

# DUBAI GARDEN GLOW

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جاردن  
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a new  
visual experience  
Park



FLAAR

AMUSEMENT  
PARK REVIEW





Dubai is overtaking Orlando (Florida)  
as Amusement Park and Theme Park World Leader  
so attending **DEAL 2016** in April is a good idea

# Introduction

Dubai Garden Glow opened in December 2015 and has continued to provide family-friendly events for Dubai. Both Dubai residents and visitors to Dubai (for shopping or business) have found Dubai Garden Glow a great place to visit.

This visual illuminated experience park was set up under the company The Retailers Investment (TRI), Mr Sharif Rahman, Managing Partner. TRI is an additional successful part of Falak Holding. Dubai Garden Glow is coordinated with the Dubai Municipality.

The day-by-day organization is by Chanchal Samanta, Managing Partner of The Retailers Investment. We thank Mr Sharif Rahman's arrangement of two visits by us during SGI in January to study Dubai Garden Glow. We appreciate the equal hospitality of Chanchal Samanta and his team for both visits.

The idea that Dubai should consider this particular expo was from Dr Nicholas Hellmuth (FLAAR), since he saw how successful this light-experience park concept was at MOBOT in St Louis.





The Garden Glow arrangement for Dubai is larger than in St Louis and the location is frankly a clever choice. Actually you can hike here from the Dubai convention center.

Since FLAAR develops family-friendly comic book characters, we are considering providing concepts for the next year's illuminated characters. If you Google :

### **Mayan comic book characters**

you should find our new web site.

Dr Nicholas is from St Louis, and his father's architectural company designed the headquarters for the world-class MOBOT botanical garden several decades ago (Missouri Botanical Garden; the abbreviation of Missouri for the post office is "MO"). In recent years MOBOT has staged two photo exhibits of Dr Nicholas (of his high resolution photos of Mayan-related plants of Guatemala). While setting up this photo exhibit we saw the lanterns staged all around the garden. Another coincidence was that the landscape architect setup manager of the event in St Louis was botanist Charles Zidar, who cooperates with Nicholas in studies on flowers of Mayan cultures of Guatemala, Mexico, Belize, and Honduras.



So while in Dubai last year, Nicholas suggested this concept would be good to try for Dubai, and specifically would be fitting for the team of Mr Sharif Rahman. Since IEC also organizes DEAL, and since family-friendly mascots and logos and comic characters are a successful core of theme parks, we at FLAAR fit in nicely. Although FLAAR is best known for its wide-format inkjet printer Reports, we also have been working on developing concepts for theme parks in recent years. Indeed our division is already named, MayanToons, with a friendly jaguar cub as logo animal.







# Lots glowing animals from African safaris here in Dubai Garden Glow

Animals of Mexico and Central America are what we work with and do research on for years. You can see our focus on fascinating animals of Guatemala on our [www.Maya-ethnozoology.org](http://www.Maya-ethnozoology.org).

It's tough for jaguars and spider monkeys to survive in Guatemala with pollution and especially with the fragile eco-systems being destroyed by mining and by bulldozing the jungle to plant non-native commercial plants such as teak, sugarcane, and African oil palm. It would be nice if more land could be set aside as nature preserves.



We at FLAAR have initiated a program to provide public education on the birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and remarkable insets (yes, many insects are beneficial to mankind, such as honey bees, and they also deserve to be protected).





# Ants carrying Plants

I really like the two areas of the park with glowing ants carrying things. For over six years we have studied leaf-carrying ants in Guatemala and Honduras. Actually they often harvest and carry flowers instead of leaves

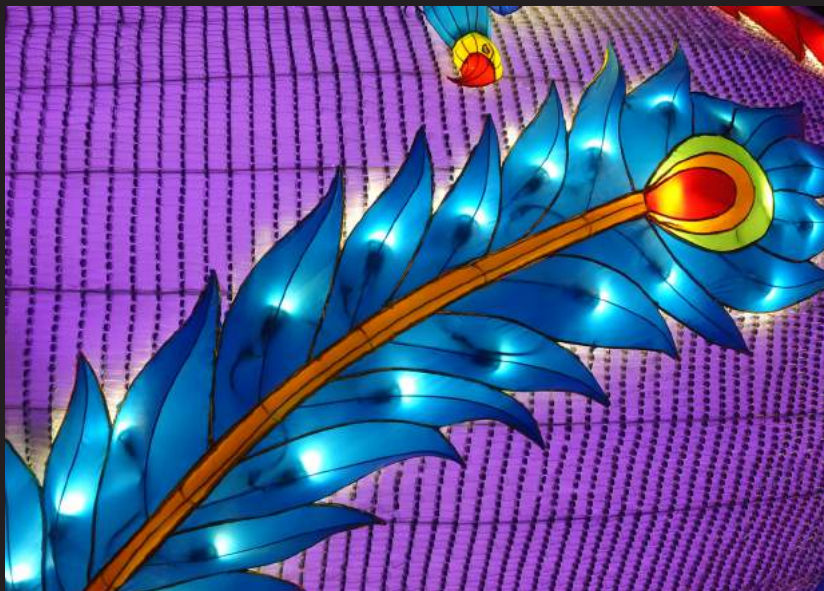






# Pelicans

Two species of pelicans inhabit Guatemala, and of course pelicans are common symbols of oceans and bays around the world. So it was nice to see pelicans here.







# M a n g r o v e s w a m p s

We do research in mangrove swamps parallel to the Pacific Ocean for seven years here in Guatemala. Plus we work in other kinds of swamps in a different eco-system elsewhere in Guatemala. So we enjoyed seeing this water environment at the Dubai Garden Glow.



# Pandas in a bamboo forest

Pandas are animals we do not have in Guatemala, but they are nice to see bright and glowing here in the park.









# Talking Tree concept

This is great for children. The present initial themes were the ideas of Spencer Tan (the engineer and owner of the company who designs the lighting concepts), with the architectural building selection by the team from TRI In Dubai. My interest would potentially be to provide concepts for the next year. Every year must be different (to get people to return). But even more than being different and new, the second year needs to be super innovative to get everyone to return who already saw everything the first year.



It is iconic that a team in the Flora & Fauna Research Division of FLAAR has been working on humanoid trees for over six years now. Trees with faces on them actually can exist here in Guatemala (you simply work the surface of the tree and it produces the facial features you seek). Plus the largest tree in Guatemala (height of up to a 10-story office building!) are hollow inside, so you can actually place people inside to speak through a “mouth” opening.

So we have lots of exciting concepts for considering for a new, different, exciting, successful, and popular year 2017 for Dubai Garden Glow.



## **Dinosaurs are popular with adults as well as for children**

Since Charles Zidar has experience in paleontology, he conceived the dinosaur exhibit. Unfortunately I missed the dinosaur that walked around the trail, but I can estimate it was successful.



# The changes in color of the lighting was successful

I really like the way the exhibits change color at night. All this was very professionally engineered.





# **Illuminated Lighting Theme Parks are popular worldwide**

I have noticed more and more illuminated theme parks around the world, in London, in USA, and in Europe. There are several lighting engineering companies. Lantern Fest, of Spencer Tan is the first one we have met in person, but now that we notice the huge potential for growth of this kind of public entertainment we will be expanding our interests in learning of other outfitters and engineers.



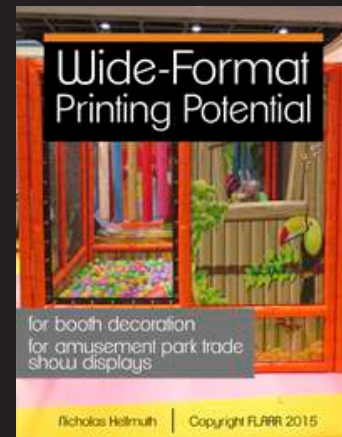
Our benefit is that FLAAR has experience with tourism, with lectures and conferences, and most importantly, with how to accomplish scientific research and then make the results understandable to a general audience. We publish scientific reports for universities and museums, but now we wish to have all our knowledge available to a vastly bigger audience, and around the world. So FLAAR is available as a consultant and we enjoy working with IEC and TRI.





# DEAL 2016, April 19-21

Although we go to DEAL to study theme parks, in fact there are a lot of exhibits which use wide-format inkjet printers to decorate their booths and even their products.



But the primary reasons for attending DEAL 2016 are to become aware that out in the real world Dubai is well on its way to beating Orlando (even including Tampa) as the amusement park capital of the world.

To learn more about DEAL, here is their web site.

[www.dealmiddleeastshow.com/201](http://www.dealmiddleeastshow.com/201)

DEAL is capably organized by IEC, [www.IECdubai.com](http://www.IECdubai.com), a member of Falak Holding. Falak Holding is also a major stakeholder and investor in the Sports City area of Dubai.

Dubai Garden Glow is open until April 30th, 2016, so when you come to attend DEAL, consider going to Zabeel Park, about one kilometer from the trade show center. available as a consultant and we enjoy working with IEC and TRI.



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