



"In this dark world, we can use a little light."

Jerry Lageson
Lighted Tree Owner

LUMINOUS WONDER

Man shares stunning lighted tree with thousands

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER



Lageson's tree contains close to 50,000 LED lights that take him about 35 hours to string. He rents a lift that towers 55 feet in the air to string the lights.

Traveling along Interstate 35 through Southern Minnesota can be a dark and monotonous venture, especially during the winter months. But for at least two months around the holidays, Jerry Lageson of rural Medford has found a way to light up the night sky in a stunning way and bring a little holiday cheer to motorists.

For the past eight years, Lageson has been sparkling the darkness by lighting up a 45-foot White Oak tree along I-35 between Faribault and Medford. It's Lageson's way of extending a holiday gift to thousands of motorists along I-35.

"To cheer everybody up," said Lageson when asked why he does it. "It makes an impression on people. It cheers me up when I go down the drive way."

Lageson enjoys listening to the traffic as his tree shines through the dark of the night. He lights it from about 5 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. every day from Thanksgiving until mid-January. "Semis really like it," he says. "They honk and hit the rumble strips," he added.

This year Lageson added 12,000 new lights to the tree. He's not even sure how many are on the tree,



A luminous wonder appears along Interstate 35 as a 45-foot tree brightly shines with around 50,000 white lights.

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