

WEEKEND ANIMAL AMBASSADOR EVENTS

(Included in general admission, Members free)

REPTILES

Saturdays, Sundays, 10:30 am

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



PARROT TALK

still suspended due to risk of Avian Flu.

(Parrots Hope to Return Soon!)

February 4: SPRING PRUNING & CLEAN-UP.

Master Gardener Renee Brown provides a list and timing for spring chores, including pruning post-freeze, and fertilizing.

February 11: PLANTING BEGINS, Successful Veggie Gardens.

Gill Garden Center & Landscape Nurseries's Wyatt Page gives insights on planning spring vegetable gardens, maximizing crops.

February 18: COLOR UP YOUR EXISTING LANDSCAPE.

Learn creative, colorful spring planting ideas using annuals and perennials from Master Gardener Beth Spirko.

February 25: SOIL MANAGEMENT & SPRING FERTILIZATION.

Learn how to maintain your soil composition, and fertilize correctly for best spring/summer blooms and crops, with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Kevin Gibbs.

March 4: REVITALIZING LANDSCAPES AFTER THE FREEZE

Did you lose a bunch of plants in the freeze? Learn whether to replace now for instant gratification, practice patience waiting for the come back, or make better choices next time from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Nueces County Horticulture Agent, Kevin Gibbs.

March 11: PROPAGATING YOUR FAVORITE PLANTS

Learn professional methods of propagation to start your own plants, enhancing your landscape gardens at less cost, from Nueces Master Gardener Fred Pena.

March 25: BRINGING BUTTERFLIES INTO YOUR GARDEN

Whether native butterflies or migrating visitors, learn exactly which plants draw butterflies to your surroundings, from "Butterfly Lady" Brenda Sattler.

Apr 1: BIG BLOOM Plant Sale, GARDEN FESTIVAL!

Annual MEGA-PLANT SALE, 10 am-5 pm, MEMBERS enter at 9 am, hundreds of plants, family eco-activities, **\$2 Community Day** Entrance Fee. Hundreds of plant varieties, orchids, plumeria, bromeliads, Tropicals, xeriscape. Butterfly and Ladybug releases, Animal Ambassadors, VENDOR BOOTHS, food trucks, more. Schedule TBA.

Presented by **Corpus Christi Medical Center.** (see article p. 3)

April 8: COMPANION PLANTING

Learn how landscape designers know what plant varieties complement each other, and "grouping plants" with similar care needs making your yard look like a professional designed it, from Nueces Master Gardener Beth Spirko.

April 15: CONTAINER GARDENING & PLANT CARE

Even if space is not your problem, everyone enjoys a pretty container garden, whether flowers, green plants, or even vegetables in a decorative pot. Learn designer techniques from horticulturist Carol Krank for your patio or corner of the yard.

April 22: BIBLICAL PLANTS

Learn which plants have been with us literally forever, what they symbolize and how they were utilized, with your local Biblical plant expert Dr. Rosemary Plank.

CLASS PROTOCOL, until further notice:
40 spaced seats, MASKS optional. ZOOM Available.

To guarantee a seat, make RESERVATIONS
or get Zoom Info, at 361-852-2100.

Classes FREE with Membership, General Admission, or \$5.
(ALL SATURDAY CLASSES begin at 9:30 AM.)



ORCHID-OLGY, a FREE monthly discussion group of orchid enthusiasts of all levels, at 7 pm, the first Thursday each month, Education Station. Questions welcome; or bring a problem orchid to be diagnosed. Reservations or ZOOM link 361-852-2100.

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>

January 21: RIGHT TOOLS FOR YOUR GARDEN.

Master Gardener Carlos Valdez gives an inventory of basic garden Tools & variations making outdoor garden chores easy & 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 keep them healthy.

April 26-30: BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA

Amazing KEYNOTE SPEAKER Tiffany Kersten spent 2021, against all odds, setting a new U.S. record for 'The Big Year'--726 bird species!

Experience amazing spring migration along the Texas Gulf Coast in the busiest of U.S. flyways, with four-day pre- & post-trips; field trips to famous South Texas ranch & coastal hot spots; presentations & workshops; bird walks; & Jonathan Wood Raptor Project shows.

Based at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a popular opening reception with Happy Hour cash bar & genuine Texas BBQ dinner; Vendor Trade Show; artisan booths; & Saturday 'Family Fun Day' still are only *part* your Texas Coastal adventure! Beginning December 1, visit <https://www.birdiestfestival.org> for REGISTRATION, DETAILS, SCHEDULE. Questions to veteran Chair Denise, 361-563-5968.



May 13, 14: MOTHER'S DAY FREE WEEKEND

At Visitors Center, all a Mom needs to say is "Show me the Flowers," and she gets in free! The rest of her party pays general admission, unless members. SPECIAL MOM'S DAY DEAL: Buy Mom a membership this weekend, at 20% off, for a year of free admission, Nature's Boutique, nursery BIG BLOOM AND other discounts, national magazine subscription, plus 350 RECIPROCAL GARDENS in the U.S. (www.ahsgardening.org/rap).

May 13: RAIN WATER HARVESTING

Nueces Master Gardener and water harvesting specialist Carlos Valdez explains methods and equipment needed to catch and store rainwater for drier cycles we know will come.

May 20: COLOR ON THE PATIO

Gain insight from STBG Landscape Specialist Whitney Lance on ways to add color to your patio with container plants and flowers. And visit the Gift Shop for wind chimes, outdoor wall décor and other deco items.

May 27: SUCCULENTS FOR PATIO & LANDSCAPE

Nueces Master Gardener Kathy Fernandez will share her expertise in growing unusual succulents and creative ways to display them.

June 17/18: FATHERS' DAY FREE WEEKEND.

Just say, "Reptiles & Snakes," & Dad gets in free! Be "buds" with Dad, enjoy REP-TALES, 10:30; gardens, resident reptiles, Gator Lake, trails, other guy stuff! Only dads are free- other non-members pay general admission. Buy Dad a membership this weekend, at 20% off for year of free admission, 350 Reciprocal Gardens!

PRIVATE REPTILE ROOM ENCOUNTERS

Interact with at least 3 scaly Animal Ambassadors. Photos in Reptile Room, closed to public during session.

Each guest holds an animal. Group helps give 1 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
(ASK ABOUT Custom PARROT ENCOUNTERS, too!)

KIDS SUMMER NATURE CAMPS!

\$125 members/\$150 non-members/Scholarships
Registration begins February. Pre-register at least 7 days before camp session! FORMS/SCHLARSHIPS, brendae@stxbot.org, 361-852-2100.

June 5-9 Ages 6-8 FEATHERS & SCALES 9am-Noon

Explore the world of our native birds & parrot friends at the Gardens! Learn about bird eggs, nests, feathers & more! Basic birding skills, trail walks, making science models...

June 12-16 Ages 9-13 SNAKES & FRIENDS 9am-noon

Youth interact with non-venomous snakes, lizards & turtles, supervised by Animal Care staff.

June 19-23 Ages 6-8 TINY CRITTERS 9am-noon

Campers explore digging, crawling, flying insects & other tiny creatures using science lab tools.

June 26-30 Ages 6-8 Nature Buddies, New Friends 9am-noon

Campers explore birds, reptiles, tiny critters & plants. Meet our new Animal Friends! Fun nature investigations using binoculars, cameras, other science tools.

July 10-14 Ages 9-13 NATURE SHUTTERBUGS 9am-noon

Youth use cameras & various artistic techniques to express nature. Cameras available or use yours. (\$150 all campers).

July 10-14 Ages 9-13 MAMMAL CAMP 1-4pm

Campers investigate the world of mammals through habitat walks, rescue animal interaction, hands-on models, outdoor art & guest speakers. (\$150 all campers)

July 17-21 Daisy/Brownie/Junior GIRL SCOUT ADVENTURE

Scouts explore trails, birds, reptiles, gardens & butterflies! Nature Adventure Patch for each topic!



Life's better outside.
PROUD PARTNER

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.