down to help with water pressure.

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a wooden trellis structure. The structure is composed of several horizontal and vertical wooden beams. A dense network of black irrigation tubes is visible, running along the beams and branching out towards the top. Green foliage is visible through the gaps in the structure, and bright sunlight filters through from the upper right, creating a high-contrast scene. A white, curved object, possibly a pipe or a piece of equipment, is visible in the lower right foreground.

Looking up into the form.
Irrigation tubes lead to each potted plant.





Once the structure is completely decorated, the upper metal structure is raised by cable connected to a lift on the ceiling, and connected to the lower structure.



Our 2016 Living Tree with beautiful lights and colors reflecting in the shimmering water.

Exhibition Hall Displays Throughout the Years





2008



2009



2010



2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



Return again to enjoy our ever-changing displays...