

CLASSES and SPEAKERS coordinated in collaboration with NUECES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

ALL CLASSES:

To guarantee a seat, make **RESERVATIONS** at 361-852-2100.

Classes **FREE** with Membership, General Admission, or \$5.

(ALL SATURDAY CLASSES begin at 9:30 AM.)

WINTER LECTURES, 9:30 am, Wednesdays

Grab a cup of coffee, meet some new residents, Winter Texans and get ready for spring!

- Jan 22** Plant Diseases & Pathogens
Renee Brown, Nueces Master Gardener
- Jan 29** Getting Started with Birding
Libby Even, *Birdiest Festival* Coordinator
- Feb 5** Top Tropicals for your Landscape
Dr. Michael Womack, Exec. Director, Horticulturist
- Feb 12** Roses: Varieties, Care & Pruning
Renee Brown, Nueces Master Gardener
- Feb 19** Vermiculture & Composting
Donna Gonzales, Nueces Master Gardener
- Feb 26** Super Succulents & Cool Containers
Whitney Lance, STBGNC Landscape Specialist



Feb 1: CULTIVATING TINY TREES

Learn bonsai basics from tools, containers, equipment and techniques from Nueces Master Gardener Tom Andrews and the Corpus Christi Bonsai Club, and transform a tiny tree into a living work of art.

Feb 8: HOYAS, HOYAS, HOYAS!

Coastal Bend hoya and plumeria aficionado Lalita Barlow shows you the wide diversity and best care practices for these unusual "wax plants" that most everyone can grow.

Feb 15: ABC'S OF SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING

Nueces Master Gardeners Susan Gonzales and Donna Gonzales share secrets learned in years of gardening on best varieties, planting hints, heading off potential problems to maximize harvest.

Feb 22: FRUIT TREES FOR SOUTH TEXAS

Transform your backyard into a personal orchard as you grow your own produce. Learn best varieties, planting, fertilizing techniques for South Texas.



Mar 1: TERRARIUMS

Nueces Master Gardener Beth Spirko shows how to create tiny ecosystems as her demonstration explains techniques, containers, which plants and decorations work best.

Mar 8: DIY RAINWATER HARVESTING

Discover it's easy to set up your rainwater collection system from Nueces Master Gardener Cincy Funke as she explains equipment, techniques from her successes and challenges in collecting precipitation to water her garden!

Mar 15: BRINGING BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS TO YOUR GARDEN

Whether natives or migrating visitors, learn exactly which plants draw butterflies and moths to your surroundings with proper plants to support their life cycles, from "Butterfly Lady" Brenda Sattler.

Mar 22: IMPROVING CURB APPEAL USING LESS WATER

If you want to spruce up your landscape this spring, Landscape Designer Kathy Hubner from Gill Garden Center & Landscape Co. will offer ideas to add a big splash of color with fewer splashes of water.

Mar 29: NATIVE PLANTS for POLLINATORS

Native plants have been attracting bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators for centuries. STBGNC Executive Director & Horticulturist Michael Womack shares which native plants do best here, and which can draw specific pollinators to your landscape.

NO BIG BLOOM Plant Sale !

Annual MEGA-PLANT SALE won't happen this year due to drought & watering restrictions. Watch STXBOT.ORG for further details on next COMMUNITY DAY!

Apr 12: 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 Rene Brown, TMG Propagation Specialist.

Apr 19: DIY DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Discover the way to efficiently deliver water into landscapes through DIY drip irrigation systems from Nueces Master Gardener Tom Andrews.

April 23-27: BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA

New features & entertainment at Corpus Christi's BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA, April 23-27, like **Birds & Beers, Author's Wine & Cheese Night** and **Keynote Speaker**, your choice of two Pre-Festival Trips, one Post-Trip, six exclusive full-day Field Trips, 32 half-day Trips, five new. Our new Roseate Member early registration registered birders from 15 states, 88 percent of them new to the Festival! We're also introducing member portals.



Experience Gulf Coast and private ranch hot spots including world-famous King Ranch, presentations, workshops, choice bird walks, Jonathan Wood's photogenic Raptor Project, vendor trade show, Texas BBQ Welcome Dinner, art fair and Family Fun Day.

Keynote Speaker Kevin K. Karlson, presents, "*Through the Looking Glass: Reflections of a Grateful Birder*," a light-hearted experience examining birdwatching through his eyes, exploring why birds fascinate humans; unique camaraderie fellow birders naturally form, sharing photos of birds, people and other creatures from many locations, plus humorous stories that make the hobby life-long!

Schedule, Registration: www.birdiestfestival.org

May 3: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR HOME GARDENS

To spray or not to spray... is the question. Learn different strategies to minimize damage from garden insects & pests from Certified Pesticide Applicator & Nueces Master Gardener Rene Brown.

May 10: CREATING EDIBLE LANDSCAPES

Staff Landscape Specialist Whitney Lance shares attractive ways to add veggies & herbs (which you *can* water) to your landscape for both nutrition and aesthetics.

May 17: "CONTAIN" YOUR GARDENS

Learn science and art of effective container gardens including containers, soils and plant choices providing color and interest for your apartment porch, backyard patio and existing landscapes with retired Landscape Professor Dr. Bill Fontano, NC State University.

May 24: LANDSCAPING WITH LESS WATER

Learn principles of landscape water conservation and discover strategies to help your landscape survive the heat of summer while staying within current water restrictions.

----- **ANIMAL AMBASSADORS** -----

Reptile Room, Tortoise Pens Open Daily!

Saturdays, Sundays • **REP-TALES** • 10:30 am

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

Depending on weather, **SEE PARROTS** in Reptile Room, Outdoor Enclosures, or Bromeliad Conservatory.



----- **YOUTH FIELD TRIP OPTIONS** -----

Schools & Youth Groups visit the Gardens & Nature Center! Learn about Butterflies, Animals, Parrots, plants, water ...

A. SELF-DIRECTED FIELD TRIP:

PRE-K through GRADE 5 \$8 / student
 GRADES 6 through 12 \$9 / student
 Start at Visitor Center with map, PICK destinations!

B. DIRECTED FIELD TRIP:

PRE-K through GRADE 5 Start at \$12 / student
 GRADES 6 through 12 Start at \$14 / student
 Choose Gardens & Nature Center areas for students' experience. Staff/volunteers available for Q/A.

C. DIRECTED FIELD TRIP with CUSTOMIZED SCIENCE LESSON or NATURE CRAFT:

PRE-K to GRADE 5 Start at \$15 / student
 GRADES 6-12 Start at \$17 / student

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

***NEW FIELD TRIP STATION, Spring 2025**

MEGA MAGNIFIER & MINI-MICROSCOPES with Butterflies:

Inside Education Station, students use 5-foot tall Mega Magnifiers & Mini-Microscopes to observe once-live butterflies. Museum quality exhibit of 100 plus butterflies from around the world with Moth & Butterfly Characteristics Q/A guided interaction.

***NEW SCIENCE LESSONS, Spring 2025**

WATER WONDERS for PRE-K & KINDER:

Students use mini models of plants, animals & people to create a community with a 16 feet long River/real water model. Students may also help make it rain, flood & more to observe outcomes in nature. Each student receives a "Water & You" Foldable with stickers. Located on Education Station Deck.

WATER WONDERS & MORE for GRADES 1-5:

Above description with added mini-student boats, Q/A about water usage, pollution & water re-use in nature using interactive water features. Each student receives a Mini-Nature Journal w/ pencil to draw/write observations. Located on Education Station Deck.

Contact Brendae@stxbot.org for descriptions, questionnaire, reservations, Nature Fun Bag information.

---- **PRIVATE ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS** ----

Fun interactions with 3 Reptiles or 3 Parrots! Guests hold animals, give them snacks, take photos in a private setting!

Up to 6 people 20 minutes \$ 60 (plus admission)
 Both Reptiles/Parrots 30 minutes \$105 (plus admission)

- Price is for groups.
- \$5 package discount members.
- Limited spots available.
- Hands/arms clean, no repellants, no sunscreens.
- 361-852-2100 for Reservations.



KIDS NATURE CAMPS

Jun 2-6 (M-F)	9-Noon	FEATHERS & SCALES	Age 6-8
Jun 9-13 (M-F)	9-Noon	TRAILS, TRACKS & BACKPACKS	Age 6-8
Jun 16-19 (M-Th)	9-12:30	SNAKES & FRIENDS	Age 9-13
Jun 23-26 (M-Th)	9-12:30	NATURE SHUTTERBUGS	Age 9-13
July 7-10 (M-Th)	9-12:30	ECO AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERS	Age 10-16

Camp Fees/Session: \$150 Members, \$175 Non-Member
 Contact Brendae@stxbot.org for applications, information.
 Must pre-pay registration at least a week before sessions starts.

----- **MORE YOUTH OPTIONS** -----

- **YEAR-ROUND CAMPS:** Ages 6-8, 9-13.
 9 am-Noon, Mon-Fri. When you have a group of at least 8 campers, like holidays, we'll schedule your choice of topics—on your schedule!
- **HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM SERIES:** Ages 4-6, 7-11.
 Minimum 6 students, Max 10. Request your date, time for Nature Journaling, ages 4-6; or Science Outdoors, ages 7-11. (45 minute sessions)
- **PRE-SCHOOL NATURE AWARENESS:**
 Minimum 6 children, Max 10. Request your date, time.
Reading with a Reptile, Kids & Critters, Animal Action.

Contact: Brendae@stxbot.org; for fees and dates.