



**SOUTH TEXAS
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
& NATURE CENTER**

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



MEDIA ADVISORY UPDATE March 20, 2020

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South Texas Botanical Gardens remains open, taking precautions; but cancels two major April events, due to COVID-19.

CORPUS CHRISTI—The 182-acre, mainly outdoor **South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center**, remains open for visitors, 9 am to 6 pm daily, at 8545 S. Staples, with limitations on its indoor spaces, and safety precautions in place, in line with COVID-19 recommendations and restrictions.

“Safety of visitors, volunteers and staff remains top priority during COVID 19,” emphasized Executive Director Dr. Michael Womack. “Fortunately, our unique outdoor park—both floral gardens plus trails and wetlands—provides ample area for social-distancing, plus a calming atmosphere to manage stress in the natural environment with lots of sunshine, fresh air and space,” he added.

However, the Gardens & Nature Center, one of Corpus Christi’s popular non-profit educational and cultural destinations, is **cancelling its two major April events & fundraisers**—the popular **BIG BLOOM Plant Sale**, April 4, normally drawing up to 6000 people; and **Corpus Christi’s five-day BIRDIEST FESTIVAL in AMERICA**, April 22-26, well into a successful fourth year, with more field trips and its first KEYNOTE speaker, Dr. David Sibley. Womack estimates these cancellations mean a loss of around \$70,000 to the venue, and lots of enjoyment for the community!

“Although a later, scaled-down BIG BLOOM may be possible, BIRDIEST FESTIVAL is timed to our huge South Texas spring migration, so unfortunately will have to be cancelled until next year,” according to Event Chair and 2020 Botanical Gardens board president, Denise Housler.

For daily operations, the Botanical Gardens is disinfecting common areas more frequently; temporarily suspending all indoor classes; closing the indoor Reptile Room; and limiting numbers of people in the Orchid Conservatory. Guests may visit the outdoor Butterfly House, Iguana House, and new Tortoise enclosure, with social distancing modifications. Visitors are being asked to follow CDC recommendations for personal practices, and remain at least six feet from other guests.

The facility informs visitors that anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, having interacted with someone infected, or traveled from a high-risk country in the last 14 days, should plan their STBGNC visit another time.

The venue will closely monitor recommendations from public health and municipal/county officials. Any changes in operations will be shared via website, www.stxbot.org, and Facebook, Instagram platforms. General admission is \$9 adults, \$7 age 60+/active military/ college, \$5 children 3-12, members and under 3, free. Call 361-852-2100 with questions. # # #