

CLASSES and SPEAKERS coordinated in collaboration with NUECES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

ALL SATURDAY CLASSES:

Make RESERVATIONS at 361-852-2100.
Classes FREE with Membership, General Admission,
Or \$5, unless special workshop.
(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



Feb1: 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 hoyas 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.



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 Cindy 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 14-May 4: TAMU-CC ART EXHIBIT

"WILDLIFE & WONDER: COASTAL BEND CREATIONS"

Art Department Four-Class Exhibit, 60 pieces. Beautiful exhibit of different sculpture medium Islander art students!

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; sharing photos of birds, people and other creatures from many locations, plus humorous stories that make the hobby life-long! [Schedule, Register: www.birdiestfestival.org](http://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 landscapes.

May 10-11: MOTHER'S DAY FREE WEEKEND

All a Mom needs to say is "Butterfly," 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, plus 360 RECIPROCAL GARDENS in the U.S. (www.ahsgardening.org/rap.)

May 10-Nov 2: MARIPOSA PALOOZA Butterfly Display

Roughly 70 professional and amateur artists compete for cash prizes designing large metal butterflies, exhibit opening Mother's weekend, when Moms get in free with password "Butterfly." Butterfly and Monarch migration, life cycles and local Día de los Muertos festival signage will be displayed. Exhibit funded by City Arts & Culture Commission H.O.T. funds grant. Free with admission.



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 strategies to help your landscape survive the heat of summer while staying within current water restrictions.

June 14,15: FATHER'S DAY FREE WEEKEND

Just say, "Reptiles & Snakes," & Dad gets in free! Enjoy REP-TALES, 10:30; gardens, resident reptiles, Gator Lake, trails, newly surfaced Oso Loop Trail, 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, 360 Reciprocal Gardens!

July 4: FOURTH OFF for the 4th

Celebrate AMERICA'S NATURAL BEAUTY at the Botanical Gardens with 25% off admission on Independence Day, a "big bang" for your bucks! Just \$7.50 ages 13-59; \$6 Srs / Active Military / College; \$4.50 ages 3-12. Under 3 & Members free! Bring a picnic; dogs on leash; but NO FIREWORKS allowed!

July 12: FAQ on GROWING PLUMERIA!

Learn how to pick, plant, perfect and protect plumeria with experts in the Plumeria Society! Prepare yourself for big sale.

July 19: Plumeria Society PLUMERIA SALE

Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greeley.

Local plumeria lovers look forward to this annual sale when Plumeria Society members sell propagations from private stock both in stick and larger potted plant forms! Sale runs from 10 am-1pm, Saturday, July 19, Free Admission. Proceeds support Botanical Gardens Plumeria Collection maintained by Plumeria Society.

Sept 6: PLANTING HERBS FOR HOLIDAY FEASTS

Cindy Meredith with The Herb Cottage in Hallettsville provides her insights on selecting, planting and growing the best herbs to spice up your holiday meals. Herbs available for purchase.

Sept 13: SUCCESS WITH FALL VEGGIES

Nueces Master Gardener Susan Gonzales tells you what, when, where, & how to plant your vegetable choices, proven maintenance & fertilization tips along with charts & instruction sheets.

Sept 20: VIRUS AND FUNGUS AND BLIGHT! OH MY!

Learn to identify garden problems with Nueces Master Gardener Renee Brown. Discover strategies to avoid and minimize damage.

Sept 27: TEXAS SUPERSTARS: TOUGH PLANTS FOR TEXAS

Just in time for fall planting season, Nueces Country Master Gardener Tom Andrews shows you landscape plants tested throughout Texas, given Texas A&M "Superstar" seal of approval!

Oct 18: SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF STARTING SEEDS

Growing seeds is not always as easy as it sounds. Nueces Master Gardener and Propagation Specialist Renee Brown helps to take the mystery out of starting your own seedlings and transitioning them into the often-harsh realities of Coastal Bend gardens.

Oct 10: 'MOONLIGHT & Mariposas in the GARDENS'

Delicious restaurant dining and beverage stations, including signature drink, dancing to Clarissa Serna Band! Beautifully themed around this year's "Mariposa Palooza" artists' metal butterfly exhibit! Enjoy garden strolls among tropical plumeria, orchids, bromeliads, butterfly release, silent auction & raffle, animal ambassadors and convenient valet service for a vibrant evening. Sponsorships, Tickets: STXBOT.ORG.

Oct 17, 24: HAUNTED TRAIL, 8-10 pm. Ghosts & witches roam Gardens habitat waiting for visitors to come down the "Haunted Trail," through ravines, where no one knows what might jump out to brush your leg! Staff—who care for snakes & tarantulas—guide you! You'll hayride back, for light refreshments. \$20 tickets online, www.stxbot.org.

Oct 18: HAY BALE MAZE FOR KIDS OPENS

Ocean Drive Garden Club partners in a Fall Hay Maze for children to navigate, decorated for Halloween by the Garden Club. One bale high, parents can watch and take photos of the fun.

Oct 25: BONSAI: NATURE IN MINIATURE

Learn how to create your own "tiny tree" from Corpus Christi Bonsai Club's David Whittaker. Discover techniques to create these living works of art providing years of solace and relaxation, as well as a conversation piece for your patio.

Nov 1: NATIVE PLANTS FRESHEN LANDSCAPES, POLLINATORS

Discover incorporating native plants into your landscape from landscape ecologist, Dr. Shaun McCoshum, author of "Gardening for Wildlife in the Arid and South West Regions." His experience and insight will help you understand how landscape choices impact local plant and pollinator populations.

2:30 pm Class: Learn to Create your own Waystation.

Nov 8: GETTING READY FOR WINTER

Learn ways to get ready for cold weather and to help your plants and yard survive a freeze as you glean from the knowledge and experiences of STBGNC Landscape Specialist Whitney Lance.

Nov 15: ORCHIDS ARE EASIER THAN YOU THINK

If you are intimidated by the allure of growing tropical orchids, learn from STBGNC Orchid Curator Jorge Garcia about how these exotic beauties are easier to grow than you might think. Learn about winter care as well as how to rebloom them.

Dec 6: WORKSHOP: CREATING & DECORATING FRESH WREATHS. (Cost \$12 members; \$17 non-members);

Learn to create your own fresh wreath using fir branches with STBGNC Landscape Specialist Whitney Lance. Then, discover tricks to economically decorate your wreath, to welcome holiday guests to your home! Workshop materials included.

HOLLY DAYS at the GARDENS

5:30-7:30 pm: Nov 28/29 • Dec 5/6 • 12/13 • 19/20

4 special holiday weekends celebrating joys of the season with a beautiful 20' fresh-cut lighted fir tree & huge 18' recycled ECO CHRISTMAS TREE made of green plastic bottles + 4 smaller ones, created by Shelia Rogers! Lighting displays, trees, SANTA, hayrides, hay maze, more TBA.



-----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. NEW SELF-DIRECTED & 1 Directed Station:

PRE-K through GRADE 5 \$10 / student
GRADES 6 through 12 \$11 / student

C. DIRECTED FIELD TRIP:

PRE-K through GRADE 5 Start at \$13/ student
GRADES 6 through 12 Start at \$15 / student
Choose Gardens & Nature Center areas for students' experience. Staff/volunteers available for Q/A.

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

PRE-K to GRADE 5 Start at \$16 / student
GRADES 6-12 Start at \$18/ student

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

FIELD TRIP STATION

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.

FIELD TRIP SCIENCE LESSONS

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.

NEW! TINY CRITTERS & WATER:

Students use mini-nets to catch and observe insects/invertebrates in water samples tanks from our wetland, lake and creek. Students will also use model insects/invertebrates, models of plant life and the 16ft river table.

NEW! TINY CRITTERS BEHAVIORS: Butterflies, rolie pollies, mealworms and more. Choose an Investigation:

1. Bug Behavior Maze with simple lab tools.
2. Make a Rollie Pollie Playground.
3. Learn how to use an Insect Net6 and other bug collecting methods (outside).

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

----- 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.**



-----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.



-----ECO-AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERS-----

Ages 10-16 • First Saturday of Month • 9:30-11:30am

Request a Registration Form – brendae@stxbot.org

Opportunities to learn about volunteering with:

- Reptiles in Reptile House & Outdoor Enclosures.
- Butterflies & Caterpillars in Butterfly House & Nursery
- Parrots in their Outdoor Enclosures
- Wild Bird seed feeding/Hummingbird nectar feeders in
- Native Plants –help plant a few native plants & take a plant home!
- Special Events/Activities-such as Rep-Tales on the Lawn, Nature Education in Classroom, more!

Sign-up for volunteer days/times after Saturday Session to begin volunteering & continue learning. (A parent/guardian must be with youth volunteer during their individual volunteer days/times.)

Guest Speakers, Animal Care Staff, Education Staff supervise & instruct Volunteers with Safety Training, Customer Service, use of basic lab/field equipment, more.

Email Brendae@stxbot.org for more information.

**Minimum 5, maximum 15 youth
for Saturday Session.**