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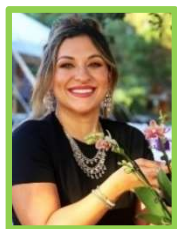
Seventeenth South Texas Botanical Gardens **MOONLIGHT** fundraiser dazzles with nine eateries, signature drinks, butterfly décor, Clarissa Serna, comedian Trey Armijo! *Corpus Christi's biggest Garden Party is Friday, October 10, on Botanical Gardens grounds.*

CORPUS CHRISTI—It's been moon light 24 hours a day at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center as the non-profit prepares for "**MOONLIGHT & *Mariposas* in the GARDENS**", its 17th annual signature fundraiser, **6-9:30 pm, Friday, October 10**, 8545 S. Staples. The popular casual event is set among lush botanical floral surroundings, lots of butterflies (*mariposas*), under a nearly full moon!

Botanical Gardens leadership says the nonprofit major visitor attraction hopes to raise at least \$225,000 for current and upcoming additions, plus funds lost skipping this year's BIG BLOOM Plant Sale in support of city watering restrictions.

Drinks, Dining, Dancing—Laughter!

Beverage bars open at 6 with signature craft beer, signature cocktail, traditional beer, wine and non-alcoholic options to sip while viewing the Silent Auction and Gardens exhibits! At 7, nine local eateries, open for a tasty and varied dining experience, from appetizers and entrees to desserts!



Local favorite **Clarissa Serna** with a sound blending soul, rock, R&B and Latin influences starts mellow for strolling, chatting, dining, later heating up the vibe with her band for dancing. Serna has opened for Meghan Traynor, Pat Green and Los Lonely Boys, and got "four chair turns" on The Voice for her rendition of The Cranberries' "Zombie." Fan-fave comedian **Trey Armijo** takes over the mike the end of the evening with a humorous event send-off!

Butterfly Décor

The event, delightfully themed around "*Mariposa Palooza*," features 70 vibrant 24-inch metal butterflies designed by area artists, all for sale in the Silent Auction Tent! Guests will enjoy a live butterfly release, plus fall mums with butterfly decorations on each table. "*Mariposa Palooza*" was funded in part by a Hotel Occupancy Tax grant through the city's Arts & Cultural Commission.

Reservations Required

Sponsorships cut-off is September 29, and single admissions may be purchased through October 6, both on-line at STXBOT.ORG, or 361-852-2100. Reservations are required. Guests must be a least age 18.

Besides **top sponsor CITGO-Corpus Christi Refinery**, **Supporting Sponsors** are Joyce Barnette, Ken & Amanda Kellar. **Major sponsors:** The Adlers, Cindy & Mike Boudloche, Carmen Rodriguez--*in memory of Eugene H. Bouligny*, Flint Hills Resources, Sally & James Gill, Kitty & Dr. Dean Hommer, Debbie Isaacs, Port of Corpus Christi. **Leading sponsors:** Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilots, Corpus Christi Medical Center, Del Mar College, Devary Durrill Foundation, Gulf Coast Growth Ventures, W.O. Harrison, Jr. Family LP, H-E-B, Hicks Automotive Group, Hollon Safe Company, B.J. & Mike Kershaw, Mazda Corpus Christi, Bob Paulison & Debbie Noble, Manette & Richard Scanio.

