

6-9:30 PM, Friday October 7

Presented
by



MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS

For Stewardship and enhancement of South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

FALL 2022 NEWSMAGAZINE

'Moonlight' garden party becomes must-do event!

South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center welcomes back patrons, members and nature lovers, 6-9:30 pm, Friday, October 7, to celebrate its 14th annual **MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS** signature al fresco event, presented for the eighth year by CITGO, Corpus Christi Refinery. New SUPPORTING SPONSOR is CHRISTUS Spohn Health System.

This unique, casual roam-on-your-own experience begins with valet parking; then beverage stops with margaritas; wine and beer by *L&F Distributors*; plus a signature craft "botanical beer" by *B&J's Pizza & Brewpub*!

Before dark, see new *Wildlife in Focus* Nature Trail photo kiosks and butterfly release. Guests also will enjoy brass and jazz by the Corpus Christi Brass Quintet, old-fashioned pen and paper silent auction, take-all

raffle, and scenic orchid, bromeliad, plumeria and other floral exhibits, while saying a quick "hello" to popular animal ambassadors!

Guests should visit all seven sumptuous dining stations sponsored by *Texas Roadhouse*, *Brewster Street South*, *P.O.E.T.S Family Restaurant*, *Hu-Dat Noodle House*, *Jason's Deli*, *CC Produce*, with desserts from *Hester's Café*. Finally, save the fun in memories from the digital photo booth and take home your souvenir flashlight!

All exhibits will be open. Because **MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS** is an after-dark event with alcohol served, all guests must be at least 18 years of age.



- ▶ Limited Event or Gardens Steward sponsorships remain available at \$1000, \$2000, \$3000, \$5000 or \$10,000.
- ▶ Contact: mjc@stxbot.org or wmwomack@stxbot.org; 361-852-2100.
- ▶ Sponsor cut-off is September 27.
- ▶ Single reservations are \$200 each online, at Visitors Center, or by mail.
- ▶ Single reservations cut-off, October 4.
- ▶ Reservations required, no walk-ins.

(Continued on pp 2, 3)



Details, remaining sponsorships,
benefits, single reservations,
mjc@stxbot.org,
wmwomack@stxbot.org,
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HOLLY-Days at the GARDENS, PRESENTED BY **VALERO**, returns with four weekends of magical holiday cheer; and guest environmental artist Shelia Rogers' *Eco Christmas Tree!*

Yes, the beautiful 20' live, lighted fir tree which began this seasonal celebration will be back, donated again by board member Joyce Barnette. This centerpiece in the Rose Garden has found its way into many family photo memories, along with Santa, hayrides, petting zoo, several smaller themed holiday trees in exhibits, and lighting displays growing each year!

Internationally known environmental artist Shelia Rogers brings us our second Holly-Days symbol and latest recycling masterpiece, *Eco Christmas Tree*! Shelia is creating an 18-foot tiered tree from 3000 repurposed green plastic bottles collected by members of our community and Point Comfort! Funded by a City of Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission grant, *Eco Christmas Tree* will anchor "Emerald Forest" in the Plumeria Garden, empty for winter.

November 25/26 • December 2/3 • 9/10 • 16/17

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 5:30-7:30 pm

PHOTOS with ANIMALS	Reservations 361-852-2100
TREES & LIGHTS	6-7:30
PHOTOS with SANTA	6-7:30 Rose Pavilion
Holiday Cut-Out Photo Ops	6-7:30
Reptile Room Open	6-7:30 Visitors Center
HAYRIDES	6-7:30 Behind Pavilion
S'mores & Cocoa \$5	6-7:30 Fire Pit

SATURDAYS, 9 am-7:30 pm

TREES & LIGHTS	9-7:30
Holiday Cut-Out Photo Ops	9-7:30
Hay Maze	9-6 Monkey Mansion
PHOTOS with SANTA	10-1, 6-7:30 Rose Pavilion
KIDS CRAFTS	10-1
PHOTOS with ANIMALS	Reservations 361-852-2100
HAYRIDES	12-5, 6-7:30 Behind Pavilion
PETTING ZOO	12-5 Behind Pavilion
S'mores & Cocoa \$5	6-7:30 Fire Pit



**Joyce
Barnette**





SHELIA ROGERS' RECYCLING ART includes *"Thrill of the Deep,"* exhibited in Germany, Paris, Vienna and Zurich; *"Oceans of Plastic"* in Texas museums; *"Chandelier"* at Corpus Christi International Airport and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. We are thrilled to be home for *"Eco Christmas Tree!"*



Rogers is a fine art photographer and mixed media artist. Her life's work communicates complexities and attractions she finds in her environment, especially waterfronts and beaches. Her pieces are created to "shine a light on recycling."

Earning her undergraduate degree at University of Texas at Austin; doing post-graduate work in photography at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Rogers also studied with artists in France, Hungary, India, Morocco, Russia, Spain; Washington, California, Santa Fe, New York City and Austin.

"The heart of my work is environmental advocacy, seductively exposing the real and devastating effects of plastic pollution on the world's oceans. The intent of my work is to raise awareness of this pressing consumer and environmental issue, while motivating viewers toward a plastic-use reduction revolution. Don't throw it away, use it another way!"



BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA announces 2023 Keynote!

You don't have to be a birder to be fascinated by the sixth Birdiest Festival in America's keynote speaker, Tiffany Kersten! Her story of winning 2021 "The Big Year," sighting 726 bird species in 12 months, was Texas Monthly's June cover story.

Circumstances of her win were amazing! The 35-year-old guide from Mission, recovering from sexual assault, losing her nature center job, drove 49,000 miles in a Chevy Spark, hopped 50 flights, finding her record-breaking 'Bat Falcon' just 30 minutes from home, December 18. She narrates her adventure in nitty-gritty detail, every mile done on a shoe string, meanwhile somehow healing from past events as she camped out, slept in the car, keeping in touch with birding friends for tips where to head next.

Registration for the 2023 Festival, April 26-30, opens December 1 at [BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG](https://birdiestfestival.org). Watch for it and reserve your seat for this mesmerizing experience.

Numbers for 2022's Festival showed 239 registrants from 30 states, a 47 percent increase, raising the number of species seen in its five-year history to 329!



Ocean Drive Garden Club, Botanical Gardens partner on second Hay Maze adventure, opening October 22

Geared to kids, 115 bales of hay will create an "hay-mazing" adventure challenging young sense of direction. Near Monkey Mansion play area, the Hay Maze, quite a hit last fall, will be open 9 am-6 pm, beginning October 22, decorated with at least six "Scary Crows" for Halloween by 15 Ocean Drive Garden Club volunteers; transforming to a holiday vibe for Holly-Days! Just one bale high, parents can keep an eye on kids while inside.

One large round bale will be set up for photo ops! Hay Maze is included in general admission. The Gardens will close Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Day.



'AVANGRID Renewables' surprises Gardens with \$3000 donation!



The perfect Saturday surprise was a \$3000 check delivered in person by AVANGRID Renewables, an Oregon-based wind generation company, operating a windfarm in Mathis!

Presenting the "big" check, August 20, was Manager Jimi Underwood (green cap), Jose Gonzales, David Montes and Jaime Guerra, with family members. The undesignated gift will be used as "MOONLIGHT" support for the Sensory Garden, which uses an original windmill in its "artscape!"

Jack Harris, volunteer turned staff, takes over mowing and edging, refining look of site!

Retired from a petrochemical career, new employee Jack Harris is the man on, or behind Botanical Gardens mowers, giving the site a consistently well-groomed look inside and along the roadway!

His addition to the grounds crew has freed up fellow-staff Gilbert Espinoza, David Gatton, Carol Krank, Whitney Lance, Chris Halliburton and Larry Lysinger to concentrate on planting, weeding, watering, fertilizing, pruning, maintenance and general manicuring of exhibit areas.

Jack arrives early in the morning; but during the day is completely covered with hat, long pants, t-shirt plus coats of sunscreen, mosquito spray and sweat!

The 14-15 inches of rain the last few weeks, with more on the way, has been a challenge, keeping wet grass mowed and dodging storms. He has made a difference!

New "Texas-sized" Texas Tortoise Pen built for Eagle Scout Project!

Scout Noah Smith and Troop 226 built a deluxe condominium of sorts for all our adult and young Texas Tortoises this summer, as Noah's Eagle Project! Twice the size of their former home, its features include additional protection from wildlife with a smaller wire mesh. Its size allows Animal Care staff walk-in flexibility for care and feeding. Tortoises are separated by size and gender, preventing reproduction according to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department permit requirements.

Texas Tortoises in residence include aptly-named adults *Dallas* (only female), *Houston* and *Austin*; and more youthful *Tyler*, *Beau* and *Richardson*! Visit the enclosure—built with in-kind contributions from H-E-B, and Victory Building—just past the Butterfly House along the tree line between Hummingbird Garden and Monkey Mansion Kids Play Area. The large Sulcata Tortoises are housed separately.

Scouts interested in Eagle projects at the Botanical Gardens should contact Facilities Director Larry Lysinger, 361-852-2100.



Scout Troop 226 stand in front of finished Texas Tortoise Pen.



Noah, sister and scout Abigail, sit inside the roomy enclosure.

Scouts interested in Eagle projects at the Botanical Gardens should contact Facilities Director Larry Lysinger, 361-852-2100.



ENJOY PLUMERIA In September and October!


Though not yet sure of exact dates, around November 1, the Plumeria Society of South Texas will be pruning, stripping leaves and digging plumeria plants prepping them for their protective winter greenhouse nap! Plumeria have been exceptionally beautiful this year. See them soon!

un poquito.

NOUN
TRANSLATION: A LITTLE BIT

Cutting your water usage a little bit goes a long way.

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- ✓ 10% Discount at **Nature's Boutique** year-round (STBGNC Gift Shop)
- ✓ 10% Discount at **BIG BLOOM** Plant Sale
- ✓ Substantial Class & Kids Camp Discounts
(most Saturday seminars free for members)
- ✓ Facilities Rental Privileges
- ✓ Newsletter ■ Event Invitations ■ Window Decal



ALSO JOIN ONLINE, WWW.STXBOT.ORG

☐ Renewal or Former Member ☐ New Member

Membership Category MARK SELECTION

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 35
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple *	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family *	\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent **	\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (Family or GP + 2 guests)	\$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (Family or GP + 4 guests)	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron (Family or GP + 6 guests)	\$ 500
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (Family or GP + 10 guests)	\$1000

* (Couple, Family: Must be Same Household)

** (Grandparents: Includes grandchildren / greatgrandchildren under age 18)

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PLEASE MAIL TO: South Texas Botanical Gardens
8545 S. Staples St. ■ Corpus Christi, Texas 78413

Two unique snakes join reptile family!

Snakes fascinate many Reptile Room visitors, through glass terrariums, of course. Two beautiful examples, 'Lavender' and 'King Tut,' recently took up residence! All exhibit snakes are non-venomous.

'Lavender,' a Lavender Ball Python, is nearly white, quite shiny-skinned with a hint of lilac.

'King Tut' (below), a Saharan King Snake, is at least four feet long, with a gorgeous black and gold scale pattern. Part of our Nature Center mission, reptiles educate all ages about native and adapted species, including how to tell dangerous from harmless snakes, and what to do if the wrong kind appears while walking, or in your yard!



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The Port of Corpus Christi is proud to sponsor
the South Texas Botanical Gardens
& Nature Center.



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WEEKEND VISITOR ♦ ANIMAL EVENTS

(Included in general admission, Members free)

REP-TALES

Saturdays, Sundays, 10:30 am

Meet, pet, learn about, and often feed several Resident Reptiles, with trainers, usually on Festival Lawn area.



PARROT TALK

(Hoping to bring back soon, see p. 7)

Meet, greet, chat and learn about our most personable Exotic parrots with their trainers and volunteers.

ORCHID-LOGY: a FREE monthly discussion group of orchid ORCHID-LOGY! A FREE monthly discussion group of orchid enthusiasts of all levels, at 7 pm, the first Thursday of each month, Education Station. Questions welcome; or bring a problem orchid to be diagnosed. Reservations up to 30 in-person; or ZOOM link available.



CLASS PROTOCOL, until further notice:

Up to 30 in-person, ZOOM Available
RESERVATIONS, Zoom Links • 361-852-2100
Free with Membership, Admission—or \$5
(SATURDAY CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:30 AM)

September 24: STOP THE BLEED: Too often gardeners focus on plants more than themselves, but garden safety should always be a priority. Learn about garden first aid and safety from Spohn Hospital Shoreline's Jennifer Carr to prevent your garden endeavors from becoming a trip to the Emergency Room!

MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS

Friday, October 7, 6-9:30 pm: Enjoy a casual, relaxing evening of fun with friends! Add margaritas, signature craft beer, wine; 7 favorite food stations, live brass and jazz; silent auction; strolls through exhibits, raffle, butterfly release, souvenir flashlights. Once again, presented by CITGO, Corpus Christi Refinery—with supporting sponsor CHRISTUS Spohn Health System, dozens of Gardens Stewardship sponsors supporting Gardens maintenance and upgrades throughout the year! The party you shouldn't miss! (see page 1-3).

October 15: ALL ABOUT HOYAS. Learn all about these amazingly beautiful and easy succulent vines called "wax plants" from avid Hoya grower and enthusiast, Lalita Baelow, who has too many hoyas to list!

October 22: BONSAI BASICS. Learn how to create your own "tiny tree" from Corpus Christi Bonsai Club's Betty Whitt (also a Nueces Master Gardener) and Linda May. Discover techniques to create these living works of art providing years of solace and relaxation, as well as a conversation piece for your patio.

October 29: THANKFUL FOR FLOWERS. Want to have a memorable Thanksgiving feast at your house? Don't forget the flowers. Golden Petal Florist's Tara Craig will show you ideas to create your own holiday floral arrangements to WOW your family and guests.

November 5: TREES FOR SOUTH TEXAS. Fall is tree planting season in South Texas. Nueces Master Gardener Carlos Valdez give insights for best trees, planting techniques, along with pruning and care tips.

November 12: KEEPING YOUR HOLIDAY PLANTS JOLLY. STBG Horticulture Specialist Whitney Lance shares tips and techniques to keep your holiday plants in top shape well into the New Year.

MEMBERS HOLIDAY SALE! *Joan Batman Nature's Boutique* **Friday, November 4 through Thursday, 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.*

HOLLY DAYS at the GARDENS

November 25/26 • December 2/3 • 9/10 • 16/17: 4 special holiday weekends celebrating the joys of the season with a beautiful 20' fresh-cut lighted fir tree; and new recycled art masterpiece by environmental artist Shelia Rogers!

Friday & Saturday EVENINGS: open until 7:30 to view lighting displays and trees, SANTA PHOTOS, hayrides, cocoa, cider, s'mores over fire pits, photo op cut-outs! SATURDAY, 9-6—All the above, PLUS petting zoo, animal ambassadors, kids' crafts! Most activities covered by general admission. Presented by VALERO (*article, pp 4,5*).



January 21: RIGHT TOOLS FOR YOUR GARDEN. Master Gardener Carlos Valdez provides an inventory of basic garden tools & variations to make outdoor garden chores efficient.

January 28: REBLOOMING ORCHIDS. Got orchids, but no more flowers? Orchid Curator Jorge Garcia shares tips for getting your tropical treasures to re-flower, and keeping them healthy.

WINTER LECTURES, 2023

Our annual Winter Lecture Series returns, Wednesdays, 9:30 am, in Education Station. Learn valuable, unique lessons in South Texas environmental horticulture, with a cup of coffee! Free for MEMBERS, or Gardens General Admission, \$5 others. Reservations required. 361-852-2100. Masks recommended, but optional.

Jan 18	"Tree Pruning"	Certified Arborist John Wood, <i>Tree Amigos</i>
Jan 25	"Saving the Monarchs"	Dr. Michael Womack
Feb 1	"Super Succulents"	Kathie Fernandez <i>Nueces Master Gardeners</i>
Feb 8	"Gardening with Nature, Not Against It"	Dr. Michael Womack
Feb 15	"Beehive for Your Backyard"	Deb Houlihan <i>Nueces Master Gardeners</i>
Feb 22	"Plant Now for Fall Hummers"	Deb Holliday <i>Nueces Master Gardeners</i>

February 4: SPRING PRUNING & CLEAN-UP. Nueces Master Gardener Renee Brown provides a list & timing for spring chores, including pruning & fertilizing.

February 11: PLANTING BEGINS, Successful Veggie Gardens. Gill Garden Center & Landscape Nursery's Wyatt Page gives insights on planning & planting spring vegetable garden, maximizing crops.

PRIVATE REPTILE ROOM ENCOUNTERS

Interact with at least 3 scaly Animal Ambassadors. Take photos in Reptile Room, closed to public during session. Each guest holds an animal. Group helps give a snack!

1-6 people 15 minutes \$30

6-10 people 20 minutes \$45

(More than 10 split into 2 encounters; or request party information.)

- Prices are for groups, plus Gardens admissions per person.
- \$5 package discount for Gardens members.
- Limited spots available each day
- Hands/arms clean, free of repellants, sunscreens.

Scheduling, questions: dedrab@stxbot.org, 361-852-2100.



SCOUT NATURE ADVENTURE PATCHES PROGRAM! \$30/session

STAFF-LED

Gardens Patch.....	Fri, Oct 14	11am-1pm
Reptiles Patch.....	Fri, Nov 18.....	11am-1pm
Trails Patch.....	Fri, Nov 11.....	11am-1pm
Birds Patch.....	TBA	

- Scholarships available!
- Inquire about SELF-LED patch option with troop leader or parent.



YOUTH FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

Schools & Youth Groups; Self-Directed & Directed Options.

Visit the Gardens & Nature Center—

Learn about Butterflies, Reptiles, Parrots, more!

A. SELF-DIRECTED FIELD TRIP:

PRE-K through GRADE 6 \$5 / student

GRADES 7 through 12 \$6 / student

Start at Visitor Center with map, PICK destinations!

B. DIRECTED FIELD TRIP:

PRE-K through GRADE 6 \$7 / student

GRADES 7 through 12 \$8 / student

Choose Gardens & Nature Center areas for students' experience.

Staff/volunteers available for Q/A.

C. DIRECTED FIELD TRIP with CUSTOMIZED SCIENCE LESSON, NATURE CRAFT, or BOTH!

PRE-K through GRADE 6 Starts \$10 / student

GRADES 7 through 12 Starts \$12 / student

Options: Tiny Critter Investigations; Critter Behavior;

Earthworms/Composting; Butterfly Life Cycle;

Nature Suncatcher; Snake in the Grass; Sun Prints;

Water Use; Water & Plants.

Minimum Field Trip is 12 students. \$5 Adult Chaperones.

Activities subject to weather, availability. Information & RESERVATIONS, email brendae@stxbot.org, 361-852-2100.



SCHOOL YEAR HALF-DAY CAMPS!

NATURE BUDDIES CAMPS Ages 6-8 9am-Noon

Oct 24-28 or Jan 2-6 \$125 mbrs, \$150 others

Explore birds, reptiles, tiny critters, plants. Nature investigations using microscopes, cameras, making models, crafts.

MAMMAL CAMP Ages 9-13 1-4 pm

Jan 2-6 \$150 all campers

Investigate the world of mammals through habitat walks, rescue mammals, hands-on models, outdoor art, guest speakers.

- Scholarships available

Information & RESERVATIONS, email brendae@stxbot.org, 361-852-2100.



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(See pp 1-3)

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REX

California King Snake

BEEBLEJUICE

Kenyan Sand Boa

Jason & Manda

Ettlinger

CHECKERS

Checkered Garter Snake

Norm Hedrich

CRUSH

Red-Eared Slider

Lon & Cher Lowrey

IVAN

Green Iguana

Isaiah Landa

SPRITE

Green Giant Day Gecko

Bridget O'Lavin

ETHEL

Double Yellow-headed Amazon

Betsy & Blake O'Lavin

SARGE

Military Macaw

Marla Owens

FRED

Double Yellow-headed Amazon

OLIVER

Quaker Parrot

BUDDY & MAXWELL

African Greys

TABASCO

Scarlet Macaw

Andi Shaw

RATATOUILLE

Great Plains Rat Snake

Lisa Stoddard

TONY

Red-footed Tortoise

DALLAS

Texas Tortoise

RAFAEL & LEONARDO

Three-Toed Box Turtles

WILLIE

Ornate Box Turtle

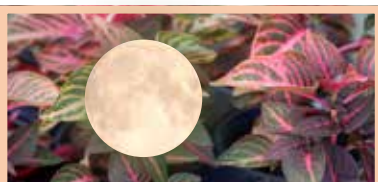
Carol & Bill Wenzl

SWEETIE

Blue-Fronted Amazon

**MOONLIGHT
in the GARDENS**

October 7,
pp 1-3.



HAY MAZE opens

October 22,
p 6



HOLLY-DAYS

Opens Nov 25/26,
pp 4, 5



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Dobson family and *Tres Grace Family Foundation* present second Grace Dobson Legacy Award to Botanical Gardens!



In celebration of Grace W. Dobson's May 29th birthday, the Dobson family and *Tres Grace Family Foundation* honored her special day by surprising the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center with the Second Annual *Grace Dobson Legacy Award*, and a significant donation to help grow the Gardens—especially with its new Master Plan in progress! Our destination was a particular favorite of Grace Dobson's. She was drawn to not only its beauty, but also its focus on exploration, education and conservation which today continue to be areas of emphasis for *Tres Grace Family Foundation*. We thank the entire Dobson family for generosity of *Tres*

Grace and related foundations. Hugh Dobson is actively involved in several roles on the Botanical Gardens Board of Directors!



Marketing Director MaryJane Crull (from left), Nora & Tom Dobson, Executive Director Michael Womack, Hugh & Anne Dobson, President Denise Housler, and Lynn Dobson Wooldridge.

*Not pictured:
Heather Dobson, Preston Atkinson.*

Photos: Steve Crawford