

# 2019 Classes, Programs, Youth, Special Events

South Texas **BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER**

8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi, TX 78413  
361-852-2100 www.stxbot.org

**ONGOING Event: PARROT TALK VISITOR INTERACTIVE PROGRAMS** (no reservations needed)  
1:30 pm, Fridays/Saturdays/Sundays, Check in Visitors Center for location. Included in General Admission!  
INDIVIDUAL PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES available for donations.



**ONGOING Class: ORCHIDOLOGY** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, 7 pm, Education Station  
On-going Orchid monthly class series and information exchange, for novice to experienced growers, led by our expert orchid volunteers, in the Education Station classroom. Monthly topics range from different orchid genera to specific orchid culture techniques. **FREE** for all orchid lovers! 361-813-4879.



**Unless otherwise specified, CLASS FEES are:**  
(1) included in General Admission (2) Free for Members (3) \$5 per person, class only.  
With exception of evening classes, check in at Visitors Center for class location.

## WINTER LECTURES SERIES Wednesdays, January 23 through March 6, 10:30-11:30 am

A variety of unique nature and horticulture topics, which define and explain our South Texas environment, for winter visitors, other travelers, residents. Enjoy new acquaintances, with a cup of coffee.

Jan 23 **Go Native for Spring Butterflies**  
Jan 30 **Landscape Lessons from Harvey**  
Feb 6 **Nature Photography Techniques**  
Feb 13 **Adding Water Features to Your Garden**  
Feb 20 **Saving the Monarchs**  
Feb 27 **Space-Saving Container Gardens**

Michael Womack, STBGNC Horticulturist & Exec. Director  
Kevin Gibbs, Nueces County Extension Agent - Horticulture  
Susan Chilcoat, Wildlife in Focus  
Denise Housler, Aquaria Services  
Rosemary Plank, Texas Master Naturalist.  
Carol Krank, STBGNC Horticulturist



### BEEKEEPING Saturday, January 26, 10:30-11:30 am.

Local beekeeper Justin Hodge shares importance of these often misunderstood garden pollinators and how to start a home hive plus other resources for becoming a backyard beekeeper, with products available for purchase.



### PLANNING FOR MORE SPRING VEGETABLES Saturday, February 2, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Frank Eicholz, retired nurseryman & Nueces Master Gardener, says vegetable garden season starts early in south Texas for maximum production of veggie favorites, telling you garden prep, what and when to plant.



### ROSE BED TO ROSE BLOOM Saturday, February 9, 10:30 am -11:30 am.

Jan Shannon, and other experts from the Corpus Christi Rose Society (which has openings for new members) present a South Texas rose-growing lecture and workshop featuring preparations for beautiful spring blooms, followed by hands-on pruning and planting demos in the Botanical Gardens rose beds.



### EVALUATING BACKYARD GREENHOUSE NEEDS Saturday, February 16, 10:30 am-11:30 am.

Nueces Master Gardener Rosemary Plank will explore types of backyard greenhouses helping home gardeners determine if a greenhouse is a good option, providing checklists of coverings, permitting and Home Owner Association considerations.

### NEW & IMPROVED CREPE MYRTLES FOR YOUR YARD Saturday, February 23, 10:30 -11:30 am.

With a surge of new crepe myrtle colors and varieties available, Gill Nursery Landscape Designer Kathy Hubner will show the latest and help home owners determine which sizes, colors and characteristics will best fit in existing landscapes.



### BACKYARD FRUIT CROPS FOR THE COASTAL BEND Saturday, March 2, 10:30-11:30 am.

Ginger Easton-Smith, Aransas County Extension Agent, discusses increasing popularity of eating healthier and organic, but how home gardeners find it challenging growing fresh fruit in the Coastal Bend. Learn which fruit varieties grow best in our region along with planting and growing techniques to maximize fruit crops.



**NAME THAT WILDFLOWER Saturday, March 9, 10:30 -11:30 am.**

Nueces Master Gardener and wildflower expert Betty Whitt shares where and when you'll likely find wildflowers, giving resources to help identify and appreciate these natural Texas beauties.



**SPRING BREAK, Daily Activities, March 9-17**

Student on break, spend part of a day at the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, touring and joining special activities:

**TORTOISE TALES**, daily 10:30-11 am.

**REPTILES UP CLOSE**, daily 11:30 am-12:30 pm.

**PARROT TALK**, daily 1:30-2:30 pm.

**NATURE PLAY**, about one hour, daily at 2:30 pm, creative thinking using natural building blocks like "tree cookies," woodblocks, stones, other fun youth activities, to encourage self-guided outdoor play.

**ON YOUR OWN**, explore nature trails, wetland boardwalk, wildlife blinds, floral conservatories, gardens, "Resident Reptiles," Butterfly House, Monkey Mansion Tree House, more. General Admission covers all.



**MAKING MINIATURE GARDENS Saturday, March 16, 10:30 -11:30 am.**

Staff Horticulturist Carol Krank discusses containers, compact plants, ideas and accessories to create your own miniature container garden, perfect for fairies, gnomes and other tiny garden guests.

**HARDSCAPE IN YOUR LANDSCAPE Saturday, March 23, 10:30 -11:30 am.**

Gill Landscape Nursery Designer Phillip Ebert will teach you to blend rock, stone, pathways, sculpture, fencing and shade options to make your landscape more creative, attractive, functional and water-wise.



**ANYONE CAN GROW ORCHIDS Saturday, March 30, 10:30 -11:30 am.**

Orchid admirers who want to make the leap and purchase an orchid April 6 at *Big Bloom* can discover simple tips for orchid success, learning essentials from local orchid aficionado and STBGNC Orchid Volunteer Ty Harris, who says just don't love it too much!"



**SPECIAL EVENT: BIG BLOOM Plant Sale! Saturday, April 6, 9am-5pm DOLLAR DAY!**

(Members Early Entry 8-9am)

Our spring garden festival and only Plant Sale of the year! Kids activities, Orchid Sale, specialty vendors, butterfly releases in the Butterfly House, ladybug releases, reptile shows, Parrot Talk, food trucks and more . . . plant experts on site. Texas Master Naturalists—nature trail 'walk and talk' tours, kids 'touch & learn' tables in EcoFun Tent, and birding scopes on Wetlands Boardwalk. Buy a *NEW* membership at 10% off; get discounts on plants and Nature's Boutique purchases. FLORA, FAUNA, affordable FAMILY FUN!



**SPECIAL EVENT: BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA April 24-28, 9-6; Optional Field Trips**

Spotlighting South Texas peak spring migration, Corpus Christi's BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA, is scheduled for April 24-28, 2019. Festival features optional guided birding field trips to regional birding hot spots, shorebird/wading bird sites, and private ranches; birding photography workshops; "The Raptor Project" presentations, bird banding, vendor tradeshow, and lots of South Texas hospitality. Inaugural year (2017) had 246 species and (2018) had 257 species, showing why Corpus Christi was named the "Birdiest City in North America" for a decade! Registration opens in December with \$25 basic registration plus additional fees for add-on field trips and workshops. Visit [www.birdiestfestival.org](http://www.birdiestfestival.org), or contact 361-852-2100.



**HERBS FROM GARDEN TO TABLE Saturday, May 4, 10:30 -11:30 am.**

Nueces Master Gardener Deb Holiday shares secrets of her favorite herb varieties that thrive in South Texas, offering growing tips, harvesting techniques, and even simple recipes to get them from garden to table.



**SPECIAL EVENT: MOTHERS DAY FREE WEEKEND MOMS GET IN FREE!**

**Saturday, Sunday, May 11-12.**

Celebrate Mothers' Day Weekend with us! At Visitors Center Check-in, all a mother needs to say is "Moms Love Flowers!", and she gets in free. Sorry, the rest of the family pays general admission. (Of course, members always get in free.) SPECIAL MOMS DAY DEAL: Buy Mom a membership this weekend, at 20% off for a year's worth of free admission, Nature's Boutique, nursery, BIG BLOOM and other discounts, national magazine subscription, plus 325 Reciprocal Gardens around the Country ([www.ahsgardening.org/rap](http://www.ahsgardening.org/rap)).



**MARVELS OF MOMMA MARTINS Saturday, May 11, 10:30 -11:30 am.**

On Mother's Day weekend, Louise Chambers shares insights of attracting Purple Martins, their ideal housing, and gives a peek into nests of STBGNC Martin colony as she conducts nest checks, showing what it takes to mother these tiny, ravenous birds.

**SUPER SUCCULENTS FOR POTS AND LANDSCAPE Saturday, May 18, 10:30 -11:30 am.**

Retired nursery professional Merlien Wilder shows how to combine attractive varieties of these water-efficient plants in containers or your yard, creating living art indoors or out.

**PREPARING FOR LESS WATER Saturday, May 25, 10:30 -11:30 am.**

Joanne Salge, Nueces Master Gardener and Xeriscape Corpus Christi chair teaches practical application of water conservation principles with easy ways to transition existing landscape into water-smart areas, able to economically survive and thrive in summer hot months.



**SPECIAL EVENT: FATHERS' DAY FREE WEEKEND Saturday & Sunday, June 15 & 16**

Just say, "It's Fathers' Day," and Dad gets in free Saturday & Sunday Fathers' Day weekend! Be "buds" with Dad, enjoy Parrot Talk, gardens, resident reptiles, Gator Lake, trails, other guy stuff! Sorry only dads are free—all other non-members pay general admission!

**KIDS FUNNER SUMMER CAMPS**

All camps are Mondays-Fridays, 9 am-12 noon. All campers should wear close-toed shoes, cap or hat, sunscreen, sunglasses; and bring a water bottle and snack. Camp registrations must be pre-paid, with applications completed with parent/guardian signature prior to camp week.

<u>THEME</u>	<u>CAMP DATES</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>FEES</u>
<b>FEATHERS &amp; SCALES</b>	June 17-21	5-7	\$85 members, \$100 others
	June 24-28	8-12	

Campers will learn to feed, care for and correctly handle our resident parrots and reptiles, comparing habitats, eggs and body structures, creating take-home projects. Instructors are Youth Education Coordinator Brenda Ermis, and our three Animal Care Specialists/Trainers. Includes camp t-shirt.



**NATURE'S TINY CREATURES July 8-12 5-7 \$85 members, \$100 others**  
Campers learn about butterflies, worms, spiders, lady bugs and other fascinating invertebrates that kids love, but adults often overlook, exploring their natural habitats and importance in our ecosystems through photos and "safaris," and take-home projects. Includes camp t-shirt.



**INTRO to JUNIOR VOLUNTEERS July 15-19 9-16 \$85 members, \$100 others**  
Campers will develop a memorable interest in nature by getting acquainted with our parrot and reptile animal ambassadors, learning hands-on about their care, diet and feeding, shelter needs, personalities, and exotic pet ownership. Provides first 15 hours of this camp is the Junior Volunteer Program on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays, with volunteer hours for 4H, National Honor Society, and others. Includes camp t-shirt.



**NATURE SHUTTERBUGS July 22-26 9-16 \$125 members, \$135 others**  
Using Gardens' or their own digital cameras or phones, campers will learn to photograph plants, animals, animal homes, and create photo opportunities, which will be printed for framed pictures, journals and a t-shirt. Guest instructor is *Wildlife in Focus* Executive Director Susan Chilcoat. Includes camp t-shirt.

**PLUMERIA PASSIONS Saturday, July 13, 10:30 -11:30 am.**

A week before their big sale, Plumeria Society veteran Frank Eicholz and friends discuss tips on purchasing and raising these exotic, tropical beauties, and lead a tour of the Gardens & Nature Center's impressive Plumeria Garden and Willoughby Viewing Platform.



**SPECIAL EVENT: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF SOUTH TEXAS ANNUAL SALE (off-site)**

**Saturday, July 20, 10 am-1:30 pm, GARDEN SENIOR CENTER, 5325 Greeley.**

Attend this fabulous sale of plumeria starts and potted plants from Plumeria Society of South Texas members' own collections. Entrance to the sale is free, with proceeds benefiting care and maintenance of the Botanical Gardens beautiful Plumeria Garden, with treetop level Viewing Platform. FMI: Frank Eicholz, 361-991-4376.

**WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW OF FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING Saturday, August 10, 10:30 -11:30 am..**

These great gardening guidelines by retired nurseryman and Nueces Master Gardener Frank Eicholz , give you specific plans for what, when, where, and how to plant your vegetable choices, including proven maintenance, fertilization and insect prevention methods, with charts and instruction sheets available.



## MORE CLASSES IN SEPT, OCT coming

### SPECIAL EVENT: MOONLIGHT IN THE GARDENS FUNDRAISER

Friday in October, location, date, TBA.

Botanical Gardens signature fundraiser, with Vulcan Valet, Astronomical Appetizers, Stellar Spirits, Seated Dinner, Saturn's Sweets—Aphrodite's Patio Party, Martian Music Bar, Silent, Grand Galaxy and brief live auction, Pictures with Parrots, Wine-Pull, Nep-tunes and dancing! Sponsorships, Individual Seating. Reservations required. Information, 361-852-2100.



### SPECIAL EVENT: BOTANICAL GARDENS 'BUCK' DAY! Saturday, November 2, 9 to 6. DOLLAR DAY!

Before the Plumeria are tucked away for winter, while tropicals are in top form, while butterflies are in abundance, everyone can visit the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center--enjoying the FLORA, FAUNA AND FUN--for just \$1 per person! See the Rose Garden, Orchid Conservatory, Bromeliad Conservatory, 'artful' Sensory Garden . . . meet Resident Reptiles and exotic parrots, TORTOISE TALES, PARROT TALK, enjoy a BUTTERFLY RELEASE in the Butterfly House, explore trails and wetlands, shop *Nature's Boutique*.



### MEMBERS HOLIDAY SALE! *Joan Batman Nature's Boutique*

Saturday, November 9 through Tuesday, December 31. All your favorites, and generous selection of new merchandise and books—all 20% off for members. Beat Black Friday, avoid Holiday shopping crowds, find unique merchandise in relaxed, intimate setting with reasonable prices! NOT A MEMBER???? Purchase your membership before you shop. GIFT MEMBERSHIPS make great gifts to enjoy all year. **Open daily 9am to 6pm, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas.**



### SPECIAL EVENT: *Holly-Days at the Gardens* Saturday & Sunday, December 7 & 8.

A special weekend featuring a decorated 20-foot Frazier Fir on grounds; another large tree in Rose Pavilion for pics with Santa, parrots, iguanas, tortoises—depending on weather; Holiday crafts and storytelling for kids; music and carols while strolling through the Gardens, great gift ideas in Nature's Boutique. Activities included in general admission, except pics with Santa and friends. Photo sessions, \$10.

