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Wildlife in Focus displays winning photos at Botanical Gardens for a year!



CORPUS CHRISTI—Full-color award-winning photographs from the 2015 *Wildlife in Focus* biennial photography competition is on display, with photographers' metadata, now through September, 2017, on 20 art pillars along the Mary Hope Brennecke Nature Trail at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S. Staples St. The exhibition is included in general admission, and may be viewed from 9 am to 6 pm daily, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas.

The varied collection was shot by photographers partnering with South Texas landowners, judged in segmented categories of birds, mammals, invertebrates, reptiles/amphibians and specialties. Held every other year, 2017 competition registration has begun.

Displaying Nature Photography in Nature—Perfect Partnership!

"*Wildlife in Focus* is delighted to share this educational photography exhibit with Botanical Gardens visitors," says WIF executive director Crystal Mead. "In 16 years, we have created South Texas' only comprehensive collection of wildlife photography—eight beautiful color volumes with winning photos of biennial photographic competitions reflecting thriving flora and fauna of our region," Mead explained. With each photo will be photographer and landowner names, properties, counties, common and scientific subject names—and for photography buffs, also camera metadata used to capture each image. "Displaying exceptional nature photography in nature is ideal," Mead added.

"Nationwide, art in botanical gardens—both temporary and permanent—is becoming the norm," points out STBGNC Executive Director Michael Womack. "After the popular *Nature's Brush Strokes* 30-piece collection of area artists' native plant and wildflower depictions—on display in our organic setting April through September—brought more visitors to our destination, it was ideal to extend our artistic branches even further with this *Wildlife in Focus* partnership," added Communications Director MaryJane Crull.

Botanical Gardens permanent art includes two **Kent Ullberg** bronze wildlife pieces; **Mark Bradford** Scrap Metal Sculpture, **Danny O'Dowdy** Sensory Garden sculpture & mosaic collection; **Chris Maxa** Butterfly House Fountain and Trail Dragon Fly; and **Christy Matthews** *Bromeliamania* dolphin.

For more information, contact the Botanical Gardens, 361-852-2100; or Wildlife in Focus, 361-881-9316. Books are available in Botanical Gardens Nature's Boutique gift shop, and other locations, found on wildlifeinfocus.org. # # #

