

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

ZooLights gets Greener and Brighter

Holiday tradition features a million LEDs

ZooLights is both brighter and greener this year.

Since 2000, the Oregon Zoo has been upgrading its spectacular holiday light display with an eye to the future — gradually switching from conventional incandescent lights to highly efficient LEDs, which use a fraction of the energy and last far longer.

This year's ZooLights, presented by Toyota with support from The Boeing Company, adds even more new diodes, adding up to more than a million LEDs out of the nearly 1.5 million lights on display.

LEDs use about 10 to 25 percent of the power of standard holiday lights. With an expected life of at least 25,000 hours — 20 times that of conventional light strings — this year's new lights could last for

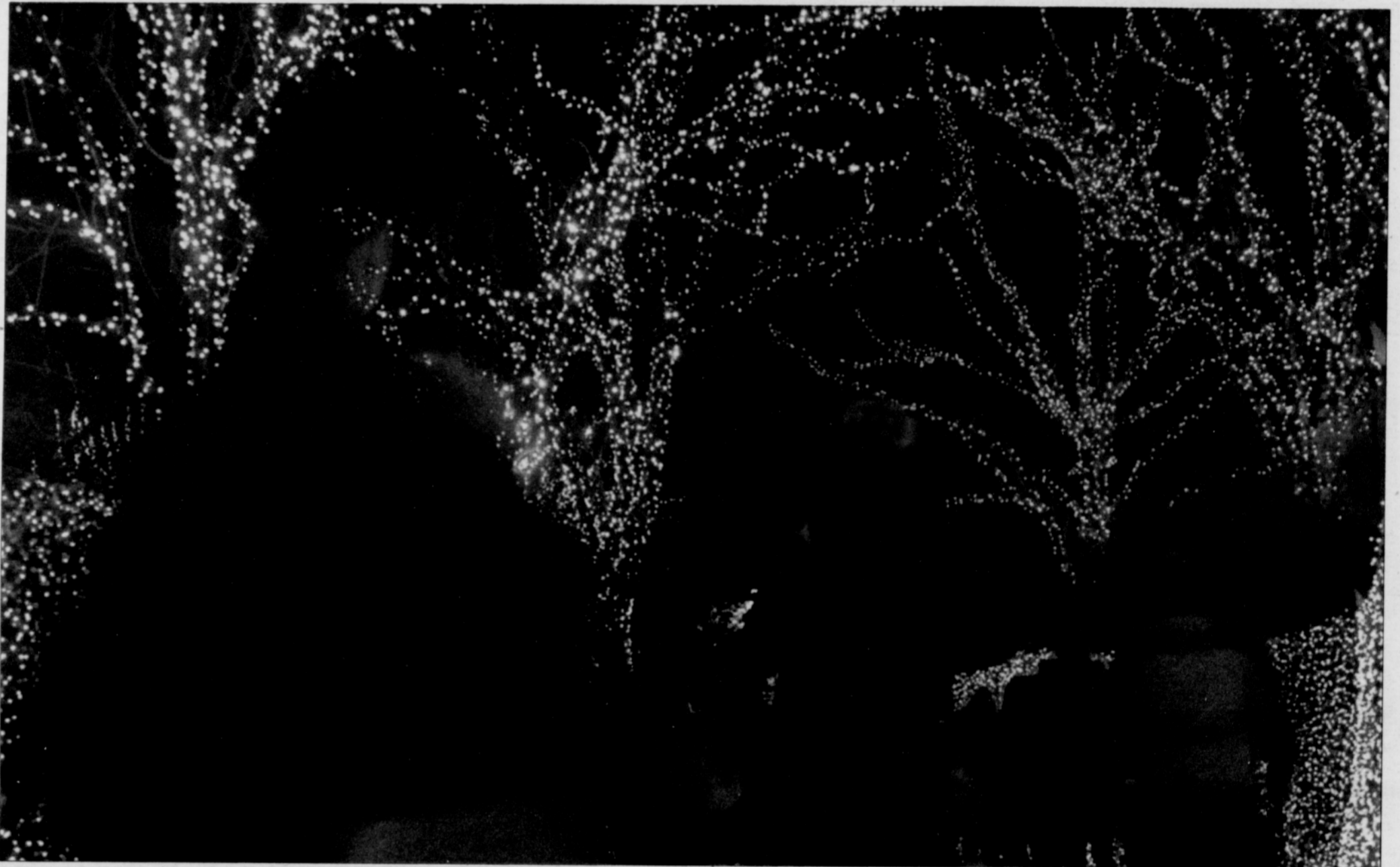


PHOTO BY SHERVIN HESS

ZooLights has upgraded more than a million lights to energy-efficient LEDs. The Oregon Zoo's popular holiday light display runs through Jan. 5 at the zoo.

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another quarter-century or beyond.

"Every year we're making ZooLights more sustainable for the next generation of visitors," said event coordinator Russell Guinn, who has overseen the seasonal spectacle since 1992. "The sparkling LEDs that kids are enjoying this year could still be glowing when they bring their own kids to enjoy ZooLights years from now."

The ZooLights visit has become a favorite holiday tradition with its life-size animal silhouettes, moving sculptures and forests of lighted trees. This year's display has a continuous loop around the zoo through areas that haven't been lit up before. One spectacular new section in the zoo's Africa Rainforest area features a twisting 100-foot-long rainbow-colored tunnel of light.

ZooLights hours are 5-8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 5-8:30 p.m. Friday through Saturday. ZooLights will be closed Dec. 24-25 and then continue through Jan. 5. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8.50 for seniors, \$7 for children and free for children 2 and under.