

# 2019 CALENDAR: 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 Events: TORTOISE TALES, PARROT TALK

South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center has expanded its weekend "animal interaction" programming for guests! Popular "Parrot Talk," sponsored by *FEATHERED FRIENDS & CO.*, at 1:30 pm, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, has been joined by "Tortoise Tales," sponsored by *TROPICAL FISH HAVEN*, at 10:30 am, Saturdays and Sundays. Both are presented by Animal Care staff and volunteers, and are included in general admission. During "Tortoise Tales," visitors will learn about different tortoise species and sizes, and have a chance to feed them. "Parrot Talk," features a 20-minute informal discussion, including what it is like having parrots as pets, plus visitor interaction and opportunities for photos. Ask at Visitors Center for show locations, which vary with weather. The Botanical Gardens & Nature Center is open 9 am to 6 pm daily, except Thanksgiving Day, December 24 and 25, 361-852-2100, www.stxbot.org.



## ONGOING Class: ORCHIDOLOGY 1st 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!



### 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**

Students 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. Presented By: FLINT HILLS RESOURCES.



**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 TORTOISE TALES, sponsored by Tropical Fish Haven, at 10:30; PARROT TALK, sponsored by Feathered Friends & Co., at 1:30; gardens, resident reptiles, Gator Lake, trails, other guy stuff! Sorry only dads are free—all other non-members pay general admission!

**SUMMER NATURE CAMPS**

sponsored by



**ALL SCHOLARSHIPS ASSIGNED**

*Scholarships Available, based on Financial Need, thanks to a \$4625 "Kids Go to Camp 5" grant from:*

For details, contact Kathie, 361-852-2100, or [kathie@stxbot.org](mailto:kathie@stxbot.org).



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.



<b>NATURE'S TINY CREATURES</b>	July 8-12	5-7	\$85 members, \$100 others
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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.



<b>INTRO to JUNIOR VOLUNTEERS</b>	July 15-19	9-16	\$85 members, \$100 others
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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 of the Junior Volunteer Program Series on 2nd Saturdays, with volunteer hours for 4H, National Honor Society, and others. Includes camp t-shirt.

<b>NATURE SHUTTERBUGS</b>	July 22-26	8-16	\$125 members, \$135 others
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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.



**OTHER SPONSORS:** Wildlife in Focus  
Kona Ice



**FALL 'JUNIOR VOLUNTEERS' SERIES BEGINS**

**Second Saturdays, starting October 12**

Now for youth ages 12-17, the series includes guest speakers, Animal Care specialists, discussing options for nature, animal and science careers, with supervised, hands-on animal training and care. For more information and fees, contact Youth Education Coordinator, Brenda Ermis, 361-852-2100, [brendae@stxbot.org](mailto:brendae@stxbot.org).



## Customized out-reach programs, parties available for YOUTH activities—your place or ours!

Ask us about CUSTOMIZED SUMMER OUTREACH programs for year-round, private or home schools, youth groups, Pre-K through 12! Outreach or special educational entertainment also is available for children's parties, here or off-site. Select your options: *Parrot Project*, *Reptile Adventures*, *Butterfly Release*, *Nature Treasures*, *Plants plus Kids*. Contact Brenda Ermis for details, pricing. [Brendae@stxbot.org](mailto:Brendae@stxbot.org), 361-852-2100, x 223.

### Call NOW for summer, fall YOUTH tours!

Self-directed summer field trips have been popular for Latch Key, home school, day care groups, scouts and other summer camp providers. Fall also is an excellent time for school and other youth groups to visit the Gardens, with different flowers in bloom, plus fall bird and butterfly migrations beginning in late September. Call Ermis, or Kathie Waid, **361-852-2100**, to schedule as soon as possible, as many tour dates already are filled.



## SPECIAL EVENT: PAINTING FOR PARROTS Sunday, June 30, 3:30-5:30 pm, Education Station

"Painting for Parrots," will raise funds for the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center's new Parrot Hut, being planned to house animal ambassador visitor interactions. Hosted by *Painting with a Twist*, the painting class session, where participants will paint one of two color choices of a tropical scene, will be \$45 per person, open to anyone 18 and older, with a portion of each seat sold benefiting the Botanical Gardens. Participants bring their own beverages, including beer or wine if 21 or older! "Painting for Parrots" non-members will receive reduced \$5 admission that day at Visitors Center check-in; so may come early to attend *Tortoise Tales* at 10:30 am, and *Parrot Talk* at 1:30 pm, while touring the Gardens. For more details, or reservations, go to <https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/corpus-christi/event/2068605/>. Seating is limited. Information, Botanical Gardens, 361-852-2100;



## 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.



## IMPACT OF FERTILIZERS ON SOILS, WATER Saturday, August 17, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Discover the impact of fertilizers--not just on plants, but also area soils and estuaries--from Nueces County Extension Horticulturist Kevin Gibbs, who will discuss different fertilizer options to promote healthy lawns and gardens while minimizing potential runoff to protect our bays and estuaries. Learn about free soil testing program as part of the *Coastal Bend Fertilizer and Pesticide Monitoring Program* from Sandra Ellis, City of Corpus Christi Storm Water program.



## RAINWATER HARVESTING Saturday, August 31, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Prior to rainy season, Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Carlos Valdez explains how to convert your roof into a rainwater harvesting system with components and options from gutters to a variety of water storage containers, to start saving this most valuable resource. Information on City of Corpus Christi's Rainwater Barrels also will be available.

## PRUNING & PLANTING FOR FABULOUS FALL COLOR Saturday, September 7, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Learn which plants need a fall haircut to stimulate flowering; and discover which fall annuals and perennials will create a colorful landscape and patio, in time to enjoy cooler weather, with staff horticulturist Carol Krank.

## CREATING LIVING WALL ART: MOUNTING EPIPHYTES Saturday, September 14, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Orchids and bromeliads are exotic plants intriguing many gardeners, especially when they realize many of these plants don't require soil. Orchid aficionado and long-time STBGNC volunteer Jorge Garcia will show techniques for mounting these plants on wood, creating living artwork for your patio.



**FINDING THE BEST TREES FOR SOUTH TEXAS** Saturday, September 21, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Texas A&M Forest Service Urban Forester Bill Green shares challenges of growing trees in the Coastal Bend along with his list of best adapted trees for our region, as well as online tree selection programs that pinpoint the best tree for your specific space, function and environmental conditions.



**PREPARING FOR MONARCH MIGRATION** Saturday, October 5, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Texas Master Naturalist and Nueces Master Gardener Rosemary Plank discusses upcoming annual Monarch butterfly migration, giving practical gardening tips to help them complete their journey to Mexico, as well as more about threats to this beautiful creature--also the state insect of Texas—which we should protect for future generations.



**SPECIAL EVENT: MOONLIGHT IN THE TROPICS FUNDRAISER**

Friday, October 11, Beginning at 5:30 pm, Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, 402 Harbor Drive.

Botanical Gardens signature fundraiser, with Sponsorship Tables, Individual Seating. Beautiful patio on the water, silent auction outbidding friends, superb dinner, dancing through the night. Attire is colorful casual-tropical, sandals, flip-flops—in lei'd back atmosphere. Pictures with Parrots, Butterfly & Reptile experiences. More Details coming. Reservations required. Information, 361-852-2100. Presenting Sponsor: CITGO, Corpus Christi Refinery.



**FALL CLEANUP AND COMPOSTING** Saturday, October 19, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Master Composter and Nueces Master Gardener Deb Holliday talks about fall garden chores to spruce up your yard for the cooler months, also discussing ways to recycle yard clippings in a home compost pile, generating valuable humus for your garden while reducing waste sent to our landfills.



**HERBAL HOLIDAY COOKING** Saturday, October 26, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Cindy Meredith of *The Herb Cottage* in Hallettsville, and Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Linda Collins and their fellow "herbies" share their favorite herbs for holiday cooking, plus recipes for truly memorable meal holiday meals.

**SPECIAL EVENT: BOTANICAL GARDENS 2-BUCK DAY!** Saturday, November 2, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm.

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 \$2 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*. Sponsored by: PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI.



**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 9 am to 6 pm, CLOSED Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas.** (see extended HOLIDAY HOURS below!)



**WINTER PLANNING AND GARDEN PREPARATIONS** Saturday, November 23, 10:30 -11:30 am.

Retired nurseryman and Nueces Master Gardener Frank Eicholz, and Nueces Master Gardener Deb Holliday highlight several techniques to prepare yard and garden for colder weather-- including protecting tropical, vegetables and herbs to extend growing season well into the winter, maybe even next spring.

**SPECIAL EVENT: *Holly-Days at the Gardens*** Saturday & Sunday, December 7/8, 14/15.

Two delightful weekends featuring a large, lighted Frazier Fir; another large tree in Rose Pavilion; pictures with parrots, iguanas, tortoises (depending on weather); Kids Holiday crafts and storytelling; music & carols while strolling the Gardens; all included in general admission, except special activities with Santa.



**EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS ! ! ! !**  
**Fridays and Saturdays,**  
**between Thanksgiving and Christmas,**  
the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center will remain  
open an extra hour, **9 am to 7 pm!**